

## **THE ATA CARNET SYSTEM**

A simplified Customs Procedure for Temporary Admission of Goods into a Foreign Country.

### **WHAT IS AN ATA CARNET?**

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 word

“Admission Temporaire/Temporary Admission”

The ATA Carnet operates under the international Customs Conventions administered by the World Customs Organization (WCO). The four main categories of goods traded internationally:

- commercial samples;
- goods for presentation or use at trade , fairs , shows, exhibitions or similar events;
- professional equipment
- scientific equipment

In view of the numerous advantages the system offers to Thailand’s expanding business communities, Thailand has joined the system with effect from the end of 1994 and The Board of Trade of Thailand has been appointed by Thai Government to issue Carnets under this Carnet Arrangement.

For Thailand, the customs authorities shall accept goods be temporarily imported under the following Conventions:

- ATA Carnet Convention 1961
- Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Professional Equipment 1961
- Customs Convention Concerning Facilities for the Importation of goods for display or use at Exhibitions ,Fairs ,Meetings or Similar Events 1961
- International Convention to Facilitates the Importation of Commercial Samples and Advertising Material 1952
- Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Scientific Equipment 1968

## **CARNET BENEFITS**

- Simplifies and expedites formalities
- Reduces the clearance time for goods on both importation and re-exportation
- Removes the need to deposit bonds or pay duty on entry and drawback on re-export
- Goods can be temporarily imported into multiple countries under the single Carnet
- The Carnet has a life of 12 months

## **THE 77 COUNTRIES ACCEPTING ATA CARNET**

<b>Albania</b>	<b>Hungary</b>	<b>Netherland</b>
<b>Algeria</b>	<b>Iceland</b>	<b>New Zealand</b>
<b>Andorra</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>Norway</b>
<b>Australia</b>	<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>Pakistan</b>
<b>Austria</b>	<b>Iran</b>	<b>Poland</b>
<b>Bahrain</b>	<b>Ireland</b>	<b>Portugal</b>
<b>Belarus</b>	<b>Israel</b>	<b>Romania</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>Russia</b>
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	<b>Japan</b>	<b>Senegal</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<b>Kazakhstan</b>	<b>Serbia</b>
<b>Brazil</b>	<b>Korea</b>	<b>Singapore</b>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>Latvia</b>	<b>Slovakia</b>
<b>Chile</b>	<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>Slovenia</b>
<b>China</b>	<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>South Africa</b>
<b>Cote d'Ivoire</b>	<b>Luxembourg</b>	<b>Spain</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	<b>Madagascar</b>	<b>Sri Lanka</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	<b>Macao</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>Macedonia</b>	<b>Switzerland</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>Thailand</b>

<b>Estonia</b>	<b>Malta</b>	<b>Tunisia</b>
<b>Finland</b>	<b>Mauritius</b>	<b>Turkey</b>
<b>France</b>	<b>Mexico</b>	<b>Ukraine</b>
<b>Germany</b>	<b>Moldova</b>	<b>United Arab Emirates</b>
<b>Gibraltar</b>	<b>Mongolia</b>	<b>United Kingdom</b>
<b>Greece</b>	<b>Montenegro</b>	<b>United States</b>
<b>Hong Kong</b>	<b>Morocco</b>	

Essentially the Carnet is a MERCHANDISE PASSPORT that facilitates travel with goods, into 77 member countries, making traveling abroad easy and hassle-free.

#### **HOW An ATA CARNET WORKS?**

The ATA Carnet is a simple international customs document with two sheets for presentation for each foreign country you wish to visit (import-re-exportation), and two sheets for presentation to customs when leaving and returning to Thailand (exportation – re-importation).

You give importation sheet to the foreign customs officials when you enter their country and the re-exportation sheet when you leave it.

#### **WHO CAN USE An ATA CARNET?**

Technicians, Fair exhibitors, Traveling business/sales executives, Professional individuals and teams: Producers of motion Pictures/T.V. Films Crews / Surgeons Architects / Artists / Engineers / Educationalists / Entertainers / Freight forwarder / ETC.

