

ATA Carnet

- Frequently Asked Questions



EU Update - if you're visiting EU in a commercial capacity (i.e. taking tools of trade to do commercial work, equipment testing or evaluation, exhibiting goods at trade fair or exhibition, showing commercial samples to potential clients or participating / performing in an official sporting or cultural event etc) then an ATA Carnet could help you to comply with EU Customs requirements for temporary admission. Please check with the receiving Customs if the Carnet is required, especially if the goods are carried in your luggage. If your destination is outside EU (i.e. Switzerland etc), but you're driving through the EU to get there, then you must also include transits in your itinerary (each way).

Please note that certain activities could require a working visa (also be mindful of Covid-19 test requirements, regardless of the mode of transport):

- carrying out paid contractual work / service to a client in another country in which your employer has no presence
- providing paid contractual work / service in another country as a self-employed person

Where to get your Carnet endorsed if driving to EU (see [Section 17](#) for additional requirements if your goods are moving via freight (HGV, trailer):

UK inland offices: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/attending-an-inland-border-facility/attending-an-inland-border-facility>

Dover and Eurotunnel: if the goods are transported in a car or van, then go to Stop 24 (inbound and outbound). If the goods are driven in a truck / HGV - then use following inland facilities <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/moving-goods-through-the-port-of-dover-and-eurotunnel-with-an-ata-carnet>

Eurostar (St Pancras) - Carnet Holders leaving UK by Eurostar should notify Border Force in advance by calling 0207 841 6410.

Northern Ireland - We cannot issue Carnets for UK goods moving between NI and GB.

Republic of Ireland - if travelling from **Holyhead** to **Dublin** by ferry it is best to pre-notify UK (bfholyhead@homeoffice.gov.uk) and Irish Customs (nchfrontdesk@revenue.ie) at least 24 hours in advance of travelling (state your vehicle registration no, ATA Carnet no and date and time of departure). **Leaving UK** - You must go to Roadking Truckstop, Parc Cybi, Kingsland, Holyhead, LL65 2YQ to get your Carnet stamped. **Entering Ireland (Dublin Port)** go to goods to declare area. Returning to UK go to the Border Force freight shed (best to ask for directions at the port). **Leaving Ireland (Dublin Port)** - cars and vans go to New Custom House, Promenade Road (beside the Circle K roundabout). Opening hours 8 a.m. – 22.00 p.m. phone 353-1-8776208. Freight goes to Terminal 11, Bond Drive Extension - Customs can be found in a portacabin. Opening hours 24/7

Covid-19 update - if your goods are abroad and unable to leave due to travelling restrictions, please contact your issuing Chamber for assistance.

1. WHAT IS AN ATA CARNET AND WHY MIGHT I NEED ONE?

ATA Carnet is a temporary admission document used for goods to be displayed at trade fairs or exhibitions, professional equipment and samples. Note that Carnet can only be used for goods, which will be re-exported in the same state in which they were imported (sale, processing, repairs or modification of any items is not allowed). Carnet is valid for one year and can be used to visit any country in the Carnet scheme.

2. WHAT COUNTRIES CAN I USE AN ATA CARNET FOR?

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Australia (including Tasmania), Bahrain, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Canary Islands (Spain), China, Chile, Cote d'Ivoire, European Union, Faroe Islands, French overseas departments and territories (Guadeloupe, Martinique, Guyane and Reunion, New Caledonia and its dependents of Wallis and Futuna Islands, and French Polynesia (includes Tahiti) as well as St Barthelemy, St Martin, Mayotte and Saint Pierre et Miquelon), Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Republic of, Lebanon, Macao, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malaysia (territory also includes Kuala Lumpur, Sabah and Sarawak), Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa (territory also includes Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland and Lesotho), Spanish overseas territories of Ceuta and Melilla, Sri Lanka, Switzerland (territory includes Liechtenstein), Taiwan (not covered by ATA Carnet; a separate Carnet is available from London Chamber), Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, USA (territory includes District of Columbia and Puerto Rico).

3. ARE THERE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS / LIMITATIONS FOR CERTAIN CARNET COUNTRIES?

Bahrain – Trade Fairs and Exhibitions only.

Brazil - Trade Fairs / Exhibitions and Professional Equipment only at present. Transit between states is currently not allowed when using an ATA Carnet.

Canada – Commercial Samples only. However, if you wish to have a Carnet for Professional Equipment category, we will require a letter of indemnity on your company headed paper, accepting responsibility if the Carnet is refused.

Channel Islands – the Chamber can issue Carnets for companies based in the UK as well as Channel Island based companies if so requested (Carnets issued for Channel Islands companies must be validated by Channel Islands Customs before being used abroad).

