



Mozambique

CAPITAL

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OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

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CURRENCY

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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.

Overview

Customs Clearance

Customs clearance times: Sea container household goods: 5 to 7 working days. Air freight household goods: 4 to 5 working days after arrival at Maputo Airport. Vehicles by sea container: 7 to 10 working days. Vehicles by Ro-Ro: 7 to 10 working days (with additional parking fee risk at Maputo's Ro-Ro terminal).

Documents

For Incoming Expatriates (Non-Diplomatic)

- **Valid passport copy with most recent Mozambican border entry stamps**
- **Work and residence visa in passport**
- **Work permit issued by the Mozambican Ministry of Labor**
- **Work contract with Mozambican employer, in Portuguese, signed and stamped**

- Letter from Mozambican employer entity, in Portuguese, signed and stamped
- Signed valued inventory in USD, in Portuguese. Shipments valued above USD 50,000 are subject to an additional levy of 0.85% of the CIF value regardless of the importer's status.
- Mozambique Tax Number Certificate (NUIT). The NUIT can be obtained after arrival in Mozambique and typically takes approximately 2 weeks to issue.

For Incoming Foreign Diplomats

- Copy of Diplomat Card (Cartao Diplomático / "CD") issued by MINEC after arrival in Mozambique. The CD can only be requested by the diplomatic mission after arrival and is issued 2 to 3 weeks after the request.
- Valid passport copy with most recent Mozambican border entry stamps
- Letter from Mozambican employer entity, in Portuguese, signed and stamped
- Signed valued inventory in USD, in Portuguese (same 50,000 USD threshold applies)
- Mozambique Tax Number Certificate (NUIT)

For Mozambican Nationals (Returning Non-Diplomatic)

- Confirmation of stay abroad issued by the Mozambican Embassy or Consulate in the country of residence (or nearest one)
- INACE statement issued by INACE/MINEC in Maputo
- Copies of valid passport with most recent Mozambican border entry stamps
- Copy of Mozambican Citizen ID Card
- Signed valued inventory in USD, in Portuguese (same 50,000 USD threshold applies)
- NUIT Certificate or NUIT Card

For Returning Mozambican Diplomats

- Letter from MINEC
- Passport copy with most recent Mozambican border entry stamps
- Mozambique Tax Number (NUIT)
- Mozambican Citizen ID Card
- Signed valued inventory in USD, in Portuguese (same 50,000 USD threshold applies)

For Incoming Foreign Clerics / Missionaries

- **Letter of Assurance from the Ministry in charge of Religious Affairs (MJCR)**
- **Passport copy with most recent Mozambican border entry stamps**
- **Mozambique Tax Number (NUIT)**
- **Copies of the visa in passport**
- **Signed valued inventory in USD, in Portuguese**

For Inheritance

- **Copy of the will**
- **Death certificate**
- **Letter from the executor**

Household Goods — Specific Information

Only used household goods owned for more than 2 years are eligible for duty exemption. No imported goods may be sold, leased, or otherwise disposed of for 24 months from their date of entry unless customs duties are first paid.

Importers are eligible for duties exemption on 1 sea import and 1 air import (or road import) within the first 6 months of arrival. Additional imports using the same mode of transport, or imports made more than 6 months after arrival, will likely not be granted duties exemption.

All personal effects and household goods must be imported within 2 months of the returning resident's arrival. For immigrants who have been granted a work or resident permit, goods must arrive within 3 months of the date the permit was granted. Diplomatic shipments must be imported within 6 months of the diplomat's arrival.

Additional household goods imported as a consequence of a spousal reunion (whether for an expatriate or diplomat) may qualify for duties exemption. Contact the destination FIDI representative for details.

Customs does not publish an official list of required documents. The list is informal, and Customs officials are entitled to request additional documents at their discretion.

Shipment valuation levy: Any shipment with a CIF value above USD 50,000 will be charged a fee of 0.85% of its CIF value, regardless of the importer's diplomatic or exempt status.

Resale restriction: Imported goods may not be sold, leased, or otherwise disposed of for 24 months from the date of customs entry unless duties are paid at that point.

ISPM 15: All wooden packing materials must comply with ISPM 15 phytosanitary standards. Confirm requirements with the destination agent before packing.

Customs clearance times: Sea container household goods typically take 5 to 7 working days to clear. Air freight household goods typically take 4 to 5 working days after cargo arrives at Maputo Airport. Original Bills of Lading are required in most cases; express and telex releases are generally not accepted.

Prohibited / Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

The following items are prohibited from import into Mozambique:

- Narcotic drugs and controlled substances
- Pornographic materials
- Offensive weapons
- Forged documents and counterfeit money
- Animal remains of any kind (including ornaments and by-products from species listed on the OIE diseases list, up to 6 months after the latest outbreak)
- Left-hand drive vehicles intended for commercial use
- Vegetable and plant products listed in Annex 1 of Decree No. 5/2009
- Endangered species and products derived from CITES-listed wildlife *(CITES)*
- Firearms without a valid permit from the Ministry of Interior *(Permit Required)*
- Pharmaceuticals and pesticides without prior import authorisation *(Permit Required)*

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Traveller allowances (hand-carry only): Persons 18 years of age or older may import, free of duty: 400 cigarettes or 250 grams of tobacco; 1 litre of spirits and 2.25 litres of wine; and 50 ml of perfume. Persons under 18 may not carry alcohol or tobacco. Total value of duty-free goods must not exceed USD 200. Visitors may carry up to 3 bottles of alcoholic beverages.

