

Haiti

This guide is compiled from the IAM Country Guide for reference only. Customs regulations change frequently; please consult your Seapoe relocation consultant for the latest requirements before shipping.

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Documents

Documents required for importing used household goods, personal effects, and related shipments.

For Returning Haitian Nationals

- Valid Haitian passport
- Copy of Haitian ID (Matricule Fiscale)
- Correspondence from the Haitian Consulate certifying the consignee is a returning citizen
- Original bill of lading (OBL) or air waybill (AWB)
- Detailed packing list in English or French
- Listing of imported items with estimated values

For Foreign Citizens

- Valid passport
- Original bill of lading (OBL) or air waybill (AWB)
- Detailed packing list in English or French
- Listing of imported items with estimated values
- Work permit or employment documentation (if importing for employment purposes)

For Diplomats

- Diplomatic passport
- Carte du Protocole from the Haiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Document acknowledging diplomat status
- Original bill of lading (OBL) or air waybill (AWB)
- Packing list in English or French

Specific Information

Duties for foreign citizens: Non-citizens entering Haiti for employment purposes are generally subject to import duties, especially if the shipment contains new items. Duty rates vary by item category. Confirm current rates with the destination agent.

Language: Packing lists and documentation should be in English or French (Haiti's two official languages are French and Haitian Creole).

ISPM 15: Wood packaging (crates, pallets) should comply with ISPM 15 (International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures No. 15) requirements. A phytosanitary certificate is required for wood items in the shipment.

Duties & Taxes

Duty-free conditions: Shipments for diplomats and returning Haitian citizens are exempt from customs duties and taxes. Returning citizens must provide consulate certification of their status.

New items in shipments: New goods included in household shipments may attract higher duty, even for otherwise exempt categories. It is advisable to separate new items or declare them specifically.

Prohibited & Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Illegal drugs and narcotics
- Firearms and ammunition (other than sporting guns with prior consul permit) PERMIT REQUIRED
- Knives and deadly weapons
- Macaws and parrots
- Live flora or fauna (without appropriate permits) CITES
- Fertilizer
- Toxic waste
- Counterfeit money and goods
- Pornographic material

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Duty-free personal allowances (per VisaHQ):

- 200 cigarettes, or 50 cigars, or 1 kg of tobacco
- 1 litre of alcoholic beverages and spirits
- A small quantity of perfume for personal use
- Other legal personal goods up to a value of HTG 2,500

Currency declaration: Local or foreign currency exceeding HTG 200,000 must be declared to the customs department when entering or leaving the country.

Restricted items requiring permits or certificates:

- Wood (phytosanitary certificate required)
- Meat (phytosanitary certificate required)
- Chemicals (phytosanitary certificate required)
- Medicines (phytosanitary certificate required)
- Sporting firearms (permit from a Haitian consul required before entry)
- Birds, cats, and dogs (veterinary health certificate required)

Special Categories

Common Mistakes

- Presenting a health certificate issued more than 7 days before arrival
- Failing to vaccinate for rabies at least 21 days before arrival
- Attempting to import parrots or macaws (prohibited)
- Not planning for enhanced CDC re-entry requirements when returning a dog to the U.S. from Haiti

Discrepancies

- Rabies vaccination validity window: The IAM guide (2016) states the rabies certificate must be issued "more than 21 days prior to arrival but not more than 11 months." PetTravel (2026) states "between 21 days and 12 months prior to entering Haiti." The difference is 11 months vs. 12 months. PetTravel is the more recently updated source. Recommend confirming with the destination agent.

Unverified Items

- Specific current duty rates for household goods and vehicles could not be verified against

official Haitian government sources because the customs authority website is not accessible. The IAM guide's general statements about duty exemptions for diplomats and returning citizens are consistent with VisaHQ.

- Vehicle age restriction details could not be independently verified against a current official source. The destination agent should be consulted.
- The USD 300 terminal deposit for vehicles (from the 2016 IAM guide) could not be verified as current. The amount may have changed.

Consignment Instructions

Recommended: Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air and sea shipments.

Port of entry: The primary seaport is Port-au-Prince. Air cargo clears through Toussaint Louverture International Airport (PAP).

Security and logistics: Haiti's infrastructure and security situation can create unpredictable delays and costs. Demurrage, storage, and port handling fees can accumulate rapidly. The destination agent should be closely involved throughout the process.

Inventory requirements: A detailed packing list with estimated values is required for all shipments. Items should be listed in English or French.

Inspections: Customs inspections are common and may be thorough. Ensure all documentation is complete and accurate to minimize delays.

Unpredictable expenses: Port congestion, handling fees, and administrative charges can vary significantly. Budget for contingencies and work with an experienced local agent.