China - All Carnets used in China must be registered on the Chinese customs database. For HAND CARRIED goods Carnet will need to be registered with CCPIT at the time of clearing Chinese Customs. For FREIGHTED goods Carnet will need to be pre-declared by the Chinese Customs Broker before goods arrive in China <http://www.atachina.org/english/index.do>

European Union - EU is treated as one customs territory (one visit to EU will allow you to travel to any EU Member State). If your goods are passing through the EU en-route to a non-EU country (i.e. you're driving to a Trade Fair in Switzerland and pass through France), then you must also include a set of transits for each leg of your journey in your

itinerary). Hauliers will need to ensure that you have the Kent Pass and MRN to pass through the ferry port.

India - Trade Fairs / Exhibitions; display or demonstration before any department of the Central or State Government or a Union Territory Administration; meeting conference or congress organized by any company or organization; Professional Equipment. All Carnets entering and leaving India must be registered on FICCI's electronic system (done at the time of clearing Indian Customs)

Indonesia - Trade Fairs / Exhibitions and Professional Equipment only at present.

Kazakhstan - Trade Fairs / Exhibitions and Professional Equipment only at present.

Lebanon - Trade Fairs / Exhibitions and Professional Equipment only at present.

Mexico - Mexican customs require a translation of the list of goods into Spanish. To facilitate importation holders must notify Mexican customs in advance through CANACO's Website at www.carnet-ata.org

Mongolia - Trade Fairs / Exhibitions and Professional Equipment only at present.

Morocco - Trade Fairs / Exhibitions only. However, we would accept a letter of indemnity on your company headed paper for other categories, accepting responsibility if the Carnet is refused.

Pakistan - Trade Fairs / Exhibitions and Professional Equipment only at present.

Qatar - Trade Fairs / Exhibitions only (Box C of the Carnet should state name of the Exhibition and the venue).

Russian Federation - Box B of the Carnet should state passport number + date of issue of the person travelling with the Carnet. It is advisable that the General List is translated into Russian to facilitate Customs clearance into the country. Also, customers are advised to engage a local Customs Broker who will facilitate the Customs Clearance process.

Spain - Carnets are compulsory in the Canary Islands, Ceuta and Melilla.

Tunisia - Trade Fairs / Exhibitions and Professional Equipment only at present.

Turkey - Only named representatives listed in Box B. Represented by, on the importation and re-exportation vouchers will be allowed to sign the importation and re-exportation declarations in Boxes F. Turkish agent must be stated. It is advisable that the Holder carries a General List (in Excel format) on a USB drive as this may have to be uploaded into the Turkish Customs database.

UAE - Trade Fairs / Exhibitions only.

United States of America - Commercial Samples and Professional Equipment only at present. As of January 26, 2010, goods entering the United States via ocean vessel are required to have an Importer Security Filing (ISF) filed by an ISF importer. While two of

the required data elements are from the ocean carrier, 10 others are required from the ISF importer. ATA Carnets are exempt from the ISF bond requirement. However, there are penalties that may be imposed for breaches of the ISF filing. [CBP link](#) [USCIB link](#)

4. WHAT INFORMATION DO YOU REQUIRE?

Details of the Carnet holder (company that is responsible for payment of any duties to foreign Customs), details of the person(s) who will be travelling with the goods, intended use of the goods, and finally list of goods taken. All the goods must be individually itemised with each item having its specific description (i.e. make, serial number), weight and value to facilitate Customs identification and prevent substitution of goods.

5. CAN I AUTHORISE SOMEONE TO APPLY FOR AND / OR USE THE ATA CARNET ON MY BEHALF?

If an Agent is applying for a Carnet on your behalf, then you must authorise them in writing (on your company letterhead). You may also authorise an Agent to handle the Carnet through the Customs on your behalf, however, you will still be responsible for any declarations made. **Note** that the goods must be used abroad under the supervision of the UK company named in Box A of the Carnet front cover (goods cannot be sent to the overseas country and left with / or used by the local company unsupervised, as the host Customs are likely to interpret this as goods being hired out - which is NOT allowed on ATA Carnets).

6. WHY DO I HAVE TO PROVIDE A SECURITY?

The Carnet provides a guarantee to the foreign Customs that all duties, taxes etc will be paid to them if the conditions under which they allow these into the country are breached. The security is in place to protect the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as the UK National Guaranteeing Organisation, against foreign Customs claims in cases where the Carnet has been misused and the Carnet Holder is unable to settle charges due.