#### **WHAT ITEMS EXCLUDED FROM THE ATA CARNET?**

Items such as paint, cleaning materials, food, oils, leaflets and brochures, which are considered as “consumable items and intended to be given away, disposed of or utilized abroad, are excluded from the systems as they would not ordinarily be re-exported.

Also excluded from the A.T.A. Carnet System are the following:

1. Items already sold or offered for sale.  
Such items are not considered samples.
2. Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and fuels, etc.
3. Goods intended for procession or repair.
4. Postal traffic.

### **HOW TO AVOID A CLAIM?**

A claim is a notice from the Customs of the country of importation that a violation of the Carnet System has occurred and therefore payment of duties, taxes and a penalty are required. Some circumstances under which a claim may be filed:

- Goods are not re-exported within the one-year period
- Carnet sheets are not properly validated by the Customs officials on the way into or out of foreign countries and Thailand.
- Call customs offices both in Thailand and abroad for office hours. Arrive at the airport early to ensure Carnet sheets are properly validated by all Customs officials.
- Improper or inadequate description of merchandise on the General List. When applying for the Carnet, make sure the General List is accurate, detailed and legible.

### **THE VALIDITY PERIOD OF A CARNET COVERING :**

- |    |                        |        |
|----|------------------------|--------|
| 1. | Commercial Sample      | 1 year |
| 2. | Exhibition goods       | 1 year |
| 3. | Professional equipment | 1 year |
| 4. | Scientific equipment   | 1 year |

But the Customs (both National and Foreign) are free to determine the period allowed for temporary exportation and importation (or transit) e.g.:

Any charges incurred will be liability of the ATA Carnet holder.

The validity period of a Carnet cannot be extended or renewed.

If validity period is exceeded, duty / penalty charges will be incurred despite proof that the goods were eventually re-exported / re-imported.

#### **LIABILITY OF A.T.A. CARNET HOLDERS**

The validity period of an A.T.A. Carnet cannot be extended or renewed. It is also important to bear in mind that if any goods covered by an A.T.A. Carnet are destroyed, lost or stolen whilst in a foreign country, they will automatically become liable for Customs duty etc. This will be the liability of the A.T.A. Carnet holder. In addition, he will also be responsible to BoT for any costs which BoT may incur in meeting its obligation as guarantor.

#### **HOW TO APPLY FOR A CARNET**

1. Completion of the Application form and Undertaking: to be correctly / duly completed, declared, dated, stamped and signed by an authorized signatory.
2. Completion of Carnet Forms (an appropriate set). When preparing the forms it should be borne in mind that, as with all Customs documentation, they must be completed correctly and in full.
3. Submission of appropriate supporting documents
4. The lodging of adequate security to cover duty etc. This security is for an amount equal to the highest rate of duty and taxes applicable to the goods in any country of destination and transit if applicable, plus a further 10%. BoT will advise applicants of the amount of security required.
5. Submission of a letter of Authorization if the Carnet is to be handled by an authorized staff / agent / representative.

#### **HOW SHOULD THE SECURITY BE LODGED**

Applicants are required to lodge a security to cover duties / taxes charges etc. This security must be given in one of the following forms.

### THE GUARANTEE PERIOD

All such provisions of security whether by cash or guarantee are required to be valid for a minimum of 31 months from the date of issue. This 31 month guarantee period is essential as this is the period during which BoT remains liable.

There is of course no need for the security given to be “at risk” throughout this period. If a Carnet is used for 2 weeks and is returned to BoT without delay and found to be in order, a “conditional discharge” may, at BoT’s discretion, be given and the deposit guarantee may be returned within 15 working days after the return of the Carnet.

### HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

ATA Carnet Form 250 Baht / Non-member 5,500 Baht / BoT’s member & Thai Chamber of Commerce member 4,400 Baht / First Country Free / Each Additional Country 500 Baht / First 50 items of goods free / Every 50 additional items 500 Baht each with 2,500 Baht maximum/ Express Service Fee (within 24 hour) 1,000 Baht

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please Contact :	ATA Carnet Department
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