



SOUTH AFRICA

Section 1 of this document gives a brief overview of the country, whilst section 2 contains the customs requirements.

Section 1 – SOUTH AFRICA OVERVIEW

South Africa is a colourful country that has an open and multi-cultural society, combining many ethnic groups, offering some amazing scenery and supporting a variety of lifestyles. Despite racial tensions, and strong inequalities just a few decades ago, South Africa has emerged to become a competitive global economy, classed as a developing, middle-income country nowadays with great potential for future growth.

Situated at the southern tip of Africa, between the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, South Africa is an ethnically, culturally and linguistically diverse country that offers amazing and varied landscapes. Eleven official languages are recognised in the constitution, including Afrikaans, English, Sotho or Swazi, just to name a few. The country is characterised by a high level of ethnic diversity with almost 80% of the population being of African ancestry, from different ethnic groups, and speaking different Bantu languages. It also has the largest European and Asian communities on the continent. The general quality of life in South Africa is not as high as in Europe or the USA and in certain areas crime levels are high, whilst in others education standards can be poor. A good quality of life can, nonetheless, be attained.

The amazing diversity of South African culture and wildlife, the varied scenery ranging from deserts to lush forests, and the relatively low living costs make South Africa a very attractive destination. South Africa has huge potential for future growth, and if you are planning to settle down there permanently, you can definitely have a great lifestyle, enjoying all that the country has to offer.

To find out more about South Africa just follow this link <http://www.africaguide.com/country/safrica/info.htm>

Section 2 - REQUIREMENTS FOR DUTY FREE ENTRY OF HOUSEHOLD AND RELATED EFFECTS IMPORTED BY THE OWNER

The owner of the household effects MUST be in South Africa prior to the arrival of the shipment and formal Customs clearance. South African Revenue Service (SARS) allows one duty free import only and permission must be gained for additional imports from SARS.

HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS

- Bona fide household effects may be imported free of Duty and exempt from the VAT normally levied on imports provided that the importer changes his or her residence to South Africa on a permanent or temporary basis. Visa/Permit must be valid for a minimum of one year.
- Immigrants, Returning residents, Temporary Residents, Contract workers and Students may import their bona fide household effects into the Republic of South Africa duty free. Visa/Permit must be valid for a minimum of one year.
- The following documentation is required for clearance; detailed inventory for attestation:- ORIGINAL Passport including page with date of entry in South Africa (exit stamp for returning residents), Permanent Residence documents, Temporary Residence permit or Work Permit. Customs forms DA 304 and P.1.160 must be completed in triplicate (our SA partners will supply the required Customs forms).

PERSONAL EFFECTS

Personal effects (excess baggage) such as clothing, books, linen etc (no furniture) can be brought VAT and duty-free by completing a P1.160 form (supplied by Simpsons partner in SA) irrespective of your residence status. We do not recommend exporting household effects to South Africa if the owner is not present at the time of clearance. Items however can be placed in a bonded warehouse and cleared upon the client's arrival in RSA but additional charges will be payable in these circumstances.

RETURNING RESIDENTS

Returning residents must have been out of South Africa for an unbroken period of at least 6 months before they are automatically entitled to duty free importation of household goods purchased while out of South Africa.

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INHERITANCE BEQUESTS

Inheritance bequests should be accompanied by a copy of the Will/Testament or Notary letter confirming right of inheritance and that the goods are not contested by any other party and the Death Certificate. Importers must be in possession of their Permanent Resident Permit prior to shipment. The goods should not be dispatched until the Customs have given authority for duty free entry.

WEDDING TROUSSEaux

Wedding dresses, gifts are subject to payment of duties.

DIPLOMATIC REMOVALS

Diplomatic removals will be free of Duty and VAT providing the following is satisfied; importer has Diplomatic clearance, a detailed inventory of all household items is provided, a certificate from the relevant Embassy in South Africa, all of which are to be countersigned by the South African Department of Foreign Affairs.

ALCOHOL

Alcohol and Tobacco may be imported but will be subject to full duties and taxes. An Import Permit and Liquor removal certificate is required and these can be obtained from the Department of Trade and Industry, Export and Import Control in Pretoria.

PROHIBITED ARTICLES

The following are examples of goods that are prohibited. They should not be imported:-

- Objectionable (indecent) articles- Pornographic books, recorded media and magazines.
- Narcotic and habit-forming drugs in any form.
- Fully automatic, military and unnumbered weapons, explosives and fireworks.
- Poison and other toxic substances.
- Cigarettes with a mass of more than 2kg per 1000.
- Goods to which a trade description or trademark is applied in contravention of any Act (for example counterfeit goods).
- Unlawful reproductions of any works subject to copyright.
- Prison-made and penitentiary-made goods.

RESTRICTED ARTICLES

Certain goods may only be imported provided you are in possession of the necessary authority/permit:-

- South African bank notes in excess of ZAR10 000, gold coins, coin and stamp collections and unprocessed gold.
- Endangered species of plants or wildlife, whether alive or dead, including any parts of and articles made from them.
- Plants and plant products, such as seeds, flowers, fruit, honey, margarine and vegetable oils.
- Animals, birds, poultry and products thereof, for example dairy products, butter and eggs.
- Medicines (excluding sufficient quantities for one month for own personal treatment accompanied by a letter or certified prescription from a registered physician).

WOODEN PACKAGING

All wooden packaging including crates, pallets, over cases and chocks must be stamped with ISPM15 for Agriculture purposes. If packaging does not comply with this requirement, the items may be destroyed, re-exported, fumigated at the owner expense. If in doubt please ask your Simpsons consultant for advice.

FIREARM IMPORTATION

The importation of firearms is strictly controlled, a Police permit is required to import. Form SAP311 Permit for Permanent Import must be completed and signed by the importer and submitted to SARS who will retain it and issue form SAP312 allowing the importer 60 days to officially license the firearm with the South African Police. Further information on the importation of weapons can be found South African Police Service website (See Useful Contacts).

CUSTOMS FORMALITIES

Used household and personal effects are subject to a levy called the National Port Authority Wharfage Charge. An indication of these charges is as follows:-

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Groupage	£0.25p/2.79ZAR per cuft
20' container	£260.00/2902.00ZAR (Approx)
40' container	£483.00/5391.00ZAR (Approx)

The above rates for FCL (Full Container load) are regardless of the volume. If there is a motor vehicle shipped as part of a groupage container, then the rate will be calculated on the gross volume utilised in the container inclusive of any crating/over crating.

SA Customs Inspections: South African Revenue Service (SARS) inspect virtually every container and charge approx ZAR150.00 plus VAT per hour for the inspection. This calculates to approx £13.80 per hour Including VAT. Groupage/part load shipments will be charged proportionally.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Simpsons Removals & Storage Ltd
+44 (0) 1322 386969
enquiries@simpsons-uk.com
www.simpsons-uk.com

South African Revenue Service (SARS)
+27 (11) 602-2093
contact.central@sars.gov.za
www.sars.gov.za

South African Police Service
+27 (12) 353-611
www.saps.gov.za