



Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)

CAPITAL —	OFFICIAL LANGUAGE —	CURRENCY —
---------------------	-------------------------------	----------------------

Last verified: June 2026 | Guide version: 1.0

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

Sea shipments take 12-20 business days for clearance (per FIDI) or 7-15 business days (per IAM), provided all requested documents have been submitted prior to shipment arrival. Air shipments take 8-12 days (per FIDI) or 5-10 business days (per IAM). All documents should be provided at least 8 days prior to shipment arrival.

Duty-Free Eligibility

Import taxes on household goods (non-diplomats): 1% CIF value plus a fixed customs tax ("T.S.") of EUR 30 per shipment, provided customs grants free entry based on the documents provided. New items within a shipment are subject to full import duties of approximately 30-45% CIF value (per FIDI) or approximately 44% CIF value (per IAM and Scribd/FIDI summary). Electrical items will be considered new if invoices are not provided.

Documents

For non-diplomatic shippers

- Copy of valid passport with Cote d'Ivoire entry visa and entry stamp
- Original change of residence certificate (CCR) issued by the city hall, police station, or embassy/consulate in the country of departure
- Original transfer letter from employer at origin
- Original employment letter from local employer in Cote d'Ivoire confirming the client is starting a new contract (in French), certifying starting date and position
- Packing list in French
- Original detailed and valued inventory in French, dated and signed by the owner of the goods (with origin and destination addresses)
- Invoices for all electrical items less than 6 months old
- Invoices for new items
- Original bill of lading (OBL) or airway bill (AWB). No express or telex release accepted without additional fees.
- Freight invoice (if OBL is not rated)
- Bordereau de suivi de cargaison / cargo tracking note (BSC/CTN)
- Copy of residency card or work permit
- Certificate of filiation / etat de filiation (document from the owner of the goods giving details on parents' names, shipper's name, date of birth, and address)
- Valid individual tax identification number in Cote d'Ivoire
- Certificate of free entry (from customs)

For diplomats and personnel of international organizations

- Duty exemption certificate (franchise) issued by the shipper's embassy/organization and endorsed by the Ivorian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Employment letter from employer
- Copy of the diplomatic card issued in Cote d'Ivoire
- Copy of the diplomatic passport with entry visas

- **For motor vehicles: original vehicle registration card, original temporary importation document issued by the Ivorian MFA, endorsement of insurance, car registration application forms, purchase invoice (new vehicles) or attestation of value (used vehicles), non-sale certificate**

Household Goods — Specific Information

Diplomat shipments: No duties on household goods or motor vehicles, but payment of the minimum customs tax "T.S." of EUR 30 per customs entry is required (double if both household goods and a vehicle are imported). The diplomatic franchise must be applied for by the diplomatic organization employing the owner of the goods. The process typically takes 2-3 weeks. The OBL and diplomatic card are necessary for this process. The franchise is issued by the MFA and must be endorsed by the customs head office before being handed over.

Tax identification number: The owner of the goods must register with the Internal Revenue Services, which takes approximately 3 days to provide a tax identification number used for importation of household goods. Diplomats are exempt from this requirement as long as their embassy or organization has a permanent tax identification number.

Telex/express release: If telex or express release is used, expect additional release fees of approximately USD 100 (per IAM) or EUR 100 (per FIDI).

Customs scanner and inspection: All non-diplomatic sea shipments are subject to customs scanner inspection. Additional fees of approximately USD 500 per TEU may apply. All shipments are subject to random customs inspection, with additional fees from the destination agent possible.

Local customs insurance: Compulsory for clearance purposes. Rates vary depending on the destination agent's insurance broker, from 0.15% to 1% of C&F value.

Cargo tracking note (BSC/CTN): All sea shipments must be accompanied by a cargo tracking note. This is processed locally by the destination agent.

Failure to provide documents: Missing any required documents may lead to customs fines and penalties ranging from EUR 100 to EUR 1,000.

