



Uganda

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.

Documents

For All Importers

- **Original passport with entry stamp**
- **Packing list in English**
- **Detailed valued inventory in English, dated and signed by the owner of the goods**
- **Tax Identification Number (TIN)**
- **Invoice for all new items included in the shipment**
- **Original bill of lading (OBL), or express/telex release (2 copies)**

For Foreign Citizens / Expatriates

- **Letter of employment or copy of employment contract**
- **Work permit**
- **Original residence permit**

For Diplomats

- **PRO6 form**
- **Exemption letter from the relevant embassy or mission**

Household Goods — Specific Information

Uganda is a member of the East African Community (EAC), and customs procedures are governed by the East African Community Customs Management Act (EACCMA). Duty-free import of used household goods and personal effects is available to returning residents and qualifying expatriates. Non-qualifying consignees are subject to 25% import duty, 18% VAT, and 10% in other taxes and levies — confirm current rates with the destination agent.

Port Wharfage: A wharfage fee of 1.6% applies to all shipments processed through Mombasa (the primary sea gateway for Uganda). This fee is levied on the declared value of the cargo.

First Arrivals by Air: For the first shipment arriving by air, the owner of the goods must present their original passport with entry stamp and a letter of employment.

Returning Residents: Returning Ugandan residents should have a residence permit from their country of residence abroad.

Grace Period: A grace period of seven days applies after arrival of the shipment for documentation and clearance purposes before storage fees begin accruing.

ISPM 15: All wooden packing materials (pallets, crates, dunnage) must comply with ISPM 15 phytosanitary treatment standards.

Uganda Electronic Single Window: Customs clearance in Uganda is processed through the Uganda Electronic Single Window platform. The destination agent and a licensed customs broker must be engaged well in advance of the shipment's arrival.

Practical Note: Uganda is landlocked. Almost all sea freight routes through the port of Mombasa (Kenya) before onward road transport to Kampala. Mombasa clearance procedures and transit documentation add time and cost to the process. The destination agent should be engaged before shipment.

Prohibited / Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

The following goods are prohibited from import into Uganda under the EACCMA and the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017. Persons found in possession of prohibited items must pass through the Red Channel and declare them; penalties range up to five years imprisonment or a fine of 50% of the goods' value, plus destruction costs.

- Narcotics and drugs under international control
- Pornographic materials in all formats
- Counterfeit currency and false money
- Counterfeit goods of all kinds
- Hazardous wastes and materials subject to the Basel Convention
- All soaps and cosmetic products containing mercury
- Used tyres for light commercial vehicles and passenger cars
- Worn underwear garments (all types)
- Plastic articles less than 30 microns used for conveyance or packing of goods
- Distilled beverages containing harmful essential oils (including thujone, absinthe, and similar substances)
- Mercury compounds (agricultural and industrial applications — specific chemicals listed on the URA website)
- Industrial chemicals including crocidolite, PCBs, PCTs, PBBs, and related substances
- Cultural artifacts and objects of cultural importance (export also prohibited)
- Some wildlife species (in accordance with CITES and domestic wildlife law) **[CITES]**
- Explosive materials and explosive caps for toy pistols
- Aerosol sprays containing benzene
- CFC- and HCFC-based refrigerants in refrigerators, air conditioners, and insulation materials
- Incandescent lamps of 75 watts and above
- Bull bars (vehicle frontal protection bars)
- Batteries containing mercury
- PVC teethers and teething rings

- Used electronics (computers, laptops, monitors, used fridges, TV sets) — except for confirmed personal use
- Second-hand motor vehicles outside the permitted age bands (see Section 2)
- Second-hand motor vehicle tyres
- Goods bearing marks or designs likely to cause outrage against any religion or public morality

Restricted / Dutiable Items

The following personal allowances apply to travelers aged 18 and over entering Uganda. Items exceeding these allowances are subject to import duties and taxes.

Tobacco: Cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, and tobacco not exceeding 250 grams in total weight.

