



Angola

CAPITAL

Luanda

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Portuguese

CURRENCY

the Angolan kwanza (AOA)

Last verified: June 2026 | **Guide version:** 2.0**Disclaimer**

This Country Guide reflects information believed to be correct at the time of publication. Regulations, procedures and charges are subject to change. IAM does not accept liability for errors, omissions, inaccuracies or misinterpretations in this guide. The information provided should not be considered as having been provided or sanctioned by the customs authorities of the country or territory concerned.

Overview

Customs Clearance

Clearance timelines (all documents submitted in advance): Air shipments, diplomatic: 10–15 working days; Sea shipments, diplomatic/returning citizens: 15–20 working days; Sea shipments, expatriates: 20–30 working days; Diplomatic franchise processing: 2+ weeks before clearance can begin

Duty-Free Eligibility

Duty-free conditions — Returning Angolan citizens: Returning citizens who can prove they have been living abroad for 6 months or more are exempt from duties and taxes on household goods. However, customs Stamp Duty (approximately 3% of CIF value) and VAT on importation (14% of CIF value) are still levied.

Duties and taxes — Expatriates: Expatriates are subject to customs Stamp Duty (approximately 3% of CIF value) and VAT (14% of CIF value). In case of a false declaration or duplicate items, the owner will pay a fine of 50–70% of the CIF value on top of the Stamp Duty.

Diplomatic exemption: Diplomatic consignments are exempt from duties and taxes provided the complete set of documents is submitted. Diplomatic shipments are easier to clear when consigned to the Diplomatic Mission rather than to the individual diplomat. Customs may occasionally require inspection of diplomatic consignments, usually done at the place of delivery.

Documents

For Returning Angolan Citizens (Including Returning Angolan Diplomats)

- **Copy of valid passport**
- **Copy of visas at origin (residence visa, work visa, student visa, diplomatic card) and/or copy of Algerian Consulate registration card at origin**
- **Proof of entry into Angola (emigration stamp)**
- **Copy of assignee's Angolan Tax Card (Cartao de Contribuinte), duly updated**
- **Signed, dated, valued inventory list in USD, confirming if items are secondhand or new**
- **Detailed inventory list in Portuguese, valued in USD**
- **3 original bills of lading (OBL) or original AWB**
- **Original CNCA certificate (Loading Certificate) for sea shipments**
- **Packing list in Portuguese**
- **When applicable: original declaration from employer in Angola stating position and length of overseas assignment**
- **For returning Angolan diplomats: original declaration from Diplomatic Mission at origin confirming length of assignment abroad and value of goods**

For Foreign Diplomats

- **Copy of diplomatic passport**
- **Copy of Angolan Diplomatic ID**
- **Proof of entry into Angola (emigration stamp)**
- **Copy of assignee's Angolan Tax Card (Cartao de Contribuinte), duly updated**
- **Original Nota Verbal and Declaration from MIREX (exemption documents), prepared by the host diplomatic mission in Angola**
- **Detailed inventory list in Portuguese, valued in USD**

- **3 original bills of lading (OBL) or original AWB**
- **Original CNCA certificate (Loading Certificate) for sea shipments**
- **Packing list in Portuguese**

For Expatriates

- **Copy of valid passport**
- **Proof of entry into Angola (emigration stamp)**
- **Copy of Angolan work visa or Ministry "parecer"**
- **Copy of assignee's Angolan Company Tax Card (Cartao de Contribuinte), duly updated (alternatively, the hosting company's Tax Card may be used)**
- **Signed, dated, valued inventory list in USD, confirming if items are secondhand or new**
- **Detailed inventory list in Portuguese, valued in USD**
- **2 original bills of lading (OBL) or original AWB**
- **Original CNCA certificate (Loading Certificate) for sea shipments**
- **Packing list in Portuguese**

Household Goods — Specific Information

Import licence requirement: For sea and air shipments where the total value of goods on the detailed inventory is USD 5,000 or greater, an import licence is required by Angolan Customs. This applies to all categories (returning citizens, diplomats, and expatriates).

CIF value threshold (older IAM guide note): The IAM guide states a CIF value beyond USD 10,000 is subject to a 2% tax for both diplomatic and non-diplomatic shipments. The FIDI guide does not reference this threshold but does note the USD 5,000 import licence requirement. Confirm with the destination agent.

