

Kenya Country Guide - IAM

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Country Guide: Kenya

Due to the current coronavirus/COVID-19 situation and restrictions in various countries, the below information may not be accurate. This pandemic is a fluid situation. Check with authorities for local laws and restrictions concerning movements.

Updated: November 22, 2016

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Used Household Goods and Personal Effects

Documents Required

- Original passport (for returning residents, a passport used for the last 2 years)
- Original bill of lading (OBL) / air waybill (AWB)
- Original work permit
- Detailed packing list
- Valued and detailed inventory
- Form C-18 declaration, signed by owner of the goods (baggage claim form)
- Personal identification number / taxpayer registration certificate

- PRO-1B (diplomats)
- PRO-1A, if applicable (diplomats)

Specific Information

- A passport used for the previous 2 years or any previous passport other than the current passports are also required; the entry and exit stamps are used by Customs to check the compliance of the regulation.
- The owner of the goods must be present and inspected by Customs clearance.
- All shipments will be inspected by Customs.
- All cosmetics, toiletries, perfumes, alcohol, and foodstuffs will be subjected to radioactive analysis which will cost Kshs 3,000 per sample per item.
- Computers are not classified as personal effects and are subject to tax and duties.
- All wooden crates need (ISPM-15) requirements.
- Documents must be received by the agent 15 days prior to arrival in order for the owner of the goods' employer to obtain the duty-free exemption certificate, if applicable (diplomats).
- Diplomatic goods are not subject to inspection with an approved PRO-1B in place (diplomats).
 - PRO-1A is required if importing alcohol and must be approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (diplomats)
- Diplomats must apply for exemption from duty and value added tax (VAT) through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kenya; the diplomat must be in the country for the exemption certificate application (2 - 3 weeks) and when the shipment arrives.
- Returning residents must have lived abroad for more than 2 consecutive years and cannot have visited Kenya for a total of more than 90 days from last date of entry in Kenya for duty free import; shipment must be imported within 3 months of entry date.
 - For duty free importation of personal effects, the owner of the goods must have owned the items for at least 12 months prior to import (returning citizens).
- Expatriate does not need to be in the country to submit his work permit application (1 - 2 months).
- Expatriate must be in Kenya to have the passport endorsed with the work permit.
- Goods must be imported within 90 days from the approval of the work permit (expatriate).
- All non-diplomatic shipments are subject to Railway Development Levy (RDL) which is calculated at 1.5% of the value of the shipment.

Motor Vehicles

Documents Required

- Original passport
- Original work permit
- Import declaration form (IDF)
- Certificate of conformity (COC)
- Personal identification number (PIN) certificate
- Original certificate of registration / logbook of the vehicle in English

Specific Information

- All shipment documentation must be sent to agent at least 1 month prior to shipment arrival to reduce the possibility of demurrage / storage charges.
- If the owner of the goods wants to pay duties on the car, the following documents will be required:
 - Owner of the goods' PIN certificate
 - Import declaration form (IDF) plus IDF charges to be paid (EUR 50)
 - Purchase invoice in English
 - PRO-1B form approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (diplomats)
- Left-hand drive vehicles cannot be imported.
- Vehicles older than 8 years cannot be imported.
- The owner of the goods must not have visited Kenya for a total of more than 90 days in the last 2 years prior to the last date of arrival in the Kenya.
- Motor vehicles must be imported within 90 days after the last date of arrival of the owner of the goods.
- The OBL and AWB must show the details of the motor vehicle (e.g., chassis and engine numbers, make, model, color, etc.)
- A fee of EUR 120 for processing must be paid to Kenyan Customs.
- All owners of the goods must pay motor vehicle processing fees (currently USD 145 per motor vehicle).
- Only one duty-free car per returning resident in a lifetime is permitted.
- If the vehicle is older than 12 months, there is no tax provided that the vehicle is registered in the name of the person moving.
- Vehicles imported duty free are not transferrable for a period of 12 months.
- The owner of the goods must have owned the vehicle for at least 12 months for duty-free import or approximately 61% of taxes will be charged.
- If the IDF is not available, a penalty of 15% of the cost, insurance, and freight (CIF) value of the car will be charged by the Kenyan Bureau of Standards (non-diplomats and expatriates).

- The certificate of road worthiness must be provided by the owner of the vehicle to the Kenya Bureau of Standards agent (JEVIC); it is required for a pre-inspection at origin to obtain the certificate of conformity (COC) for cars coming from Japan / Dubai / Singapore / South Africa / United Kingdom (cars from origins other than these can be inspected in Kenya by KBS for a fee of EUR 150).
- A guaranty deposit can be requested by Customs of the value of the duties while waiting for confirmation of any exemption.
- Taxes on vehicles are based on a percentage of the local value for a similar vehicle (approximately 55%) and the vehicle must not have a seating capacity of more than 13 people.
- Diplomats are allowed to import 1 vehicle or motor cycle per shipment; additional vehicles or motorcycles will be subject to duties and taxes at the rate of 45% + value added tax (VAT) at 16%.

Pets

Documents Required

- Vaccination record (must include rabies certificate)
- Veterinary health certificate
- Original owner of the goods / owner of the goods' passport
- Import permit

Specific Information

- Documents are required prior to import (issued at point of origin).
- The animal's rabies vaccination must be given within 12 months and 1 month prior to import.
- Import permit and rabies certificate must be presented upon entry.
- The import permit takes approximately 30 days from the time of application to obtain.
- The fee per animal is KES 500.
- A duty of 25% and VAT of 16% are required upon arrival.

Restricted/Dutiable Items

- Weapons, including firearms (firearm certificate issued by the Kenyan Firearms Office is required)
- Wild flora and fauna (plant import permit is required)

- Birds and their products (sanitary import permit issued by the Director of Veterinary Services is required for the import of birds from countries affected by bird flu)
- The following items may qualify for free import with the limits indicated by persons 16 years and older:
 - Cigarettes (200), cigars (50)
 - Tobacco (1/2 pound)
 - Alcoholic beverages (1 bottle)
 - Perfume (1 pint)

Prohibited Items

- Game trophies
- Drugs
- Fruit
- Explosives
- Counterfeit currency
- Gambling machines
- Pornographic or obscene literature (books, articles, videos, etc.)
- Animal traps
- Imitation firearms
- Alcohol and other spirits
- Precious metals and stones

Consignment Instructions

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

Cultural and Other Information

CIA World Factbook
Wikipedia Entry for Kenya