ECOWAS/WAEMU membership: Cote d'Ivoire is a member of ECOWAS and WAEMU. The customs regime follows the Common External Tariff (CET) with tariff bands of 0%, 5%, 10%, and 20% depending on product category. VAT is 18% on all imported goods, plus an additional 2.6% tax on all imports.

Prohibited / Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Illegal drugs
- Pornographic materials
- Plants and plant materials
- Soil
- Fertilizers
- Counterfeit items and counterfeit money
- Subversive materials
- Firearms, ammunition, drugs, pornography, and alcohol are listed as prohibited in the FIDI guide (note: this conflicts with the IAM guide and VisaHQ which list firearms as restricted/requiring authorization, and alcohol as subject to duty-free limits or licensing. The FIDI prohibition likely refers to these items within household goods shipments specifically; confirm with the destination agent.)

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Firearms and ammunition: authorization from the territorial administration is required. PERMIT REQUIRED

Duty-free allowances (traveler's baggage):

- 200 cigarettes or 25 cigars or 100 cigarillos
- 250 grams of tobacco
- 1 bottle of wine and 1 bottle of spirits
- 250 ml of perfume
- 500 ml of toilet water (per World Baggage Network)

Currency: Unlimited local currency (CFA Franc, XOF) may be imported by both locals and visitors. Foreign currencies are unlimited but must be declared when entering or leaving the country. Locals are required to exchange all foreign currency into local currency within 8 days of entry.

Food and new items: It is advisable to avoid food and new items in air shipments, and large quantities of food or new items in non-diplomatic sea shipments (per IAM). New items are subject to duties of approximately 30-45% CIF value.

Alcoholic beverages: Beverages containing more than 20% alcohol are subject to a license from the Ministry of Commerce's Department of External Trade. The overall tax rate for imported alcoholic beverages including all excise taxes is approximately 110.5%.

Video cameras and cassettes: Can only be imported for personal use and must be declared at customs upon entry. A deposit for video-related goods must be paid but can be returned upon departure.

Vehicles

Vehicle Documents

- **Original registration card**
- **Rated OBL (showing net weight of car and 17-character chassis number)**
- **Non-sale certificate**
- **Change of residence certificate / transfer letter**
- **Copy of passport**
- **Purchase invoice (if new)**
- **Attestation of value for used cars from shipper**

Specific Information

Duties: Approximately 35-45% CIF value depending on engine cubic centimeters and customs-assessed value (per FIDI). The IAM guide states approximately 44% CIF value, and the Scribd/FIDI summary states approximately 53%.

Age limit: On 6 December 2017, the Ivorian Council of Ministers adopted a decree limiting the age of previously owned vehicles imported into Cote d'Ivoire to five (5) years from the date of the vehicle's first registration. This measure took effect in March 2018. The IAM guide (2016) states vehicles older than 7 years cannot be imported without additional taxes and penalties; the more recent 5-year limit from the FIDI guide (2018) takes precedence.

Environmental penalty for older vehicles: If a vehicle is over 10 years old: environmental penalty of EUR 250 plus EUR 15 per additional year (per FIDI).

Separate shipment required: Vehicles for non-diplomats should not be sent in the same container as household goods and personal effects. Combining them will cause 4-6 weeks of clearance delays and additional charges.

Vehicle clearance process: Cars are automatically transferred to the customs car park (Guichet Unique) by an authorized agent (Cote d'Ivoire Logistique), where customs completes the assessment, payment of duties/taxes, and registration through its own appointed agent. Two customs offices are involved in vehicle clearance, creating a high risk of storage fees and demurrage.

CIL and Vignette fees: Expect additional charges of EUR 200-500 per vehicle.

Multiple vehicles: A customer can import as many vehicles as they wish in their own name.

Pets

Requirements

- **Rabies vaccination certificate (inoculation record)**
- **Veterinary health certificate issued by health authorities at the point of origin, dated at least 3 days before travel**
- **Import permit**

Specific Information

Health certificate: The veterinary health certificate must indicate that no contagious disease (including rabies) has existed in the animal's territory of origin during the previous 6 weeks.

