



Algeria

CAPITAL

Algiers

OFFICIAL LANGUAGEArabic and Tamazight
(Berber)**CURRENCY**

the Algerian dinar (DZD)

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Disclaimer

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Overview

Customs Clearance

Average clearance timelines (from vessel docking, all documents received): Diplomats / Algerian nationals: 12 working days for personal effects; 15 days for vehicles; Diplomatic air shipments: 10 working days; Expatriates: 30+ working days (depending on time required for customs officer to process the temporary admission)

Duty-Free Eligibility

Duty-free conditions — Foreign citizens: Personal effects are admitted into Algeria under the **Temporary Admission Regulations**, not as a permanent duty-free import. Once obtained, temporary admission may be extended several times by the moving agent or clearing agent for a maximum of 3 years. After 3 years, the goods will be taxed as an import, at which point the client is no longer obliged to re-export. The extension of temporary admission is the client's responsibility. Failure to extend results in penalties. **Imported household goods must be re-exported when the non-Algerian owner leaves the country**, unless the 3-year period has expired and duties have been paid.

Duty-free conditions — Returning Algerian citizens: To import personal effects, the Algerian citizen must have resided outside Algeria for at least 3 years. The dates on the consular card are used to determine eligibility. The combined CIF value of goods and vehicle must not exceed 3,000,000 DZD.

Duty-free conditions — Foreign diplomats: Diplomats may import one or more air and/or sea shipments duty-free, provided they arrange diplomatic exemption for each shipment. The diplomat must have already started duties in Algeria and have had their diplomatic card issued (usually delivered within 5–10 days). The exemption process takes approximately 5 weeks after the diplomatic card is issued.

Documents

For Foreign Citizens (Private Individuals / Expatriates)

- Copy of valid passport
- Certified copy of resident card, or receipt of application for resident card
- Copy of the Algerian work contract
- Original certificate of employment
- Copy of Annex 4 or 13 provided by the Ministry of Employment, or copy of work permit
- Original Change of Residence certificate, stamped and signed by the Algerian Consulate in the country of origin (one per shipment)
- Original valued and detailed inventory, signed by the Algerian Consulate in the country of origin
- Original bill of lading (OBL) or air waybill (AWB)
- Packing list

For Returning Algerian Citizens

- Original certificate proving the client was removed from the Algerian Consulate's lists (radiation/deregistration certificate)
- Original Change of Residence certificate issued by the Algerian Consulate in the country of origin
- Original valued inventory, stamped and signed by the Algerian Consulate

- **Copy of valid Algerian passport**
- **Certified copy of the consular card**

For Algerian Diplomats

- **Copy of valid passport**
- **Original transfer letter (obtained in advance via the diplomat's administration in Algiers)**
- **Original detailed valued inventory**
- **Diplomatic exemption previously issued by the client's government administrative services in Algiers**
- **Total inventory value must not exceed 2,000,000 DZD**

For Foreign Diplomats

- **Copy of valid passport**
- **Copy of diplomatic card**
- **Original valued inventory, stamped and signed by the client's government administrative services in Algiers**
- **Diplomatic exemption issued by the client's own government administrative services in Algiers**
- **Original power of attorney on behalf of the moving agent**

Household Goods — Specific Information

Inventory value limits: Duty and tax exemption for non-diplomatic shipments is only granted if the valued inventory is less than 20,000 EUR. For returning Algerian citizens, the combined CIF value of goods and vehicle must not exceed 3,000,000 DZD. For Algerian diplomats, the total inventory value must not exceed 2,000,000 DZD.

One shipment only: Only one shipment is authorised duty-free — maximum one sea and one air shipment.

Document language: All documents must be in French.

Consulate stamping: The Change of Residence certificate and the valued inventory must both be stamped by the Algerian Consulate in the country of origin. This is a critical requirement.

Customer presence: The owner must be present for customs purposes. The shipment will be physically inspected (except for ambassadors) and the client's presence or their proxy's is required.

Customs inspection: Customs authorities inspect all containers and parcels. The contents inspected must match the packing list and inventory. If goods are not listed on the inventory, customs will charge an Extra Legal Tax (TEL), the amount of which is at the customs officer's discretion, or the unlisted goods will be seized.

Customs tax: 2% of the total inventory value is charged as a customs processing tax.

Appliances and electronics: Only one item of each type is permitted duty-free. Invoices and receipts stating make, model, and serial numbers are required on the detailed inventory.

ISPM 15 (wood packaging): Confirm with the destination agent whether ISPM 15-compliant wood packaging is required.

