



Promoting International Trade through the ATA SYSTEM

Questions & Answers (Q&A)

INTERNATIONAL & INDUSTRY LIAISON UNIT

TRADE BEAT



What is an ATA Carnet?

An ATA Carnet (pronounced kar-nay) is an international document approved by Customs, that allows the temporary importation of commercial samples, professional equipment, or goods destined for use in a trade fair or exhibition in countries that are part of the ATA Carnet system.

What is the ATA System?

The ATA system allows for the free movement of goods across borders, and their temporary admission into a customs territory with relief from duties and taxes. The goods are covered by a single document, known as the ATA Carnet, that is secured by an international guarantee system.

What does the term ATA mean?

The term ATA is derived from both English and French, representing a combination of the initial letters of the French words "Admission Temporaire" and the English words "Temporary Admission".

How does the ATA System promote trade?

The ATA system allows for considerable simplification of Customs formalities, which facilitates and promotes international trade. As such, the business community enjoys duty-free and tax-free treatment for the temporary importation of goods covered under the ATA system. The ATA System operates based on security guarantees, that are internationally valid and are established by the national associations that issue the ATA carnets. These national associations are approved by Customs and are affiliated with an international guaranteeing chain, which is administered by the International Bureau of Chambers of Commerce (IBCC). Consequently, the ATA carnet is now the most widely utilised document by the international business community for the temporary admission of goods.

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Why was the ATA System Established?

The Customs Cooperation Council (CCC), now known as the World Customs Organization (WCO), adopted the Customs Convention on the ATA carnet for the temporary admission of goods (ATA Convention) in 1961, in response to the needs of the international business community. Various types of businesses needed to move their products to trade fairs or international exhibitions, as samples to potential buyers, or as their own professional equipment. There was growing need for these goods to be easily and quickly transported across borders with minimal delays, and as such the ATA carnet system was established.

What happened to all the other agreements on temporary admission?

The establishment of the ATA system brought with it a proliferation of International Conventions, Recommendations, Agreements and other instruments on temporary admission, as well as the temporary admission of specific types of goods. The sheer volume of international instruments that were created between 1950 and 1970, created confusion among the international business community and complicated the work of Customs. By the early 1990s, there were 13 agreements in existence on the treatment of temporary admission. The WCO decided to draft a world-wide convention on temporary admission, to combine into a single international instrument, all that was covered under the existing agreements.

What is the Istanbul Convention?

The Convention on Temporary Admission was adopted in Istanbul in 1990 and became known as the "Istanbul Convention". The Istanbul Convention represents the single instrument for the simplification and harmonization of temporary admission formalities, replacing all the existing Conventions or Recommendations dealing solely or principally with temporary admission. The subject covered by the former Conventions are now covered by the Annexes to the Istanbul Convention, namely Annexes A, B.1. to B.9., C, D and E. Contracting Parties to the Convention are mandated to accede to Annex A, as well as acceding to at least one additional Annex, in accordance with the terms of the Convention.

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What is the purpose of the Annexes to the Istanbul Convention?

Each Annex of the Istanbul Convention authorizes the temporary admission of goods imported for a specific purpose.

- Annex A : **ANNEX CONCERNING TEMPORARY ADMISSION PAPERS (ATA CARNETS AND CPD CARNETS)**
- Annex B1 : **ANNEX CONCERNING GOODS FOR DISPLAY OR USE AT EXHIBITIONS, FAIRS, MEETINGS OR SIMILAR EVENTS**
- Annex B2 : **ANNEX CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL EQUIPMENT**
- Annex B3 : **ANNEX CONCERNING CONTAINERS, PALLETS, PACKINGS, SAMPLES AND OTHER GOODS IMPORTED IN CONNECTION WITH A COMMERCIAL OPERATION**
- Annex B4 : **ANNEX CONCERNING GOODS IMPORTED IN CONNECTION WITH A MANUFACTURING OPERATION**
- Annex B5 : **ANNEX CONCERNING GOODS IMPORTED FOR EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC OR CULTURAL PURPOSES**
- Annex B6 : **ANNEX CONCERNING TRAVELLERS' PERSONAL EFFECTS AND GOODS IMPORTED FOR SPORTS PURPOSES**
- Annex B7 : **ANNEX CONCERNING TOURIST PUBLICITY MATERIAL**
- Annex B8 : **ANNEX CONCERNING GOODS IMPORTED AS FRONTIER TRAFFIC**
- Annex B9 : **ANNEX CONCERNING GOODS IMPORTED FOR HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES**
- Annex C : **ANNEX CONCERNING MEANS OF TRANSPORT**
- Annex D : **ANNEX CONCERNING ANIMALS**
- Annex E : **ANNEX CONCERNING GOODS IMPORTED WITH PARTIAL RELIEF FROM IMPORT DUTIES AND TAXES**

A.T.A. CARNET CARNET A.T.A.

