

How the ATA Carnet system works

The ATA Carnet system is a perfect illustration of how close cooperation between business and customs can facilitate international trade.

Each country in the ATA chain has a single guaranteeing organization approved by its national customs authorities and WCF. The guaranteeing body is entitled to issue Carnets and to authorize local entities to deliver Carnets on its behalf.



The ATA international guarantee chain provides reciprocal guarantees assuring customs administrations that duties and taxes incurred in case of misuse will be paid – for example, if goods are sold instead of re-exported.



The ATA Carnet operates under international customs conventions administered by the World Customs Organization (WCO). The ICC/WCF World ATA Carnet Council manages the system in cooperation with the WCO. The Council and ATA experts promote the ATA Carnet in Africa, Asia and Pacific, Latin America, Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

Since 1963, the Carnet system has spread from a few Western European countries to include over 75 economies. Currently, approximately 178,000 Carnets are issued worldwide every year, covering goods valued at almost US\$ 30 billion.



Carnets are issued and accepted in these countries and territories

Albania	Hungary	Netherlands
Algeria	Iceland	New Zealand
Andorra	India	Norway
Australia	Indonesia	Pakistan
Austria	Iran	Poland
Bahrain (Kingdom of)	Ireland	Portugal
Belarus	Israel	Romania
Belgium	Italy	Russia
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Japan	Senegal
Bulgaria	Korea (Rep.of)	Serbia
Canada	Latvia	Singapore
Chile	Lebanon	Slovak Republic
China	Lithuania	Slovenia
Côte d'Ivoire	Luxembourg	South Africa
Croatia	Macao, China	Spain
Cyprus	Macedonia	Sri Lanka
Czech Republic	Madagascar	Sweden
Denmark	Malaysia	Switzerland
Estonia	Malta	Thailand
Finland	Mauritius	Tunisia
France	Mexico	Turkey
Germany	Moldova	Ukraine
Gibraltar	Mongolia	United Arab Emirates
Greece	Montenegro	United Kingdom
Hong Kong, China	Morocco	United States

The ATA Carnet system is managed worldwide by the ICC World Chambers Federation.



Passport for goods

ICC INTERNATIONAL
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE
The world business organization

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ICC
WORLD CHAMBERS
FEDERATION

Duty-free and tax-free temporary imports

The ATA Carnet is an international customs document that permits duty-free and tax-free temporary import of goods for up to one year. The initials "ATA" are an acronym of the French and English words "Admission Temporaire/Temporary Admission".

ATA Carnets cover almost everything:

- commercial samples;
- professional equipment;
- goods for use at trade fairs, shows, exhibitions.

ATA Carnets cover the usual and unusual: computers, repair tools, photographic and film equipment, musical instruments, industrial machinery, vehicles, jewellery, clothing, medical appliances, aircraft, race horses, art work, prehistoric relics, ballet costumes and rock group sound systems.



ATA Carnets do not cover perishable or consumable items, or goods for processing or repair.

Speed through customs

- ATA Carnets reduce costs to exporters by eliminating value-added tax (VAT) and customs duties.
- Carnet holders are not required to post securities with customs.
- Carnets simplify customs border crossings and cut red tape by allowing importers and exporters to use a single document for all customs formalities.



With their ATA Carnet, salesmen, exhibitors, and other business travellers may:

- make advance customs arrangements at predetermined cost;
- visit several countries;
- use their ATA Carnet for several trips during its one-year validity;
- return to their home country without problems or delays.

Who else benefits?

- Trade shows and fairs that will more easily attract foreign exhibitors;
- Tourism and transport industries;
- Entertainment industry and concert promoters;
- Sports events like the Olympic Games;
- Countries wishing to take full advantage of the global economy.



The cost of a Carnet

Fees vary by country and are determined by the value of the goods, the number of countries to be visited, the costs for security, insurance or other services.



How to get an ATA Carnet

Carnets are issued by chambers of commerce and similar business organizations affiliated to the ATA international guarantee chain. The World Chambers Federation (WCF), which brings together the chamber members of the Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), is responsible for administering the chain.



To obtain information on the ATA Carnet system visit www.PassportforGoods.com, where you will find the contact details (including web links) of the organizations that issue ATA Carnets in member countries. For any country in the list overleaf, the national member of the ATA guarantee chain can tell you where and how to obtain Carnets.