Import permit: Documents must be issued from the country of origin prior to entry. Wait for the import permit to be made available before shipping.

Species: Dogs and cats are permitted entry with proper documentation. An import license is required for other pet species.

CDC high-rabies-risk status: Cote d'Ivoire is on the CDC's list of high-risk countries for dog rabies. Dogs returning to the United States from Cote d'Ivoire must meet the CDC's enhanced requirements for dogs from high-risk countries, including the Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination form (completed before departure from the U.S.) or the Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip form, plus a rabies serology titer test or 28-day quarantine at a CDC-registered animal care facility. Plan return travel requirements carefully before departure.

Consignment Instructions

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

Document submission timing: All documents must be provided at least 8 days prior to shipment arrival. Failure to provide any required document may lead to customs fines and penalties ranging from EUR 100 to EUR 1,000.

Language requirements: All documents, including the inventory and packing list, must be in French. The valued inventory must be original, dated, and signed by the shipper.

Cargo tracking note: Required for all sea shipments. Processed locally by the destination agent. The following documents are compulsory to get the BSC/CTN issued: tax identification number, local customs insurance, freight invoice, export customs entry, original bill of lading, and detailed and valued inventory (signed).

Diplomatic shipments: The most important step is ensuring the client obtains their local diplomatic card prior to shipment arrival. The client can only apply for this card through their organization once they arrive in Cote d'Ivoire (typically takes 2-3 weeks to be issued). After that, the organization can apply for the franchise (an additional 2-3 weeks). Plan for a total of 4-6 weeks for the diplomatic clearance process.

Vehicle shipments: Do not combine vehicles with household goods in the same container for non-diplomatic shipments. Two customs offices are involved in vehicle clearance, creating a high risk of storage fees and demurrage.

Food in shipments: Avoid food and new items in air shipments. Avoid large quantities in sea shipments.

Cultural & Other Information

- **OpenFactBook -- Cote d'Ivoire (replaces CIA World Factbook):**
<https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/c-ocirc-te-divoire/> (verified 200; note the slug is an HTML-entity artifact of "Côte" — the country name slug, not "cote-divoire")
- **Wikipedia -- Ivory Coast:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ivory_Coast (returns 403 to bots; accessible in browsers)
- **Cote d'Ivoire Customs Authority (Direction Generale des Douanes):**
<https://www.douanes.ci/> (verified 200)

- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs:** <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.ci/> (verified 200, "Ministère des Affaires Etrangères")
- **FIDI Guide -- Ivory Coast (November 2018):** https://www.fidi.org/sites/default/files/public/2020-03/M_Svcs_Customsregulation_Ivory%20Coast_0.pdf (verified 200)
- **Trade.gov -- Cote d'Ivoire Import Tariffs:** <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/cote-divoire-import-tariffs> (verified 200)
- **Trade.gov -- Cote d'Ivoire Customs Regulations:** <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/cote-divoire-customs-regulations> (verified 200)
- **PetTravel.com -- Ivory Coast:** <https://www.pettravel.com/information/pet-passports/ivory-coast-pet-import-requirements/> (verified 200)
- **Embassy Pages -- Ivory Coast:** <https://www.embassypages.com/ivorycoast> (returns 403 to bots; accessible in browsers)

Quick Links & Resources

- [Find Movers in Ivory Coast](https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Ivory%20Coast&lat=7.54&lng=-5.5471&range=50&assocs=800&fvw=c&ctry=Ivory%20Coast)
<https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Ivory%20Coast&lat=7.54&lng=-5.5471&range=50&assocs=800&fvw=c&ctry=Ivory%20Coast>
 - [Foreign Embassies in Ivory Coast](https://www.embassypages.com/ivorycoast)
<https://www.embassypages.com/ivorycoast>
 - [Cote d'Ivoire's Embassies Abroad](https://www.diplomatie.gouv.ci/)
<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.ci/>
-

IAM Country Guide: Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)