



Speed through customs with **your passport for goods**

This ICC website is your portal to the world of ATA Carnets. It will explain how Carnets can smooth the path for business travellers with samples to offer and goods to show to their customers.

All aspects of ATA Carnets - who issues them, how the system is administered, how they are guaranteed - are explained on these pages.

Scroll down to your country to find the chamber of commerce responsible for ATA Carnets. E-mail addresses, postal addresses, phone and fax - it's all there.

As the national member of the ATA guarantee chain, the chamber listed for your country can tell you how to obtain your Carnets, the countries where they may be used, and under what circumstances.

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What the Carnet can do

Armed with their ATA Carnet, sales reps, exhibitors and other business travellers can:

-  make advance customs arrangements at predetermined cost
-  visit more than one country
-  use their ATA Carnet for several trips during its one-year validity
-  return to their home country with their goods and without problems or delays

Who can use a Carnet

The ATA Carnet service is available to business and sales executives, exhibitors at trade fairs and travelling professionals, such as film crews, architects, artists, engineers, entertainers, photographers, sports teams and many more.

Large companies, small companies, individuals on the move - all can benefit. Sales representatives with valuable samples and people with professional equipment are the largest users.

Virtually all goods can be included on a Carnet.

Typical articles covered include antiques, machinery, machine-tools, catering equipment, clothing and footwear, toys, computers, office equipment, electric generators, electrical/electronic and scientific equipment, surgical and dental equipment, jewellery and articles of precious metal/stones, sound equipment, audio-visual, photographic and filming equipment, lasers, musical instruments and records, aircraft, films, motor vehicles, racing engine machinery, heating and lighting equipment, agricultural machinery, furniture, crockery, works of art, race horses, theatrical effects and sets, sporting goods, yachts, display stands.

Certain goods CANNOT be covered by Carnets, such as disposable items or consumable goods, including food.

History **International trade facilitation**

In 1961, the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) - forerunner of the World Customs Organization (WCO) - adopted the "Customs Convention on the ATA Carnet for the Temporary Admission of Goods".

The customs conventions corresponding to the three main categories of goods covered by the system are:

- 📄 Commercial samples - The GATT International Convention to facilitate the importation of commercial samples and advertising material (Geneva 1952)
- 📄 Professional equipment - The CCC's Customs Convention on the temporary importation of professional equipment (Brussels 1961)
- 📄 Goods for presentation or use at trade fairs, shows, exhibitions or similar events - The CCC Customs Convention concerning facilities for the importation of goods for display or use at exhibitions, fairs, meetings or similar events (Brussels 1961).

These various Conventions are progressively being replaced by one single international Customs Convention on temporary admission named the WCO Istanbul Convention.

Over the last 40 years, the Carnet system has spread from just a few West European countries to most of the industrialized world, including a growing number of developing countries and emerging economies.

In 2000, some 200,000 Carnets were issued worldwide, covering goods valued at almost US\$12 billion.

How a Carnet works

The ATA Carnet is a simple international customs document with two sheets for presentation for each foreign country you wish to visit, and two sheets for presentation to customs when leaving and returning to your home country.

You give one sheet to the foreign customs officials when you enter their country and the other when you leave it. The same applies when exiting and entering your own country. That's all there is to it.

How the system is organized

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

Each country in the system has a single guaranteeing body approved by the national customs authorities and the [ICC World Chambers Federation](#) (Until June 2001, the International Bureau of Chambers of Commerce).

The national guaranteeing association is entitled to issue Carnets and to authorize local chambers on the national territory to deliver them on its behalf. In major trading nations, dozens of local chambers have that authority. The ATA international guarantee chain provides reciprocal guarantees assuring customs administrations that duties and taxes due in case of misuse will be paid.

[The World Customs Organization](#) (WCO) administers the international customs conventions under which the ATA Carnet system operates.

Within the [ICC World Chambers Federation](#), the World ATA Carnet Council (WATAC) runs the ATA system and its international guarantee chain. The Council is made up of representatives from all 58 countries and territories where Carnets are issued and accepted.

The Council has set up regional task forces to promote the ATA Carnet in Africa, Asia and Pacific, Latin America, Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

Find out the cost

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

Fees will always represent a small fraction of the value of the goods covered by the Carnet.

Scroll down to your country in the left column and go to the chamber of commerce that runs the ATA system in your country to get the details you need, including the countries that accept ATA Carnets.

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