



Mauritania

CAPITAL

—

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

—

CURRENCY

—

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.

Overview

Duty-Free Eligibility

Duty-free conditions: Used household goods may be imported duty-free provided the required exemption letter is obtained and the documentation is complete. The exemption letter from the Ministry of Finance (non-diplomatic) or Ministry of Foreign Affairs (diplomatic) is essential and must be arranged before or concurrent with the shipment process.

Documents

Required Documents

- **Certificate of change of residence from the city hall or embassy in the country of origin**
- **Work attestation confirming employment in Mauritania**
- **Copy of passport (diplomatic or service passport if applicable)**

- **Exemption letter from the Mauritanian Ministry of Finance (for non-diplomatic shipments) or from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (for diplomatic shipments)**
- **Resident permit, letter from employer, or diplomatic card**
- **Original bill of lading (OBL), express release, or airway bill (AWB)**
- **Original valued inventory in French, dated and signed by the owner of the goods**
- **Non-sale certificate (must state that the client will not sell personal effects in Mauritania)**
- **Invoices for all electrical items less than 6 months old**

Household Goods — Specific Information

Important context: Mauritania is an Islamic republic. Alcohol and pork products are strictly prohibited. These items must not be included in any household goods shipment under any circumstances.

New items: New items (less than 6 months old) require original invoices. The FIDI guide specifies that invoices must contain: the importer's name and address at destination, the SIREN or SIRET number of the shop, the total price showing VAT, and the origin of the goods (whether from within or outside the EEC). Customs will reject till slips, delivery notes, order forms, and sale slips intended only for airport customs rather than sea freight customs.

Customs inspection: All containers may be checked by Customs, including diplomatic shipments. The OBL must be accurate and declare all import items. Discrepancies between the OBL and the actual contents will result in delays and potential penalties.

Documentation language: All inventories and customs documentation must be in French, valued in euros.

Prohibited / Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Alcoholic beverages (strictly prohibited under Islamic law)
- Pork and pork products (strictly prohibited under Islamic law)
- Arms and weapons **[Permit Required]**
- Narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

- Counterfeit goods and currency
- Cigarettes (per FIDI guide, Dec 2023; see note in Restricted Items)
- Ivory **[CITES]**
- Ostrich eggs **[CITES]**
- Turtle shells **[CITES]**
- Coral **[CITES]**
- Shells (certain protected species)
- Stuffed animals
- Animal skins
- All species listed under the Washington Convention (CITES)

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Traveller Duty-Free Allowances

The IAM guide (2016) lists the following duty-free allowances for travellers:

Tobacco: 200 cigarettes, or 25 cigars, or 1 lb (approximately 450 g) of tobacco. Note: The FIDI guide (2023) lists cigarettes as a prohibited item. This may reflect a change in regulations or a difference in classification between personal traveller allowances and inclusion in household shipments. Confirm current tobacco regulations with the destination agent before shipping.

Perfume: 50 grams of perfume and 250 ml (1/4 litre) of eau de cologne.

Firearms

Sporting guns may be temporarily admitted with prior authorization from the Home Ministry, in addition to gun and import licenses.

Currency

Confirm current currency import/export regulations with the destination agent. Mauritania uses the Ouguiya (MRU), which was redenominated in 2018 (1 new MRU = 10 old MRO).

Vehicles

Vehicle Documents

- **Valued, dated, and signed inventory**

****For used vehicles:****

- **Copy of vehicle registration documents**

****For used vehicles:****

- **Non-lien certificate (valid for one month)**

****For used vehicles:****

- **Owner's passport or ID document**

****For used vehicles:****

- **Purchase invoice**

****For new vehicles with temporary registration (W.W.):****

- **Non-lien certificate (valid for one month)**

****For new vehicles with temporary registration (W.W.):****

- **Owner's passport or ID document**

****For new vehicles with temporary registration (W.W.):****

- **Original invoice with address at destination**

****For new vehicles without plates:****

- **EX 1 No. 3 form**

****For new vehicles without plates:****

- **Owner's passport or ID document**

****For new vehicles without plates:****

- **Original registration card**

****Additional requirements (per IAM guide):****

- **Insurance certificate**

****Additional requirements (per IAM guide):****

- **Certificate of change of residence**

****Additional requirements (per IAM guide):****

- **Copy of passport**

****Additional requirements (per IAM guide):****

Specific Information

Age limit: Vehicles older than 8 years cannot be imported into Mauritania.

