

South Sudan

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 All Importers (Nationals and Foreign Citizens)

- Passport (copy)
- Original Bill of Lading or Airway Bill
- Detailed packing list/inventory, itemized and valued, signed by the owner
- Commercial invoice or declaration of value
- Import Declaration Form (IDF), issued through the South Sudan Revenue Authority (SSRA) / South Sudan Customs Service
- Certificate of Origin (where applicable)
- Letter of employment or posting letter (for diplomatic and expatriate relocations)

For Diplomats

- Diplomatic identity documents
- Diplomatic exemption form (to be submitted by the diplomatic mission to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation)
- MFA clearance letter forwarded to South Sudan Customs Service

Specific Information

Diplomatic shipments are generally exempt from duties and taxes, but exemption processing requires advance coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and can take several days to weeks. Clearance times for non-diplomatic sea and air shipments are highly variable.

Practical clearance notes: Juba is the only reliable entry point — via Juba International Airport for air shipments or the Juba river port on the White Nile for sea/river freight. Most overland trade enters via the Nimule border crossing from Uganda. UN and NGO logistics providers (UNMISS, WFP) handle a significant share of import volumes; movers operating in South Sudan typically coordinate closely with these networks. Wood packaging must comply with ISPM 15 requirements.

South Sudan Customs Service operates under the South Sudan Revenue Authority (SSRA). Customs clearance procedures are being progressively modernized through ASYCUDA implementation, though inconsistencies in application remain common.

Duties & Taxes

Duty-free conditions for personal effects: No formal duty-free transfer-of-residence exemption framework comparable to those found in more developed customs regimes has been confirmed. All non-diplomatic shipments are subject to inspection and may be assessed for duties and taxes based on the evaluator's determination of the goods' value. Import duties range from 0–25% depending on the category of goods. VAT is nominally 18% on CIF (cost,

insurance, freight) value plus duty, though collection outside Juba remains inconsistent. Importers should budget for duty and VAT liability on any shipment and confirm current rates with the destination agent before shipping.

Prohibited & Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Narcotics and controlled substances
- Counterfeit currency or documents
- Pornographic material
- Goods of Israeli origin (regional restriction — confirm current status)
- Live animals and animal products without proper veterinary documentation PERMIT REQUIRED
- Plants and plant material without phytosanitary certificates PERMIT REQUIRED
- Firearms, ammunition, and explosives without prior government authorization PERMIT REQUIRED
- Wildlife and wildlife products covered by CITES (ivory, skins, live specimens of protected species) CITES
- Hazardous chemicals and materials without authorization
- Subversive or seditious material
- Items that conflict with public order or morality as defined by South Sudanese law

Restricted / Dutiable Items

South Sudan is a member of the East African Community (EAC), which provides a framework for regional trade integration, though intra-EAC preferential arrangements remain nascent and household goods/personal effects shipments are generally subject to standard customs treatment regardless of origin.

Alcohol: Subject to import duty and excise. Confirm current rates with the destination agent; rates and enforcement have been variable.

Tobacco: Subject to import duty and excise.

Electronics (computers, printers, scanners): May require additional scrutiny or permits. Customs inspection of these items can delay clearance.

Firearms and ammunition: Subject to strict permit requirements. See prohibited items below.

Medicines and pharmaceuticals: Controlled medicines require documentation and may require advance import authorization from the Ministry of Health.

Currency: Import and export of cash is subject to declaration requirements. Confirm current limits with the destination agent; the South Sudanese Pound (SSP) is subject to extreme inflation and the USD is the de facto currency for most transactions.

Consignment Instructions

Contact the destination agent before booking any shipment. Given the extremely challenging logistics environment in South Sudan, advance coordination is essential. Requirements, access conditions, and clearance procedures can change without notice.

Inventory requirements: A detailed, itemized inventory signed by the owner is required. Items should be clearly described with estimated values. Customs inspects all non-diplomatic shipments.

Entry points: Juba International Airport (air) and Juba river port (sea/overland river freight) are the primary points of entry. The Nimule border crossing from Uganda handles the majority of overland cargo. Road access to other parts of the country can be severely limited or impassable during the rainy season (approximately May–October).

Clearance timing: Allow significant extra time for clearance. Delays of several days to several

weeks are common, depending on cargo volume, staffing, and inspection queue at the point of entry.

Currency and payment: Import duties and associated fees are typically assessed in USD or the applicable equivalent. Budget for potential unexpected charges, as assessment practices are not always consistent or predictable.

UN/NGO coordination: Moves associated with UN agencies, diplomatic missions, or established NGOs typically follow specific logistics channels (UNHAS air cargo, WFP supply chains) that differ from commercial shipping. Confirm the applicable logistics framework with the receiving organization.

ISPM 15: All wood packaging material must comply with ISPM 15 (heat treatment or methyl bromide treatment with appropriate marking). Non-compliant wood packaging is subject to seizure and may result in shipment refusal.