CNCA Loading Certificate: All sea freight shipments to Angola require a Loading Certificate (Certificado de Embarque) issued by the National Council of Angolan Shippers (CNCA) authorised agent in the country of origin. In the United States, the CNCA agent is OIC Services Inc.

Pro-forma invoice requirements: Must include quantity, description, value, and condition (used or new) for all items. Must include CIF value (FOB + freight + insurance). Must be on the letterhead of the origin agent, stamped and signed, with the owner and consignee details clearly noted. All electrical appliances, equipment, and bicycles must have markings and brand names

shown.

Pre-inspection: The existing IAM guide states a pre-inspection in the country of origin is required for tobacco, drinks, plants, chemical products, toys, motorbikes, used cars, bicycles, and food items, regardless of CIF value. Non-compliance results in a 100% CIF value fine. Diplomatic shipments containing these items are exempt from pre-inspection. Note: the 2024 trade.gov guide states pre-shipment inspections are no longer mandatory (per Presidential Decree No. 63/13), but traders may voluntarily use them for fast-track "green channel" access. Confirm current status with the destination agent.

Customs inspections: Common on sea shipments and systematic on air shipments for all categories.

Cartao de Contribuinte: The Angolan Tax Card can only be obtained after the owner has obtained their work permit. Without this card, customs clearance cannot proceed.

Document language: All documents must be in Portuguese.

Prohibited / Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- **Firearms, ammunition, and deadly weapons** `PERMIT REQUIRED` — Permission from the Ministry of Interior required
- **Fireworks and explosives** `PERMIT REQUIRED` — Authorization from the Ministry of Interior required
- **Illegal drugs** — Strictly prohibited
- **Alcohol** `RESTRICTED` — Prohibited within household goods shipments; beverages are subject to high-security tax stamps and inspection; alcoholic beverages face duties of up to 52.9%
- **Plants and plant materials** — Prohibited without phytosanitary certification; subject to pre-inspection
- **Gold** — Prohibited in shipments
- **Jewellery** — Prohibited in shipments (beyond personal wear)
- **Pornographic materials** — Prohibited
- **Counterfeit items** — Prohibited
- **Communication equipment without INACOM licence** — Prohibited (see Restricted Items above)

- **Used and retreaded tyres** — Prohibited
- **Animal offal products** `RESTRICTED` — Wide range prohibited under 2024 tariff schedule
- **Items subject to US/international embargoes** — Prohibited
- **Endangered species** `CITES` — Restricted

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Items Requiring Pre-Inspection or Special Treatment

- Tobacco, drinks, plants, chemical products, toys, motorbikes, used cars, bicycles, and food items may require pre-inspection at origin (confirm current requirements with destination agent; pre-inspection was abolished in 2013 but may still be applied in practice)
- All electrical appliances, equipment, and bicycles must have brand names and markings on the pro-forma invoice

Communication Equipment (CRITICAL)

Import of communication equipment (new or used) is prohibited unless a licence is obtained from the Angolan Ministry of Telecommunications (INACOM). This includes: telephones (fixed or mobile), fax machines, voice message recorders, walkie-talkies, tablets, antennas, routers, switches, CCTV, servers, internet devices, and security systems. The client must present valid invoices or certificates for the devices to the Ministry of Telecommunications to obtain the INACOM licence. The licence should be obtained and submitted to the local agent before the goods are shipped to avoid customs delays and fines.

Currency

- Angolan kwanza (AOA) is the official currency
- Cash must be declared upon arrival; amounts exceeding 3,000 DZD or foreign currency exceeding 1,000 EUR equivalent must be declared
- Foreign currency export cannot exceed the amount imported; proof of bank withdrawal required for amounts over 7,500 EUR equivalent
- Credit cards are rarely accepted outside major hotels in Luanda

Vehicles

Vehicle Documents

- **Original registration card**

For New Vehicles

- **Original invoice**

For New Vehicles

- **Certificate of ownership**

For New Vehicles

- **Original registration card**

For Secondhand Vehicles

- **Document showing value of vehicle**

For Secondhand Vehicles

- **Certificate of ownership**

For Secondhand Vehicles

- **Copy of valid passport, copy of Diplomatic Card at origin, copy of Tax Card, original declaration from Diplomatic Mission**

Additional for Returning Angolan Diplomats

- **Copy of diplomatic passport, copy of Angolan Diplomatic ID, copy of Tax Card, detailed inventory in Portuguese valued in USD, original Nota Verbal and MIREX declaration**

Additional for Foreign Diplomats

Specific Information

Vehicle age restriction: Import of vehicles older than 5 years is prohibited in Angola, except for returning Angolan diplomats and foreign diplomats. (Note: the 2018 IAM guide stated 3 years; the 2024 FIDI guide states 5 years. The FIDI guide is more current.)