Alcohol in shipments: Alcohol and spirits should not be included in household goods shipments. They should be hand-carried within the above limits. Customs may or may not grant full duties

exemption to diplomats importing large quantities of alcoholic beverages.

Firearms and ammunition: Import requires a special permit from the Ministry of Interior.

Firearms must be accompanied by appropriate authorisation from the territorial administration.

See Prohibited Items for relevant restrictions.

New furniture and household goods: Freight charges apply and invoices are required. Duties will be levied on new goods included in a removal shipment.

Medicines and hospital equipment: Subject to prior authorisation by the relevant health authority before import.

Precious metal jewellery: Customs duty may be required as a deposit.

Plant material and meat products: Subject to restrictions and, in most cases, require an import licence. Citrus fruits, seeds, and deciduous plants require advance import licences from agricultural authorities. A ban on the import of chicken meat has been in force since 2017.

Vehicles

Vehicle Documents

- **Letter from employer**

****For Incoming Foreign Diplomats****

- **Copy of Diplomat Card issued by MINEC after arrival**

****For Incoming Foreign Diplomats****

- **Valid passport copy**

****For Incoming Foreign Diplomats****

- **Purchase invoice in English (max. USD 50,000; above this, the 0.85% levy applies)**

****For Incoming Foreign Diplomats****

- **NUIT of the vehicle owner**

****For Incoming Foreign Diplomats****

- **Modelo 75 form, completed and approved by MINEC. Approval takes 2 to 6 weeks.**

****For Incoming Foreign Diplomats****

- **Letter from the Embassy of origin**

****For Returning Mozambican Diplomats****

- **Passport copy with most recent Mozambican border entry stamps**

****For Returning Mozambican Diplomats****

- **Purchase invoice (max. USD 50,000)**

****For Returning Mozambican Diplomats****

- **Mozambican ID Card**

****For Returning Mozambican Diplomats****

- **NUIT**

****For Returning Mozambican Diplomats****

- **Proof of duties payment (duties amount to 80% to 130% of the cost of the vehicle; request a simulation from the destination agent before shipping)**

****For Incoming Expatriates (Non-Diplomatic)****

- **NUIT**

****For Incoming Expatriates (Non-Diplomatic)****

- **Passport copy**

****For Incoming Expatriates (Non-Diplomatic)****

- **Purchase invoice**

****For Incoming Expatriates (Non-Diplomatic)****

- **Bank acknowledgment**

****For Incoming Expatriates (Non-Diplomatic)****

Specific Information

Vehicle import duties for non-diplomatic importers range from 80% to 130% of the vehicle's assessed value. The precise rate depends on the vehicle's age, engine size, power, and HS code classification. Request a cost simulation from the destination FIDI representative before committing to a shipment.

Diplomats may import 1 vehicle duty-free under their name. MINEC and Customs may or may not accept a second vehicle from another family member as duty-free; this must be confirmed with the diplomatic mission before shipping. The second vehicle must be in the family member's own name and supported by documents in that person's name.

Motorbikes and quad bikes are treated as vehicles for customs purposes and count toward the 1-vehicle duty-free allowance. Motorized flying and floating vehicles (boats, aircraft) are subject to prior authorisation and a specific legalization process; contact the destination agent before proceeding.

If a diplomat's vehicle is sold within 5 years of import, customs duties become payable on the sale. Beyond the first 5 years, the vehicle may be sold without prior duty payment.

The OBL must state chassis number, engine number, cubic capacity, year of manufacture, make, and model. Depending on the HS code, the vehicle may be subject to pre-shipment inspection.

Ro-Ro risk: Vehicle import via the Ro-Ro terminals at Maputo carries notable risks of additional charges due to very high parking fees at the terminal. Container shipping is generally preferable

for vehicles.

Document timing: All documents must be received by the destination agent at least 1 week before shipment arrival. Vehicle Customs clearance by sea takes 7 to 10 working days from container reflection on the Customs extranet. Ro-Ro clearance also takes 7 to 10 working days.

Left-hand drive: Left-hand drive vehicles intended for commercial use are prohibited from import. Confirm classification with the destination agent for personal-use left-hand drive vehicles.

Concealed vehicles: Hiding vehicles such as motorbikes or sailboats within household goods shipments through dismantling is illegal and can cause serious complications for the destination agent and the shipper.