Forms of security that we currently accept are as follows: **Banker's draft / cash deposit** for the full security amount (refundable after the Carnet has been discharged), **Bank guarantee** issued by Bank of Scotland plc, Barclays Bank plc, HSBC Bank plc, Lloyds TSB Bank plc, Santander UK plc, Standard Chartered Bank, The Royal Bank of Scotland plc (guarantee is returned to your bank for cancellation after the Carnet has been discharged), **Carnet Security Scheme (CSS) Guarantee** - an in-house service by which the Carnet user can arrange for the security to be provided, without having to supply either Banker's Draft, cash or Bank Guarantee. Using CSS- a non-refundable, one off payment -means we can provide you with a 'While You Wait' processing service and there is no 'freezing' of assets or funds (as with other institutions).

7. CAN I SELL OFF AN ATA CARNET?

Customs may allow the goods to be sold, on an exceptional basis, in which case the Carnet must be regularised correctly by the host Customs (Duty Paid Receipt number written on the Re-exportation Counterfoil and copy of the Duty Paid Receipt attached to the Carnet when returned to the issuing Chamber after use). Failure to obtain approval for selling the goods from the host Customs will result in a payment of duty, taxes, administrative charges, as well as a penalty.

8. CAN I PUT CONSUMABLE GOODS ON ATA CARNET?

No as those goods would normally be used up abroad and not repatriated. The same applies for any goods that are intended for processing or repair.

9. MY ATA CARNET HAS BEEN ISSUED BUT I AM NOT TAKING ALL THE ITEMS WITH ME

Any combination of items on the General List may be taken, however, you must ensure that only the items that have been taken are declared on the relevant Carnet Vouchers / Counterfoils. In cases of split consignments, you must ensure that you apply for sufficient number of Vouchers (visits) to cover the planned movements (i.e. if you are taking 100 items to Switzerland, but plan to bring them back to the UK in two separate consignments then you need to apply for 2 exits out of the UK and 2 visits to Switzerland). Please note that some countries do not accept split consignments.

10. CAN AN ATA CARNET BE USED FOR CONTROLLED OR DUAL USE GOODS?

Yes, however you will need to ensure that you obtain relevant export and import licences for countries to be visited or crossed in transit. For U.K. information please contact [Export Control Organisation](#), E: eco.help@trade.gov.uk or [Arts Council](#), E: elu@mla.gov.uk for art and antiques.

11. CAN I GET 'EXTRA VOUCHERS'?

Yes. You can apply by additional Vouchers by finding the relevant Carnet number in "Carnet Applications" and clicking on "Extra Vouchers".

12. CAN I EXTEND THE VALIDITY OF AN ATA CARNET? (REPLACEMENT)

Host Customs may be prepared to extend the period of temporary admission by granting approval for a Replacement Carnet (note that Replacement must be issued before the original Carnet expires). Replacement Carnet must be validated by the National Carnet Unit (atacarnetunit@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk) before being used abroad. Please note that India, Japan, Morocco, Taiwan and USA **do not allow** replacement Carnets.

13. WHAT HAPPENS IF I LOSE MY ATA CARNET WHILST VALID? (SUBSTITUTE)

If the goods are still abroad, you should contact your Issuing Chamber and apply for a substitute Carnet. Repeat fees will apply. The Substitute Carnet should be validated by the National Carnet Unit (atacarnetunit@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk) before being used abroad.

14. WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THE CARNET AFTER I HAVE FINISHED USING THE DOCUMENT?

The Carnet must be returned to the office of issue intact, at the latest on its expiry date. Please ensure that photocopies of any Customs endorsed pages are kept on your files in case the Carnet gets lost en route to the issuing office.

15. WHAT HAPPENS IF MY GOODS ARE LOST OR STOLEN?

If goods are covered by a Carnet are lost or stolen, the matter should be immediately reported to the Customs Authorities in the country where it occurred, together with a police report for insurance purposes as Customs charges will (in most cases) apply due to non-re-exportation of the goods.

16. CAN MY GOODS BE DESTROYED UNDER CUSTOMS CONTROL?

Some Customs Authorities may allow goods to be destroyed under their control. This process must be reflected on the Re-exportation Counterfoil and the Voucher must be retained by the host Customs. It should be noted that Customs charges may still apply.

17. DO I NEED TO MAKE A CUSTOMS DECLARATION WHEN USING AN ATA CARNET?

If the goods are hand carried, then no separate Customs Declaration is usually required (other than presenting the Carnet to HMRC + foreign Customs).

If the goods are freighted and are bound for an **“inventory linked” port** or airport they may need to be included on an Import and export: customs clearance request (C21) form <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/import-and-export-customs-clearance-request-c21>

Use code: CPC 10 00 041 for exports and CPC 00 080 20 for re-imports.

If you're a haulier and move goods through a port in the UK that uses the Goods Vehicle Movement Service you'll need to obtain a GVM number to get your goods through customs <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/register-for-the-goods-vehicle-movement-service> (note - GVM is not required for movements between NI and GB)