Duties and taxes on vehicles: Vehicles are subject to 60% duties and taxes, with the only exception being foreign diplomats. Returning Angolan citizens, including diplomats, pay duties and taxes on their vehicles. Any consignment that includes a vehicle requires an import licence regardless of value.

Vehicle tax rates (per IAM guide):

- Gasoline engine up to 1500cc: 10%
- Gasoline 1500–3000cc: 20%

- Gasoline over 2500cc: 30%
- Diesel 1500–2500cc: 20%
- Diesel over 2500cc: 30%
- Pick-up trucks: 5% tax
- Import tax on all vehicles (except pick-ups): 10% plus VAT per above ranges

Temporary import: The vehicle can stay in Angola for 2 years with a possible 1-year extension. A bond deposit of 40–45% of CIF value is required.

Definitive import: Requires 40–45% tax based on CIF value.

Separate shipping required: Vehicles should be shipped in a container separate from household goods. All containers containing vehicles will be transferred to the FAYOL terminal for inspection.

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

Clearance deadlines: Customs clearance must begin as soon as the shipment arrives in Luanda. Late clearance (beyond 30 days after arrival) due to missing documentation incurs a 5% fine on the CIF value.

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

Pets

Requirements

- **Rabies vaccination certificate (administered between 30 days and 12 months before travel; for primary vaccinations, between 4 and 11 months before entry per PetTravel.com)**
- **Veterinary health certificate issued within 14 days of travel, endorsed by the government veterinary authority of the origin country**
- **ISO 15-digit microchip (ISO 11784/11785) recommended, implanted before rabies vaccination**
- **Up-to-date vaccination records (distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parvovirus for dogs; panleukopenia, feline leukemia, rhinotracheitis for cats)**
- **Treatment for internal and external parasites prior to entry**

Specific Information

Identification: Microchipping is recommended but not strictly required by Angolan regulations. An ISO 11784/11785-compliant microchip is the most accepted form of identification.

Minimum age: Puppies and kittens must not be vaccinated before 3 months of age. After vaccination, a 30-day waiting period applies, making the effective minimum import age approximately 4 months.

Rabies vaccination timing: Between 30 days and 12 months before entry. PetTravel.com notes the window for primary (first-time) vaccinations is between 4 and 11 months before entry. Booster vaccinations follow standard timing.

Rabies titer test: Not required to enter Angola from any country.

Import permit: Not required for personal pet dogs and cats entering with their owners. Commercial imports and exotic animals require permits.

Quarantine: Not explicitly required if all documentation is in order, but customs officials may impose quarantine if the animal appears unhealthy.

Health certificate: Must be issued within 14 days of travel by a licensed veterinarian and endorsed by the government veterinary authority (e.g., USDA for US-origin pets).

Entry method: Pets enter Angola via Quatro de Fevereiro International Airport in Luanda. An IATA-compliant crate is required for air cargo transport. Advance notification to veterinary officials is recommended.

Banned breeds: Angola does not publish a formal list of banned breeds, though one source mentions certain dangerous breeds may be restricted. Confirm with the destination agent.

CDC high-risk country: Angola is classified by the CDC as a high-risk country for dog rabies. Pets (especially dogs) re-entering the United States from Angola must meet enhanced CDC requirements, including a rabies titer test for foreign-vaccinated dogs and reservation at a CDC-registered animal care facility. Plan well in advance for the return journey.

Common mistakes: Not having the health certificate endorsed by the government veterinary authority. Not allowing sufficient time for the rabies vaccination window (primary vaccination must be 4+ months before entry per some sources).

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 in Portuguese and valued in USD. Items must be identified as secondhand or new. Electrical appliances must show make, model, and serial number. The pro-forma invoice must be on origin agent letterhead, stamped and signed.

CNCA Loading Certificate: Required for all sea freight shipments. Must be obtained from the CNCA authorised agent in the country of origin before shipping.

Import licence: Required when the total inventory value is USD 5,000 or more. Also required for any consignment containing a vehicle, regardless of value.

Inspection: Customs inspections are common on sea shipments and systematic on air shipments.

Owner presence: The owner or their authorised proxy should be available for customs clearance purposes.