Pets

Requirements

- **ISO-compatible microchip.** The microchip should be implanted before or at the same time as the rabies vaccination. Only microchips implanted by an official, registered veterinarian are accepted.
- **Rabies vaccination certificate.** Vaccination must be at least 30 days old but no more than 1 year old at the time of entry. Annual boosters are required; multi-year rabies vaccinations are not accepted.
- **Vaccinations against relevant diseases:** dogs must be vaccinated against distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, and leptospirosis; cats against feline viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, panleukopenia, and feline leukemia. All vaccinations must be current.
- **International veterinary health certificate,** issued within 10 days of departure, countersigned by the State Veterinarian. All documentation must reflect the owner's name.
- **Import permit from the Directorate of Veterinary Services,** valid for 60 days from date of issue. Applications should be submitted well in advance.

Specific Information

Breed restrictions (effective 1 May 2024): Mozambique introduced a ban on the import of 16 potentially dangerous dog breeds. The list includes: Dogo Argentino, Pit Bull Terrier, Rottweiler, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Tosa Inu, Bull Terrier, Akita Inu, Kangal, Bullmastiff, wolf-mixed breeds, English Mastiff, Boerboel, Cane Corso, American Bulldog, Fila Brasileiro, and Rhodesian Ridgeback.

Dogs of these breeds may be importable with additional documentation and for specific approved purposes. Confirm requirements with the destination agent and the Directorate of Veterinary Services well in advance.

Pets must be at least 4 months old to travel to Mozambique. Vaccinations must be administered by an official, registered veterinarian; vaccinations given by a veterinary nurse, breeder, or welfare organisation staff are not accepted.

Healthy pets that meet all import requirements are not quarantined on arrival. Mozambique is a rabies-endemic country and vaccinations should be kept current throughout the stay.

The pet import process is relatively straightforward for cats, dogs, and horses. Import for other species may be more complex. Applications in all cases should be directed to the Directorate of Veterinary Services. There is no FIDI affiliate working on animal imports in Mozambique; the local FIDI member can suggest a reliable specialist.

Citrus fruits, seeds, and deciduous plants may not be imported unless an import licence has been obtained in advance from the relevant agricultural authorities.

Consignment Instructions

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

Inventory: All inventories must be in Portuguese, signed by the owner, dated, and valued in USD. Shipments with a CIF value above USD 50,000 will incur a 0.85% levy on the full CIF value regardless of exemption status.

Bills of Lading: Original Bills of Lading are required in most cases. Express release and telex release are generally not accepted. The OBL for vehicles must state chassis number, engine number, cubic capacity, year of manufacture, make, and model.

Document timing: Documents must be received by the destination agent at least 1 week before shipment arrival for household goods. Vehicle documents should arrive with the same lead time, and the Modelo 75 approval process for diplomatic vehicles can take 2 to 6 weeks. Factor this into the shipping timeline.

Customs clearance times: Sea container household goods: 5 to 7 working days. Air freight household goods: 4 to 5 working days after arrival at Maputo Airport. Vehicles by sea container: 7 to 10 working days. Vehicles by Ro-Ro: 7 to 10 working days (with additional parking fee risk at Maputo's Ro-Ro terminal).

NUIT (Tax Number): Required from all importers, including foreign diplomats. It can be obtained after arrival in Mozambique and typically takes 2 weeks to issue. Ensure the NUIT process is initiated immediately upon arrival.

Unpredictable expenses: Customs officials may request original documents even when copies have been submitted. They may also request certified translations of documents not in Portuguese or English. Additional charges, storage fees, and delays should be anticipated if documentation is incomplete on arrival.

Principal port of entry: Maputo Port is the primary entry point for sea shipments. Beira and Nacala ports are also operational and generally comparable in cost and process, but the destination agent should be consulted before routing through those ports.

Cultural & Other Information

Mozambique is a country in southeastern Africa, bordered by Tanzania to the north, Malawi and Zambia to the northwest, Zimbabwe to the west, South Africa and Eswatini to the south, and the Indian Ocean to the east. The capital and principal port city is Maputo. Portuguese is the official language. The country gained independence from Portugal in 1975 and has since developed a market economy supported by natural resources including natural gas, coal, and aluminium. Mozambique is a member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Commonwealth of Nations.

Business is conducted primarily in Portuguese. The country has experienced significant political instability in recent years, particularly following the October 2024 elections, which resulted in widespread protests and civil unrest through 2025. Movers and clients should monitor the security situation and confirm operational conditions with the destination agent before scheduling shipments.

Reference Links

- [OpenFactBook — Mozambique](#)
- [Wikipedia — Mozambique](#)
- [Autoridade Tributaria de Mocambique — Customs and Tax Authority](#)
- [trade.gov — Mozambique Prohibited and Restricted Imports](#)
- [FIDI Import Customs Guide — Mozambique \(October 2023\)](#)

Quick Links & Resources

- [Find Movers in Mozambique \(IAMX\)](#)

<https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Mozambique&lat=-18.6657&lng=35.5296&range=50&assocs=800&fvw=c&ctry=Mozambique>

- [Foreign Embassies in Mozambique](#)

<https://www.embassypages.com/mozambique>

- [Mozambique's Embassies Abroad](#)

<https://embassies.net/mozambique-embassy>

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