

Martinique

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.

Required Documents

- Proof of domicile from the previous country of residence (e.g., utility bill, rental contract, property sale certificate)
- Proof of residence in Martinique dated within the last 3 months
- Signed packing list
- Copy of valid passport
- Original bill of lading (no express/telex release accepted) or air waybill (AWB)
- Original inventory in French, dated, valued, and signed by the owner of the goods
- Certificate of change of residence or working contract
- Non-sale certificate
- Original customs documents
- Employer's letter of transfer (if applicable)

Specific Information

Octroi de Mer. The Octroi de Mer is a local production and import tax applied in France's overseas departments. For used personal effects that do not qualify for duty-free admission, the applicable rates are 7% Octroi de Mer plus 2.5% additional rights and transit taxes. New furniture requires an invoice and is taxed at 8.5% VAT plus 15% Octroi de Mer plus 2.5% additional rights plus transit dues.

ISPM 15. All wood packaging materials (pallets, crates, dunnage) must comply with ISPM 15 and bear the appropriate treatment mark.

Language. All inventories must be in French, dated, valued, and signed by the owner. English-language inventories are not accepted.

Martinique is part of the EU customs territory, so goods moving from mainland France or another EU member state are treated as intra-EU movements and are not subject to customs duties. However, the Octroi de Mer local tax applies regardless of origin.

Duties & Taxes

Duty-free admission for a transfer-of-residence shipment requires that the goods have been owned and used by the importer for at least 6 months prior to arrival, that the importer is genuinely transferring habitual residence to Martinique, and that the goods will not be sold or transferred for at least 12 months after import. All required documents (see above) must be presented at customs.

Prohibited & Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Narcotics and controlled substances (without authorization)
- Firearms and ammunition without prior authorization from the Prefecture de la Martinique
- Alcohol in quantities beyond permitted limits without proper declaration and duty payment
- Species protected under CITES without valid permits
- Wolf hybrids, Savannah cats, and Bengal cats unless 5th generation or more removed from the wild ancestor
- Mastiff breeds, Boerboels, and their crosses (live animals)
- Counterfeit goods and pirated materials
- Material that violates EU sanctions regimes

Restricted / Dutiable Items

From EU member states: Goods moving between Martinique and EU member states are not subject to customs duties. However, all goods entering Martinique are subject to the Octroi de Mer regardless of origin.

From non-EU countries (by air or sea):

- Alcohol: subject to excise duties and Octroi de Mer; quantities above personal-use thresholds are dutiable
- Tobacco products: subject to excise duties; limited quantities permitted duty-free
- New or unused goods: subject to customs duties plus 8.5% VAT plus Octroi de Mer; invoices required
- Firearms and ammunition: require prior authorization from the territorial administration (Prefecture)
- Medications: quantities beyond personal use require documentation; controlled substances require additional authorization
- Plant material and foodstuffs: subject to phytosanitary controls; some items restricted

Contact the destination agent for current Octroi de Mer rate schedules by commodity code, as rates vary significantly by product category.

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.

All inventories must be submitted in French, fully valued, dated, and signed. English inventories are not accepted by French customs in Martinique.

Martinique is served primarily by air via Martinique Aimé Césaire International Airport (FDF) and by sea through the port of Fort-de-France. Shipments arriving by sea may face unpredictable port handling delays; confirm current port conditions with the local agent before booking.

Storage and demurrage costs can accumulate quickly at Fort-de-France. Ensure all documentation is complete and in French before the shipment departs origin.

Special territory note: Martinique is an EU outermost region, not metropolitan France. Do not treat it as equivalent to a shipment to mainland France. Octroi de Mer applies on arrival, and all customs processing is handled locally, not through metropolitan French customs.