

French Guiana

CAPITAL Cayenne	OFFICIAL LANGUAGE French	CURRENCY Euro (EUR)
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Guide version: V2 draft

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.

Important Note

TERRITORY NOTE: French Guiana is a French overseas department (departement d'outre-mer) and an outermost region of the European Union. EU law applies, including EU customs regulations and the EU pet travel framework. Unlike most EU territory, French Guiana sits outside the EU VAT area, and unlike Martinique and Guadeloupe, French Guiana applies a 0% VAT rate rather than a reduced VAT rate. In place of VAT, French Guiana levies the Octroi de Mer, a local production and import tax, on most imported goods regardless of origin.

Documents

Required Documents

- **Copy of valid passport**
- **Original bill of lading or express release / airway bill (AWB)**
- **Original inventory in French, dated, valued, and signed by the owner of the goods**
- **Packing list**

- **Certificate of change of residence, or certificate of transfer / working contract**
- **Proof of residence in French Guiana (electricity bill, signed lease, or similar) dated within the last 3 months**
- **Non-sale certificate**
- **Certificate of property**

Household Goods — Specific Information

EU intra-territory movements: Goods moving from mainland France or another EU member state are treated as intra-EU movements and are not subject to standard customs duty. The Octroi de Mer local tax still applies regardless of the goods' origin, including from within the EU.

Octroi de Mer: Without a certificate of change of residence or certificate of transfer, the shipper will have to pay the Octroi de Mer, generally between 12% and 22% of the CIF value, in place of the duty-free treatment described below.

Duty-free admission: Presenting the certificate of change of residence (or equivalent transfer documentation) allows used household goods and personal effects to be admitted without the Octroi de Mer charge described above. Goods should generally have been owned and used by the importer prior to the move, and should not be sold or transferred for a reasonable period after import; confirm the current minimum ownership period and any resale restriction with the destination agent, as this was not consistently documented across sources.

VAT: French Guiana applies a 0% VAT rate on imports, unlike Martinique and Guadeloupe, which apply reduced VAT rates in place of full metropolitan VAT.

Wood packaging (ISPM 15): All wood packaging materials (pallets, crates, dunnage) must comply with ISPM 15 and bear the appropriate treatment mark.

Language: All inventories must be in French, dated, valued, and signed by the owner of the goods. English-language inventories are not accepted.

Prohibited / Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Firearms and ammunition, unless authorized by the territorial administration (authorization is rarely granted) PERMIT REQUIRED

- Unlawful drugs and narcotics
- Objects made of ivory or of any endangered species CITES
- Counterfeit goods

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Octroi de Mer differential rates: The Octroi de Mer applies at different rates depending on the product category and whether the goods are locally produced or imported; confirm the applicable rate for specific categories of goods with the destination agent or the Direction Generale des Douanes.

Intra-EU vs. non-EU imports: Goods from within the EU move without standard customs duty but remain subject to the Octroi de Mer. Goods from outside the EU are subject to both standard EU customs duty and the Octroi de Mer.

Vehicles

Vehicle Documents

- **Original registration card (carte grise)**
- **Certified statement of the vehicle**
- **Certificate of insurance**
- **Non-sale certificate**

Specific Information

Octroi de Mer on vehicles: Without a certificate of change of residence and the vehicle's registration card, the Octroi de Mer (up to 22% of the CIF value) must be paid before delivery.

Registration: Vehicles must be registered locally following import; confirm the current registration process and any roadworthiness inspection requirements with the destination agent, as these were not consistently documented across sources for this territory.

Pets

Requirements

- **ISO-compliant microchip (15-digit, compliant with ISO 11784 or Annex A of ISO 11785)**
- **Rabies vaccination certificate, EU Pet Passport, or government-issued vaccination booklet, depending on country of origin**
- **Veterinary health certificate**
- **Certificate of vaccination**

Specific Information

As part of the European Union, French Guiana follows the EU pet travel framework (EU Regulation 2016/429 and related implementing rules). Pets entering from within the EU generally travel under an EU Pet Passport, provided the microchip was implanted before or at the time of rabies vaccination. Pets entering from outside the EU require an animal health certificate issued by an official veterinarian in the country of origin, along with proof of a valid rabies vaccination administered after the microchip was implanted.

Depending on the country of origin's rabies risk classification, a rabies antibody (titer) test administered at least 30 days after vaccination and at least 3 months before travel may also be required.

Confirm current entry-point and inspection procedures with the destination agent, as this territory's veterinary import process was not consistently documented across sources, given French Guiana's distinct geographic position bordering Brazil and Suriname.

IAM Disclaimer

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Government Websites Verified

- Direction Generale des Douanes (douane.gouv.fr): active.
- Prefecture de la Guyane (guyane.gouv.fr): active.
- OpenFactBook: French Guiana has no independent country page; covered within France's entry, consistent with the old IAM baseline's own treatment. Active.
- Wikipedia: active.
- France Diplomatie (diplomatie.gouv.fr/en): active. The prior specific diplomatic-network sub-path had gone dead and was replaced with the current homepage URL.

Unverified Items

- Current minimum ownership/usage period and any post-import resale restriction for duty-free household goods admission.
- Current vehicle registration process and any local roadworthiness inspection requirement.
- Current veterinary entry-point and inspection procedures for pets, given French Guiana's distinct geographic position bordering Brazil and Suriname.
- Whether a FIDI Global Alliance guide has since been published for French Guiana; none was located at the time of this guide's preparation.

Consignment Instructions

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

Secure the certificate of change of residence or equivalent transfer documentation before the shipment departs, since its absence triggers the Octroi de Mer charge on the full shipment value. Confirm the current documentation and inspection requirements for vehicles and pets directly with the destination agent, as these are less consistently documented for this territory than for mainland France or the larger French Caribbean departments.

Cultural & Other Information

- [OpenFactBook: France \(French Guiana is covered within France's entry\)](#)

- [Wikipedia: French Guiana](#)
- [Direction Generale des Douanes: Customs Taxation in the Overseas Departments](#)
- [Prefecture de la Guyane](#)
- [France Diplomatie: Diplomatic and Consular Network](#)

Key territory facts: French Guiana is located on the northeastern coast of South America, bordered by Brazil and Suriname, with coastline on the North Atlantic Ocean. The capital is Cayenne. The official language is French. The currency is the euro (EUR). French Guiana is home to the Guiana Space Centre at Kourou. Traffic drives on the right.

Quick Links & Resources

- [Find Movers in French Guiana](#)
<https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=French+Guiana&lat=4.9224&lng=-52.3135&range=50&assocs=800&fvw=c&ctry=French+Guiana>
- [France's Embassies Abroad](#)
<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en>

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