Alcohol: Spirits (including liquor) not exceeding 1 liter, and wine not exceeding 2 liters.

Perfume and toilet water: Not exceeding 500 ml in total, of which no more than 250 ml may be perfume.

New items: Any new goods included in a household goods shipment are subject to import duties and taxes, regardless of the duty-free status of the used goods.

Hunting weapons: Authorization from the Ministry of Internal Affairs is required prior to import. **[PERMIT REQUIRED]**

Endangered species and CITES-listed products: Permission from CITES and/or the relevant Ugandan authority is required. **[CITES / PERMIT REQUIRED]**

Ivory and tortoise shell: Subject to restrictions under domestic and international law. **[CITES]**

Vehicles

Vehicle Documents

- **Original passport**
- **Certificate of incorporation or registration (for company/organization imports)**
- **Original logbook or registration certificate, or cancellation of registration**
- **De-registration certificate (used cars, boats, motorcycles)**
- **Original invoice (new cars, boats, motorcycles)**
- **Road worthiness certificate from the country of origin**
- **Original OBL / telex release / air waybill**

- **Tax Identification Number (TIN)**
- **Pre-shipment inspection Certificate of Conformity (COC) from a UNBS-contracted inspection company (see below)**
- **Interpol report confirming ownership (required for vehicles imported from Southern African countries only)**
- **Exemption letter and allocation of number plates (diplomats)**

Specific Information

Returning Ugandan nationals and non-diplomats may import one vehicle duty-free, provided the vehicle has been owned for at least 12 months prior to import.

Pre-Shipment Inspection: A Certificate of Conformity (COC) from an inspection company contracted by the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) is required. Approved inspection companies include SGS, Intertek, JEVIC, and EAAR, among others. Pre-shipment inspection applies to Japan and Dubai origin vehicles at authorized dealers; for all other origins, inspection is conducted in Uganda at a cost of approximately USD 250 to 400.

Vehicle Age Restrictions (EAC Consumer Protection Regulations 2017): The following age limits apply to second-hand vehicles at the date of shipment, measured from the date of first registration:

- Motorcars (including SUVs, crossovers, jeep-type): not less than 18 months old and not more than 4 years old — except for the first vehicle imported by an individual importer
- Dual-purpose vehicles (including 4x4 double-cab trucks, excluding vans and heavy-duty lorries): not more than 3 years old — except for the first vehicle imported by an individual importer
- Goods vehicles and lorries: not more than 6 years old — except for the first vehicle imported by an individual importer
- Vans (carrying goods or up to 7 persons): not more than 3 years old — except for the first vehicle imported by an individual importer
- Motor buses: not more than 3 years old — except for the first vehicle imported by an individual importer

Dumping Fee: Vehicles older than 8 years that otherwise qualify for duty exemption are subject to a dumping fee of 30% of the CIF value. There is no exemption for vehicles with an engine displacement exceeding 3,000 cc.

Correction to IAM Baseline: The 2018 IAM guide states the vehicle age limit as 8 years. The EAC Consumer Protection Regulations 2017 imposed significantly more restrictive age limits for most vehicle categories (3 to 4 years). The 8-year reference may apply only to the dumping fee

threshold for qualifying exempt vehicles. Agents must verify current applicable limits with the URA and the destination agent before shipment.

Pets

Requirements

- **Dogs: distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parvovirus, parainfluenza**

3. Additional vaccinations:

- **Cats: feline viral rhinotracheitis, panleukopenia, feline leukemia**

3. Additional vaccinations:

Specific Information

Update vs. IAM Baseline: The IAM baseline mentions electronic identification as "highly recommended" and references a 15-day window for the health certificate. Current requirements include a mandatory parasite treatment step and a 6-day health certificate validity window. The import permit requirement has also been updated — pets traveling with their owner do not require a separate import permit.

