

Household/personal effects

Returning South African residents are permitted to bring personal and household effects (excluding alcoholic beverages and tobacco products) to South Africa without the payment of import duties and VAT, on condition that they can substantiate that they were abroad for a minimum of at least 6 months for purposes other than touring or studying. An inventory of the household/personal goods in the container and a proof of change of residence must be produced to customs at the time of clearance. These goods (excluding ammunition, weapons and motor vehicles) do not require an Import Permit.

At the time of departure for South Africa, Immigrants and Temporary Residence Permit holders are also allowed to import their personal and household effects into South Africa without the payment of import duties and VAT (excluding alcoholic beverages and tobacco products). An inventory of goods in the container and the Residence Permit must be produced to Customs. Foreign students and contract workers for example also qualify for the concession as they are also changing their residence albeit temporarily. These goods (excluding ammunition, weapons and motor vehicles) do not require an Import Permit.

All household and personal effects must be brought into the country within 6 months. After this period has elapsed, special permission is needed in order to make use of the concession. Such requests will only be considered by Customs if a full reason is provided.

Note: If the Residence Permit is not yet available when the container arrives in South Africa, a cash deposit of +-50% will have to be paid to cover the full import duties and taxes on the household effects. These deposits are refundable on production of the Residence Permit.

Tourists must pay the full import duties and taxes on importation of household effects or furniture and, before shipment of the goods, an Import Permit for all used goods must be obtained from the International Trade Administration Commission in Pretoria whose contact detail appear hereunder:

International Trade Administration Commission
Director of Import and Export Control
Private Bag X192
Pretoria
0001
South Africa

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