Import taxes (non-exempt): Taxes depend on the age and capacity of the vehicle. The IAM guide outlines: new vehicles are taxed at approximately 78% of the vehicle value; used vehicles are taxed at approximately 50% of the vehicle value.

Tax exemption: Diplomats, civil servants, and employees working for embassies or international organizations are exempt from vehicle tax for one vehicle, provided the exemption is applied for through their employer (verbal notice, direct removal request, CD or TT registration). Employees of exempted companies are also exempt for one vehicle.

OBL requirements: The chassis number, engine number, and weight of the vehicle must be stated on the bill of lading. Documents must be received by the destination agent at least 1 week before importation.

Pets

Requirements

- **Rabies vaccination certificate**
- **Veterinary health certificate from the country of origin**

Specific Information

Health certificate: The rabies vaccination certificate and health certificate must be issued in the country of origin. The health certificate should confirm the animal is free from infectious diseases.

Young animals: Dogs and cats less than 3 months old are exempt from sanitary regulation requirements.

Government endorsement: The health certificate should be endorsed by the relevant government veterinary authority in the country of origin (e.g. USDA for the US, CFIA for Canada, DDPP for France).

Limited information: Detailed pet import requirements from Mauritanian veterinary authorities are not readily available online. Confirm all requirements with the destination agent before shipping, particularly regarding any breed restrictions, quarantine requirements, or additional documentation.

Consignment Instructions

Recommended: Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air / sea shipments. Mauritania's customs environment requires careful document preparation; incomplete or inaccurate documentation will cause significant delays.

Port of entry: The principal port is the Port de Nouakchott (Port de l'Amitié / Friendship Port). The port of Nouadhibou in the north also handles cargo. Air shipments arrive via Nouakchott-Oumtounsy International Airport (NKC).

Document timing: Documents must be received by the destination agent at least 1 week prior to importation (per IAM guide). The exemption letter from the Ministry of Finance or Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be arranged as early as possible, as government processing times can be unpredictable.

Islamic law compliance: Mauritania strictly enforces Islamic law. Alcohol, pork products, and any materials considered offensive to Islamic values must not be included in shipments. Customs officials will inspect all containers, including diplomatic shipments.

Visa requirements: Most nationalities require a visa to enter Mauritania. Electronic visas are available for many nationalities. Proof of yellow fever vaccination is required for travellers arriving from endemic areas.

Cultural & Other Information

- [OpenFactBook -- Mauritania](#) *(community-maintained successor to the CIA World Factbook, which was discontinued in February 2026)*
- [Wikipedia -- Mauritania](#)
- [Ministry of Finance -- Mauritania](#)
- [U.S. State Department -- Mauritania Travel Advisory](#)
- [FIDI Import Customs Guide -- Mauritania \(Dec 2023, PDF\)](#)

Note: Mauritania's customs authority website (douanes.gov.mr) was unreachable at the time of this guide's preparation.

International Association of Movers (IAM) 1600 Duke Street, Suite 440 · Alexandria, VA 22314, USA Phone: +1 703-317-9950 · iamovers.org

Quick Links & Resources

- [Find Movers in Mauritania](#)
<https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Mauritania&lat=18.0735&lng=-15.9582&range=50&assocs=800&fvw=c&ctry=Mauritania>
- [Foreign Embassies in Mauritania](#)
<https://www.embassypages.com/mauritania>
- [Mauritania's Embassies Abroad](#)
<https://www.embassypages.com/mauritania>