1. ISO 11784/11785-compliant microchip (strongly recommended; all documentation must reflect the microchip number if implanted)
1. Rabies vaccination administered between 30 days and 11 months prior to entry (for pets over 3 months of age)
1. Internal and external parasite treatment (including for *Echinococcus multilocularis*)
1. International health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian and endorsed by a government veterinarian in the country of origin within 6 days of entry into Uganda
1. Vaccination record / pet passport

Pets entering with their owner do not require an import permit. Commercial pet imports require an import permit, valid for 30 days (extendable to three months on a case-by-case basis).

Pets must enter Uganda by air through Entebbe International Airport. Advance notice to veterinary officials at the airport is required to ensure inspectors are available, particularly for late-night arrivals.

No rabies titer test is required for entry into Uganda. However, Uganda is classified as a high-rabies risk country by the World Organisation for Animal Health; if the pet will return to its country of origin, a titer test may be required by that country. Owners should plan accordingly.

No breeds are banned from import into Uganda.

Puppies and kittens under 3 months of age may enter with proof of their mother's rabies vaccination. Once they reach 3 months of age, they must be vaccinated and wait 30 days before entry.

Pets not meeting import requirements will be quarantined, returned to the country of origin, or euthanized. All costs are the importer's responsibility.

Other Animals: Birds, reptiles, amphibians, rodents, rabbits, and tropical fish are not subject to the rabies vaccination requirement but may require a health certificate and an import permit from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF).

CITES: Import of wildlife species and products thereof requires CITES permits. Uganda is a signatory to the CITES convention and enforces its provisions.

Consignment Instructions

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

Routing: Uganda is landlocked. Sea freight typically arrives at Mombasa, Kenya, and travels overland to Kampala. This transit adds significant time and cost. Agents must account for Mombasa port procedures, Kenyan transit documentation, and road haulage when quoting and planning. The Uganda Electronic Single Window system at singlewindow.go.ug handles customs pre-clearance.

Licensed Customs Agent: All customs declarations must be handled by a URA-licensed customs agent. Confirm the agent's license status through the URA at ura.go.ug.

Document Language: All packing lists and inventories must be in English. The inventory must be dated and signed by the owner of the goods and must include values for all items.

New Items: Any new or unused items in a household goods shipment will be assessed for import duty and taxes regardless of the duty-free status of the other goods. Advise clients accordingly and ensure new items are invoiced separately.

Grace Period: A seven-day grace period applies from the shipment's arrival before storage fees begin. Clearance should be initiated immediately upon arrival.

Diplomatic Shipments: Diplomatic shipments are exempt from physical customs examination. A PRO6 form and an exemption letter are required.

Cultural & Other Information

Uganda is a landlocked country in East-Central Africa bordered by South Sudan to the north, Kenya to the east, Tanzania and Rwanda to the south, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west. Lake Victoria, the world's largest tropical lake, forms part of its southern border. The capital is Kampala. Uganda has a population of approximately 50 million and is one of the youngest and fastest-growing populations in the world. The official languages are English and Swahili; Luganda is widely spoken. The currency is the Ugandan shilling (UGX).

Uganda is a member of the East African Community (EAC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The economy is largely agricultural. Tourism, including wildlife safaris in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, Queen Elizabeth National Park, and Murchison Falls, is a significant sector.

Time Zone: East Africa Time (EAT), UTC+3. Uganda does not observe daylight saving time.

Useful Links:

- [OpenFactBook — Uganda](#)
- [Wikipedia — Uganda](#)
- [Uganda Revenue Authority \(URA\)](#)
- [URA — Prohibited Goods](#)
- [Uganda National Bureau of Standards \(UNBS\)](#)
- [Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries \(MAAIF\)](#)
- [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uganda \(MOFA\) — Missions Abroad](#)
- [PetTravel.com — Uganda Pet Import Requirements](#)

Quick Links & Resources

- [Find Movers](#)
<https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Uganda&lat=1.37&lng=32.29&range=50&assocs=800&fvw=c&ctry=Uganda>
- [Foreign Embassies in Uganda](#)
<https://www.embassypages.com/uganda>
- [Uganda's Missions Abroad](#)
<https://mofa.go.ug>