TRANSIT	A. HOLDER AND ADDRESS / Titulaire et adresse	G. FOR ISSUING ASSOCIATION USE / Réservé à l'association émettrice TRANSIT VOUCHER No. 1 Voler de transit N°
	B. REPRESENTED BY / Représenté par*	a) CARNET No. GB/IL/15/00000 Carnet N°
	C. INTENDED USE OF GOODS / Utilisation prévue des marchandises Professional Equipment	b) ISSUED BY / Délivré par Liverpool Chamber of Commerce CIC Number One Old Hall Street Liverpool, Merseyside, L3 5HG
	D. MEANS OF TRANSPORT / Moyens de transport*	c) VALID UNTIL / Valable jusqu'au 2015 MAR 19 year / month / day (inclusive) année / mois / jour (inclus)
E. PACKAGING DETAILS (Number, Kind, Marks, etc.) / Détails d'emballage (Nombre, Nature, Marques, etc.)	H. FOR CUSTOMS USE ONLY / Réservé à la Douane K. CLEARANCE ON TRANSIT / Dédouanement pour le transit a) The goods referred to in the above declaration have been cleared for transit to the Customs Office at: Les marchandises faisant l'objet de la déclaration suscrite ont été dédouanées pour le transit sur le bureau de douane de:	
F. DECLARATION OF DISPATCH IN TRANSIT / Déclaration d'expédition en transit I. duly authorized / Je soussigné, dûment autorisé: a) declare that I am dispatching to: / déclare, expédier à:	b) Final date for re-exportation/production to the Customs. / Date limite pour la réexportation/la représentation à la douane, des marchandises.* year / month / day (inclusive) année / mois / jour (inclus) c) Registered under reference No. / Enregistré sous le N°** d) Customs seals applied. / Sceaux/taquets douaniers apposés.** e) This voucher must be forwarded to the Customs Office at: Le présent volier doit être transmis au bureau de douane de:*	
In compliance with the conditions laid down in the laws and regulations of the country/Customs territory of transit, the goods enumerated in the list overleaf and described in the General List under item No. 1, dans les conditions prévues par les lois et règlements du pays / territoire douanier de transit, les marchandises énumérées à la liste figurant au verso et reprises à la liste générale sous le N° 1**		
b) undertake to comply with the laws and regulations of the country/customs territory of transit and to produce these goods with seals (if any) intact, and this Carnet to the Customs Office of destination within the period stipulated by the Customs. m'engage à observer les lois et règlements du pays / territoire douanier de transit et à représenter ces marchandises, le cas échéant sous sceaux/taquets intacts, en même temps que le présent carnet au bureau de douane de destination dans le délai fixé par la douane.		
c) confirms that the information given is true and complete (certify, justify and complete the indications ported on the present volier).		
At / A. Customs Office / Bureau de douane Date (year/month/day) / Date (année/mois/jour) Signature and Stamp / Signature et tampon		
Certificate of discharge by the Customs Office at destination / Certificat de dédouanage du bureau de destination 6 The goods referred to in the above declaration have been re-exported/produced. / Les marchandises faisant l'objet de la déclaration suscrite ont été réexportées/représentées. g) Other remarks. / Autres mentions.* At / A. Customs Office / Bureau de douane Date (year/month/day) / Date (année/mois/jour) Signature and Stamp / Signature et tampon		
Place / Lieu Date (year/month/day) / Date (année/mois/jour) Name / Nom Signature X X		

Can goods remain in the country if imported on the ATA Carnet?

If goods are imported duty-free using the ATA Carnet, they cannot remain indefinitely in the country of temporary importation, unless the full duties have been paid. The specified period for re-exportation is laid down in each Annex relating to the type of temporary importation.

Can improvements be made to the goods prior to their re-exportation?

No improvements or value added is permitted for such goods. The goods must be re-exported in the same state, and must not undergo any changes during their stay in the country of temporary importation. However, normal depreciation due to their use is accounted for.

What is the period of validity for the ATA Carnet, and how often can it be used?

The period of validity is typically for one year. Goods under a valid ATA Carnet may be imported temporarily under the same carnet, within the Customs territories of as many Contracting Parties, and as often as the carnet holder wishes, within the specified one year period.

How will other States recognize goods that are covered by an ATA Carnet?

The seals affixed or the identification of the goods by a Customs office can be recognized by the Customs offices of other Contracting Parties where the goods subsequently pass. This facilitates Customs controls and saves the carnet holder time when the goods cross frontiers.

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The International and Industry Liaison Unit is committed to raising the level of awareness on topics relating to the Caribbean Community, as well as issues concerning the wider topic of international trade, to both our internal and external stakeholders. Our monthly newsletter seeks to highlight global trade topics and their importance to Customs Administrations worldwide and specifically how they affect the Jamaica Customs Agency. As we realize our vision of becoming a modern Customs administration delivering excellent service, we recognize the importance of knowledge transfer in delivering our objectives and use this forum as our way of contributing to the vision of the JCA. The International Liaison Unit is located at the Myers Wharf head office and our officers are available to respond to your queries and clarify any points of concern.

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