

Niger

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 Foreign Expatriates (Non-Diplomatic)

- Copy of passport
- Valued inventory
- Original certificate of change of residence and original letter of appointment from employer in Niger
- Application for duty-free admission, addressed either to the shipper's embassy in Niamey (takes approximately 3 weeks) or to the Customs department (takes at least 2 weeks)
- Detailed list of all electrical appliances and hi-fi equipment not older than 6 months, with make, model, and serial number
- Non-sale certificate (declaration that the owner will not sell any personal effects)

For Diplomats, UN, and EU Staff

- Copy of diplomatic passport
- Valued inventory
- Original certificate of change of residence and original letter of appointment from the employing organisation. The certificate must state the length of stay, the address on arrival, and the arrival date.
- Application for duty-free admission, addressed either to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (takes approximately 4 weeks) or to the Customs department (takes at least 2 weeks)
- Taxes and duties exemption certificate

For Returning Nigerien Citizens

- Copy of passport
- Valued inventory
- Original certificate of change of residence and original letter of appointment from employer
- Request for duty-free admission authorisation from the Ministry of Finance or the Customs department (takes at least 2 weeks); once authorisation is received, a duty-free admission certificate is issued (takes a further 2 to 3 weeks)

Specific Information

Household goods in the owner's possession for at least 6 months qualify for duty-free entry. Only one electrical appliance per category is authorised duty-free (e.g., one television, one refrigerator, one washing machine).

New items are subject to import duties. For non-exempted personal effects, the following duties and taxes apply: 47.37% on the value declared to Customs, plus 30,000 FCFA in administration fees, plus 30,000 FCFA for scanner fees.

Even when personal effects are fully exempt from duties and taxes, the following fixed fees still

apply: 30,000 FCFA in administration fees and 30,000 FCFA for scanner fees.

For returning Nigerien citizens, a statistical tax of 3% of the value of goods applies despite the presence of a duty-free certificate of departure (whether air or sea export).

For diplomatic shipments, the destination agent must have all Customs documents at least 15 days before shipment arrival to allow time to obtain the certificate for free entry from the Customs head office. Customs clearance will only proceed once the diplomatic exoneration is received.

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

Prohibited & Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

The following items are prohibited from import into Niger:

- Drugs and narcotics
- Alcohol (other than "fond de cave" as described in Section 4)
- Pornographic or subversive materials
- Firearms and ammunition without the required authorisation from the territorial administration *(Permit Required)*
- Endangered species and products derived from CITES-listed fauna and flora *(CITES)*

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Traveller duty-free allowances (for persons over 15 years of age): 200 cigarettes, 100 cigarillos, 25 cigars, or 250 grams of tobacco; 1 bottle of wine and 1 bottle of spirits; 500 ml of eau de toilette and 250 ml of perfume.

Alcohol in shipments: Only "fond de cave" (personal cellar stock clearly listed as such on the packing list) is permitted in removal shipments, with a maximum of 30 bottles. This must be clearly identified on the inventory.

Firearms and ammunition: Import requires authorisation from the territorial administration. See also Section 5.

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.

Duty-free certificate lead time: The application for a duty-free admission certificate must be submitted well in advance of shipment arrival. Depending on the route (shipper's embassy in Niamey or the Customs department), the process takes 2 to 4 weeks. For diplomatic shipments, all documents must reach the destination agent at least 15 days before arrival.

Fixed fees: Even duty-free shipments incur mandatory administration and scanner fees of 30,000 FCFA each. Budget for these regardless of exemption status.

Inventory requirements: The valued inventory must be in French, dated, and signed by the owner of the goods. Electrical appliances and hi-fi equipment purchased within the last 6 months must be separately itemised with make, model, serial number, and value. A non-sale certificate is required for all importers.

Niger is landlocked. Most goods destined for Niamey enter via the Port of Cotonou (Benin) and transit overland, or via Lomé (Togo), Tema (Ghana), or Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) depending on routing and current border conditions. Confirm the preferred port of entry and current transit route with the destination agent, as border and transit conditions can change.

Political context and operational risk: Given Niger's political situation since the July 2023 coup and its withdrawal from ECOWAS, customs procedures, government processing times, and document requirements may be subject to change without notice. All information in this guide should be verified with the destination agent before committing to a shipment.