Clearance timelines (all documents submitted in advance):

- Air shipments, diplomatic: 10–15 working days
- Sea shipments, diplomatic/returning citizens: 15–20 working days
- Sea shipments, expatriates: 20–30 working days
- Diplomatic franchise processing: 2+ weeks before clearance can begin

Late clearance penalties: A customs fine of 5% of CIF value applies for clearance beyond 30 days after arrival due to missing documentation. The FIDI guide provides additional detail: a fine of EUR 500 from day 22 after arrival, EUR 500 from day 31, and EUR 500 per month thereafter (note: this may reflect the FIDI general template rather than Angola-specific penalties; confirm with destination agent).

Seizure risk: Shipments not released from customs within the allocated time may be seized after 2 months and 21 days, and sold at auction after 4 months.

Port charges: Port charges, storage charges, VAT, detention, demurrage, and customs duties are unavoidable in Angola. Contact the local agent for advice on carriers to avoid (some carriers have higher detention charges).

Port of entry: Luanda (primary port for both sea and air freight). Quatro de Fevereiro International Airport for air shipments.

Special note — identical items: If identical items are imported (suggesting commercial intent), the client faces fines of 50–70% of CIF value on top of standard Stamp Duty.

Cultural & Other Information

- **OpenFactBook (replaces CIA World Factbook):** <https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/angola/>
- **Wikipedia:** <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angola>
- **Angolan Customs (AGT):** <https://www.agt.minfin.gov.ao/> *(TLS certificate issue as of June 2026 — verify in browser)*
- **trade.gov — Angola Import Tariffs:** <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/angola-import-tariffs>
- **trade.gov — Angola Import Requirements:** <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/angola-import-requirements-and-documentation>

Key country facts: Angola is located on the southwestern coast of Africa, bordered by Namibia, Zambia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Republic of the Congo, with a long Atlantic Ocean coastline. The capital is Luanda. The official language is Portuguese; all customs documents must be in Portuguese. The currency is the Angolan kwanza (AOA). Angola is a member of SADC (Southern African Development Community) and a signatory to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Import duties average 10.9% with a range of 2–50% depending on product type. VAT was implemented in October 2019 at 14%. Driving is on the right-hand side.

Important notes for movers: Angola's customs environment is complex and delays are common. The CNCA Loading Certificate is a critical document that must be obtained before shipping. The communication equipment licence (INACOM) is frequently missed and causes significant delays. All documents must be in Portuguese and valued in USD. The Cartao de Contribuinte (Tax Card) is essential and cannot be obtained until the work permit is in hand. Port and storage charges in Luanda are substantial and unavoidable.

Regulatory Updates

- **April 2024:** Presidential Legislative Decree No. 1/24 issued a new Customs Tariff Schedule, significantly raising import duties on staple foods and introducing prohibitions on animal offal products. Vehicle age restriction updated to 5 years (from previous 3 years).
- **2024:** FIDI guide updated (October 2024) with import licence threshold of USD 5,000 and 60% vehicle duty rate.
- **October 2019:** VAT implemented at 14%, replacing the former Consumption Tax.

- **2013:** Pre-shipment inspections abolished (Presidential Decree No. 63/13), though voluntary inspections still available for green channel access.

Quick Links & Resources

- [Find Movers in Angola](https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Angola&lat=-8.8390&lng=13.2894&range=50&assocs=800&fvw=c&ctry=Angola)
<https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Angola&lat=-8.8390&lng=13.2894&range=50&assocs=800&fvw=c&ctry=Angola>
- [Foreign Embassies in Angola](https://www.embassypages.com/angola)
<https://www.embassypages.com/angola>
- [Angola's Embassies Abroad](https://www.governo.gov.ao/ao/ministerios/ministerio-das-relacoes-exterores/)
<https://www.governo.gov.ao/ao/ministerios/ministerio-das-relacoes-exterores/>
- [OpenFactBook \(replaces CIA World Factbook\)](https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/angola/)
<https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/angola/>
- [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angola)
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angola>
- [Angolan Customs \(AGT\)](https://www.agt.minfin.gov.ao/)
<https://www.agt.minfin.gov.ao/>
- [trade.gov — Angola Import Tariffs](https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/angola-import-tariffs)
<https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/angola-import-tariffs>
- [trade.gov — Angola Import Requirements](https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/angola-import-requirements-and-documentation)
<https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/angola-import-requirements-and-documentation>