Prohibited / Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- **Firearms, weapons, ammunition, and explosives** `PERMIT REQUIRED` — Strictly controlled; hunting weapons require Ministry of Defence and National Security Directorate clearance
- **Knives and deadly weapons** — Prohibited
- **Illegal drugs, narcotics, and poisonous substances** — Strictly prohibited
- **Precious metals (gold, jewellery)** — Prohibited in shipments (limited personal wear allowance for travellers: 100g total)
- **Alcohol and wine** `RESTRICTED` — Prohibited in household goods shipments; limited traveller allowances may exist
- **Cigarettes** `RESTRICTED` — Prohibited in household goods shipments; traveller allowances only
- **Pornographic material** — Prohibited
- **Materials against Islam or the government** — Prohibited
- **Books, manuscripts, films, and recordings that offend morality and decency** `PERMIT REQUIRED` — Cleared by the Ministry of Information and Culture
- **Plants and plant products** — Prohibited without phytosanitary authorisation

- **Pets and animals without authorisation** `PERMIT REQUIRED` — Requires authorisation from the Ministry of Agriculture
- **Military or paramilitary equipment** `RESTRICTED` — Includes surveillance cameras, binoculars, antennas, GPS devices
- **Antiques and paintings** `RESTRICTED` — Contact destination agent for current rules
- **Used and re-treaded tyres** — Prohibited
- **Used vehicles** — Prohibited (except under temporary admission regime)
- **Used goods in commercial quantities** — Prohibited
- **Counterfeit goods or goods bearing false marks** — Prohibited
- **Toy weapons (imitating handguns)** — Prohibited
- **Explosive substances (firecrackers, pyrotechnic articles)** — Prohibited
- **Endangered species** `CITES` — Restricted
- **Sanitary, phytosanitary, and veterinary products** `PERMIT REQUIRED` — Require authorisation from the Ministry of Agriculture / Ministry of Health
- **Police radios and communication equipment** `PERMIT REQUIRED` — Require authorisation from the Ministry of Telecommunication

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Duty-Free Allowances (Travellers)

The following may be imported duty-free in personal luggage by persons 18 years or older:

- **Tobacco:** 200 cigarettes, or 100 cigarillos, or 50 cigars, or 250g of tobacco
- **Alcohol:** 1 litre of spirits and 2 litres of wine; limited personal allowances exist for travellers — confirm with destination agent as enforcement may be strict
- **Perfume:** 50g of perfume

Within Household Goods Shipments

- **Appliances and electronics:** One item of each type permitted duty-free; invoices and receipts with make, model, and serial numbers required on the detailed inventory
- Items exceeding the one-per-type limit, or items not listed on the consulate-stamped inventory, may be seized or subject to Extra Legal Tax (TEL) at the customs officer's discretion

Currency Restrictions

- Foreign currencies may be imported without limit but must be declared in writing upon arrival
- Algerian dinar: more than 3,000 DZD must be declared on entry

- Maximum foreign currency export: 7,500 EUR or equivalent (proof of withdrawal from an Algerian bank required)
- Non-residents may not take any Algerian currency out of the country
- Personal jewellery of gold, platinum, or silver must not exceed 100g total weight
- Black market currency exchange is illegal

Vehicles

Vehicle Documents

- **Original vehicle registration documents or international book**
For Foreign Diplomats
- **Prior agreement for the import of the vehicle**
For Foreign Diplomats
- **Commercial invoice or document showing the value of the vehicle**
For Foreign Diplomats
- **Vehicle data sheet providing cylinder capacity in cm³ and power of the vehicle**
For Foreign Diplomats
- **Original power of attorney on behalf of the moving agent**
For Foreign Diplomats
- **Original vehicle registration documents or international book**
For Foreign Citizens with Work Contracts
- **Document showing the value of the vehicle / original commercial invoice**
For Foreign Citizens with Work Contracts
- **Original certificate of compliance**
For Foreign Citizens with Work Contracts
- **Vehicle data sheet providing cylinder capacity in cm³ and power of the vehicle**
For Foreign Citizens with Work Contracts
- **The client must first obtain customs agreement for importing the vehicle through their company**
For Foreign Citizens with Work Contracts
- **Original vehicle registration documents or international book**
For Returning Algerian Citizens
- **Original certificate of compliance**
For Returning Algerian Citizens

- **Original commercial invoice**

For Returning Algerian Citizens

- **Vehicle data sheet providing cylinder capacity in cm³ and power of the vehicle**

For Returning Algerian Citizens

- **The vehicle must be ****new and purchased from the brand's dealer******

For Returning Algerian Citizens

Specific Information

Engine power restrictions: The maximum allowable engine power has historically been cited at 10 HP (fiscal horsepower); this could not be independently confirmed as current. Additional restrictions may apply regarding vehicle age and power — contact the destination agent for current details.

