

Mozambique

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 Incoming Expatriates (Non-Diplomatic)

- Valid passport copy with most recent Mozambican border entry stamps
- Work and residence visa in passport
- Work permit issued by the Mozambican Ministry of Labor
- Work contract with Mozambican employer, in Portuguese, signed and stamped
- Letter from Mozambican employer entity, in Portuguese, signed and stamped
- Signed valued inventory in USD, in Portuguese. Shipments valued above USD 50,000 are subject to an additional levy of 0.85% of the CIF value regardless of the importer's status.
- Mozambique Tax Number Certificate (NUIT). The NUIT can be obtained after arrival in Mozambique and typically takes approximately 2 weeks to issue.

For Incoming Foreign Diplomats

- Copy of Diplomat Card (Cartao Diplomático / "CD") issued by MINEC after arrival in Mozambique. The CD can only be requested by the diplomatic mission after arrival and is issued 2 to 3 weeks after the request.
- Valid passport copy with most recent Mozambican border entry stamps
- Letter from Mozambican employer entity, in Portuguese, signed and stamped
- Signed valued inventory in USD, in Portuguese (same 50,000 USD threshold applies)
- Mozambique Tax Number Certificate (NUIT)

For Mozambican Nationals (Returning Non-Diplomatic)

- Confirmation of stay abroad issued by the Mozambican Embassy or Consulate in the country of residence (or nearest one)
- INACE statement issued by INACE/MINEC in Maputo
- Copies of valid passport with most recent Mozambican border entry stamps
- Copy of Mozambican Citizen ID Card
- Signed valued inventory in USD, in Portuguese (same 50,000 USD threshold applies)
- NUIT Certificate or NUIT Card

For Returning Mozambican Diplomats

- Letter from MINEC
- Passport copy with most recent Mozambican border entry stamps
- Mozambique Tax Number (NUIT)
- Mozambican Citizen ID Card
- Signed valued inventory in USD, in Portuguese (same 50,000 USD threshold applies)

For Incoming Foreign Clerics / Missionaries

- Letter of Assurance from the Ministry in charge of Religious Affairs (MJCR)

- Passport copy with most recent Mozambican border entry stamps
- Mozambique Tax Number (NUIT)
- Copies of the visa in passport
- Signed valued inventory in USD, in Portuguese

For Inheritance

- Copy of the will
- Death certificate
- Letter from the executor

Specific Information

Only used household goods owned for more than 2 years are eligible for duty exemption. No imported goods may be sold, leased, or otherwise disposed of for 24 months from their date of entry unless customs duties are first paid.

Importers are eligible for duties exemption on 1 sea import and 1 air import (or road import) within the first 6 months of arrival. Additional imports using the same mode of transport, or imports made more than 6 months after arrival, will likely not be granted duties exemption.

All personal effects and household goods must be imported within 2 months of the returning resident's arrival. For immigrants who have been granted a work or resident permit, goods must arrive within 3 months of the date the permit was granted. Diplomatic shipments must be imported within 6 months of the diplomat's arrival.

Additional household goods imported as a consequence of a spousal reunion (whether for an expatriate or diplomat) may qualify for duties exemption. Contact the destination agent for details.

Customs does not publish an official list of required documents. The list is informal, and Customs officials are entitled to request additional documents at their discretion.

Shipment valuation levy: Any shipment with a CIF value above USD 50,000 will be charged a fee of 0.85% of its CIF value, regardless of the importer's diplomatic or exempt status.

Resale restriction: Imported goods may not be sold, leased, or otherwise disposed of for 24 months from the date of customs entry unless duties are paid at that point.

ISPM 15: All wooden packing materials must comply with ISPM 15 phytosanitary standards. Confirm requirements with the destination agent before packing.

Customs clearance times: Sea container household goods typically take 5 to 7 working days to clear. Air freight household goods typically take 4 to 5 working days after cargo arrives at Maputo Airport. Original Bills of Lading are required in most cases; express and telex releases are generally not accepted.

Prohibited & Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

The following items are prohibited from import into Mozambique:

- Narcotic drugs and controlled substances
- Pornographic materials
- Offensive weapons
- Forged documents and counterfeit money
- Animal remains of any kind (including ornaments and by-products from species listed on the OIE diseases list, up to 6 months after the latest outbreak)
- Left-hand drive vehicles intended for commercial use
- Vegetable and plant products listed in Annex 1 of Decree No. 5/2009
- Endangered species and products derived from CITES-listed wildlife *(CITES)*
- Firearms without a valid permit from the Ministry of Interior *(Permit Required)*

- Pharmaceuticals and pesticides without prior import authorisation *(Permit Required)*

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Traveller allowances (hand-carry only): Persons 18 years of age or older may import, free of duty: 400 cigarettes or 250 grams of tobacco; 1 litre of spirits and 2.25 litres of wine; and 50 ml of perfume. Persons under 18 may not carry alcohol or tobacco. Total value of duty-free goods must not exceed USD 200. Visitors may carry up to 3 bottles of alcoholic beverages.

Alcohol in shipments: Alcohol and spirits should not be included in household goods shipments. They should be hand-carried within the above limits. Customs may or may not grant full duties exemption to diplomats importing large quantities of alcoholic beverages.

Firearms and ammunition: Import requires a special permit from the Ministry of Interior. Firearms must be accompanied by appropriate authorisation from the territorial administration. See Prohibited Items for relevant restrictions.

New furniture and household goods: Freight charges apply and invoices are required. Duties will be levied on new goods included in a removal shipment.

Medicines and hospital equipment: Subject to prior authorisation by the relevant health authority before import.

Precious metal jewellery: Customs duty may be required as a deposit.

Plant material and meat products: Subject to restrictions and, in most cases, require an import licence. Citrus fruits, seeds, and deciduous plants require advance import licences from agricultural authorities. A ban on the import of chicken meat has been in force since 2017.

Consignment Instructions

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

Inventory: All inventories must be in Portuguese, signed by the owner, dated, and valued in USD. Shipments with a CIF value above USD 50,000 will incur a 0.85% levy on the full CIF value regardless of exemption status.

Bills of Lading: Original Bills of Lading are required in most cases. Express release and telex release are generally not accepted. The OBL for vehicles must state chassis number, engine number, cubic capacity, year of manufacture, make, and model.

Document timing: Documents must be received by the destination agent at least 1 week before shipment arrival for household goods. Vehicle documents should arrive with the same lead time, and the Modelo 75 approval process for diplomatic vehicles can take 2 to 6 weeks. Factor this into the shipping timeline.

Customs clearance times: Sea container household goods: 5 to 7 working days. Air freight household goods: 4 to 5 working days after arrival at Maputo Airport. Vehicles by sea container: 7 to 10 working days. Vehicles by Ro-Ro: 7 to 10 working days (with additional parking fee risk at Maputo's Ro-Ro terminal).

NUIT (Tax Number): Required from all importers, including foreign diplomats. It can be obtained after arrival in Mozambique and typically takes 2 weeks to issue. Ensure the NUIT process is initiated immediately upon arrival.

Unpredictable expenses: Customs officials may request original documents even when copies have been submitted. They may also request certified translations of documents not in Portuguese or English. Additional charges, storage fees, and delays should be anticipated if documentation is incomplete on arrival.

Principal port of entry: Maputo Port is the primary entry point for sea shipments. Beira and Nacala ports are also operational and generally comparable in cost and process, but the destination agent should be consulted before routing through those ports.