Algerian citizens — new vehicles only: Returning Algerian citizens may only import vehicles that are new and purchased from an authorised brand dealer. Used vehicles are generally prohibited for import (per Algerian finance law, with exceptions for vehicles under temporary admission).

Foreign citizens — temporary admission: Vehicles for foreign workers are imported under temporary admission, similar to household goods. The original registration document allows the client to obtain the TPD (titre de passage en douane — customs passage title). The client should request the "carnet acquit à caution," which is valid for 3 months.

Non-registered vehicles: Vehicles without proper registration documents (such as quad bikes for private use) will be issued a "carnet A3" specifying the duration of temporary admission. Upon expiry, the owner must present themselves at the Ministry of Customs in Algiers.

Vehicle preparation for shipping: All vehicles must be completely emptied of fuel and run until stalled. Batteries must be disconnected, taped, and properly secured. No hazardous materials should be stored in vehicles.

Temporary admission for tourists: Vehicles, caravans, planes, and boats are admitted under temporary exemption for tourists. A touristic card with 3-month validity is issued by customs on arrival. The traveller must purchase obligatory frontier insurance; the international insurance card is not accepted.

Driving: Driving is on the right-hand side of the road.

Pets

Requirements

- **ISO 15-digit microchip (compliant with ISO 11784/11785), implanted before rabies vaccination**
- **Current rabies vaccination certificate (administered between 30 days and 12 months before travel)**
- **Veterinary health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian not more than 14 days before travel (some sources say 48 hours — use the more restrictive requirement or confirm with the destination agent)**
- **Government endorsement of the health certificate (e.g., USDA endorsement via APHIS Form 7001 for US-origin pets)**
- **Vaccination history (including distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parvovirus for dogs; rhinotracheitis, panleukopenia, feline leukemia for cats)**
- **Pet must wear a name tag with current owner contact information**

Specific Information

Identification: Pets must be identified with a 15-digit ISO 11784/11785-compliant microchip, implanted before the rabies vaccination is administered.

Minimum age: Puppies and kittens under 3 months of age should not be vaccinated for rabies. After reaching 3 months, they must be vaccinated and wait 30 days before travel, making the effective minimum import age approximately 4 months.

Rabies vaccination timing: All cats and dogs must be vaccinated for rabies between 30 days and 12 months prior to entering Algeria.

Other vaccinations: Recommended (and typically expected) vaccinations include distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parainfluenza, and parvovirus for dogs; feline viral rhinotracheitis, panleukopenia, and feline leukemia for cats.

Rabies titer test: Algeria does not require a rabies titer test for entry. However, Algeria is classified by the CDC as a **high-risk country for dog rabies**. Pets re-entering the United States from Algeria must meet enhanced CDC requirements, including a rabies titer test for foreign-vaccinated dogs.

Health certificate: Must be completed by a licensed veterinarian not more than 14 days before travel. For US-origin pets, APHIS Form 7001 must be endorsed by the USDA. Two pets per

passport/certificate are permitted.

Import permit: Not required for personal pet dogs and cats entering Algeria with their owners.

Quarantine: No quarantine is required if all documentation requirements are met.

Entry method: Pets must enter Algeria at Houari Boumediene Airport in Algiers. Pets can enter as checked baggage or air cargo according to airline pet policies. An IATA-compliant crate or carrier is required. Advance notice to veterinary officials is recommended. Small pets under 5kg may travel in-cabin on some airlines (e.g., in an IATA-approved bag).

Banned breeds: Algeria does not publish a list of banned breeds. Aggressive dogs must wear a muzzle.

Common mistakes: Not having the microchip implanted before the rabies vaccination. Failing to have the inventory and Change of Residence certificate stamped by the Algerian Consulate before departure (applies to the overall move, not just pets). Health certificate timing — some sources say 48 hours, others 14 days; use the more restrictive timeframe or confirm with the destination agent.

Consignment Instructions

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

Inventory requirements: A detailed, valued inventory must be prepared in French, signed by the owner, and stamped by the Algerian Consulate in the country of origin. Items should be listed by category. Electrical appliances must include make, model, and serial number.

Inspection: All containers and parcels are physically inspected by customs authorities (except for ambassadors). Contents must match the packing list and inventory exactly. Unlisted items may be seized or subject to Extra Legal Tax (TEL).

Owner presence: The owner or their authorised proxy must be present during customs inspection.

Timing / shipment arrival: Goods may remain at port/airport for 21 days. The customs declaration must be filed within 21 days of unloading. If not filed, goods are placed under deposit regime for 2 months. After this period, goods are seized and acquired by the public treasury. Goods may be sold at auction after 4 months.

Penalties for delays: A customs fine of €500 is levied from day 22 after arrival at port/airport. An additional €500 is charged from day 31, and a further €500 per month thereafter. Example: 2 months of fines = €1,500.

Average clearance timelines (from vessel docking, all documents received):

- Diplomats / Algerian nationals: 12 working days for personal effects; 15 days for vehicles
- Diplomatic air shipments: 10 working days
- Expatriates: 30+ working days (depending on time required for customs officer to process the temporary admission)

Port/airport storage and demurrage: Systematic (always incurred) for both air and sea shipments in Algeria.

Port of entry: Port of Algiers for sea freight. Houari Boumediene Airport (Algiers) for air freight. Other ports include Oran, Annaba, and Béjaïa for sea freight.

Special note — deceased persons' effects: When importing personal effects of a deceased person, specific documentation is required: copy of passport, original Change of Residence certificate, original valued inventory, deregistration certificate, copy of consular card, death certificate from the origin country, a locally prepared "FREDA" (notarial deed of succession), and a power of attorney issued by the notary appointing a representative.

Special territories: Algeria has no overseas territories with separate customs regimes, though the Saharan southern regions may have different practical logistics considerations.

Cultural & Other Information

- **OpenFactBook (replaces CIA World Factbook):** <https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/algeria/>
- **Wikipedia:** <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algeria>
- **Algerian Customs (Douanes):** <https://www.douane.gov.dz/?lang=en>
- **Ministry of Finance:** <https://www.mf.gov.dz/>
- **Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries (MADRP):** <https://madr.gov.dz/>
- **U.S. Embassy Algiers — Customs Information:** <https://dz.usembassy.gov/additional-resources-for-u-s-citizens/customs-information/>
- **trade.gov — Algeria Customs Regulations:** <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/algeria-customs-regulations>
- **trade.gov — Algeria Import Requirements:** <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/algeria-import-requirements-and-documentation>

- **USDA APHIS — Pet Travel US to Algeria:** <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel/us-to-another-country-export/pet-travel-us-algeria>

Key country facts: Algeria is the largest country in Africa by area, located in North Africa on the Mediterranean coast, bordered by Tunisia, Libya, Niger, Mali, Mauritania, Western Sahara, and Morocco. The capital is Algiers. The official languages are Arabic and Tamazight (Berber); French is widely used in business and government. The currency is the Algerian dinar (DZD). Algeria is not a member of the EU. Customs duty rates range from 0% to 30%, with VAT at 0%, 9%, or 19%. Driving is on the right-hand side.

Important notes for movers: Algeria's customs clearance process is known for being complex and bureaucratic. Delays ranging from weeks to months are common. The requirement for Algerian Consulate stamping of documents at origin is strictly enforced and is the single most critical preparation step. The temporary admission system for foreign workers means that goods are not permanently imported — they must be re-exported upon departure unless the 3-year period has elapsed. All documents must be in French.

Regulatory Updates

- **2024-2025:** Algeria continued to apply the DAPs (Droit Additionnel Provisoire de Sauvegarde) — temporary additional safeguard duties of up to 60% on certain processed and high-value imported products (mainly food products). These primarily affect commercial imports but movers should be aware of potential impact on items within household shipments.
- **2025:** Customs tariff nomenclature updated for electronics and battery-related HS codes, with tighter classifications for electronic goods.

Quick Links & Resources

- [Find Movers in Algeria](https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Algeria&lat=36.7538&lng=3.0588&range=50&assoc=800&fvw=c&ctry=Algeria)
<https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Algeria&lat=36.7538&lng=3.0588&range=50&assoc=800&fvw=c&ctry=Algeria>
- [Foreign Embassies in Algeria](https://www.embassypages.com/algeria)
<https://www.embassypages.com/algeria>
- [Algeria's Embassies Abroad](https://www.mfa.gov.dz/embassys-locations-list)
<https://www.mfa.gov.dz/embassys-locations-list>
- [OpenFactBook \(replaces CIA World Factbook\)](https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/algeria/)
<https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/algeria/>

- [Wikipedia](#)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algeria>

- [Algerian Customs \(Douanes\)](#)

<https://www.douane.gov.dz/?lang=en>

- [Ministry of Finance](#)

<https://www.mf.gov.dz/>

- [Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries \(MADRP\)](#)

<https://madr.gov.dz/>

- [U.S. Embassy Algiers — Customs Information](#)

<https://dz.usembassy.gov/additional-resources-for-u-s-citizens/customs-information/>

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