



## Customs Guide **MALAWI**

Information from FIDI Africa

# Customs guide MALAWI



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GOODS	DOCUMENTS REQUIRED	CUSTOMS PRESCRIPTIONS	REMARKS
<p><b>Diplomats removals – New resident</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Copy of passport showing their nationality and date of arrival.</li> <li>▪ Copy of diplomatic card from the organization and its colour are required by Customs.</li> <li>▪ Notification of arrival issued by the Treasury department.</li> <li>▪ Inventory with serial numbers for electrical appliances.</li> <li>▪ Bill of Lading or Airway bill.</li> <li>▪ Duty waiver.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The consignee must have arrived in the country before the goods arrive. He/she will be required to be physically present at customs to sign for duty free forms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Goods must be imported within six months after the returning resident's time of arrival or after the time the work or resident permit has been granted to an immigrant.</li> <li>▪ Goods must have been used for more than six months.</li> <li>▪ New furniture and household goods are dutiable and invoices are required.</li> <li>▪ Non-household items e.g. building materials are dutiable.</li> <li>▪ Alcoholic beverages may be imported up to a maximum of 5 litres of which not more than 2 litres may be spirits. Otherwise duty is payable.</li> <li>▪ The Consignee should be same as the Consignor.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Non-Diplomats removals – New resident</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Copy of passport showing their nationality and date of arrival.</li> <li>▪ Resident/Temporary Employment Permit.</li> <li>▪ Letter of employment from the employer.</li> <li>▪ Inventory with serial numbers for electrical appliances.</li> <li>▪ Bill of Lading or Airway bill.</li> <li>▪ Duty waiver.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The consignee must have arrived in the country before the goods arrive. He/she will be required to be physically present at customs to sign for duty free forms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Goods must be imported within six months after the returning resident's time of arrival or after the time the work or resident permit has been granted to an immigrant.</li> <li>▪ Goods must have been used for more than six months.</li> <li>▪ The consignee should be same as the Consignor.</li> <li>▪ New furniture and household goods are dutiable and invoices are required.</li> <li>▪ Non-household items e.g. Building materials are dutiable.</li> <li>▪ Alcoholic beverages may be imported up to</li> </ul>

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			a maximum of 1 litre. For the excess, duties and taxes will be applied.
<b>Returning Residents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Copy of passport showing the nationality.</li> <li>▪ Proof from passport that they have been out of the country for more than one year.</li> <li>▪ Inventory with serial numbers for electrical appliances.</li> <li>▪ Bill of Lading or Airway bill.</li> <li>▪ Duty waiver.</li>   <li>▪ The following documents are required for returning residents after an absence of less than one year; they will be paying duty: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Copy of passport showing their nationality.</li> <li>▪ Invoice/receipts of goods being imported.</li> <li>▪ Certificate of origin.</li> <li>▪ Bill of lading or airway bill.</li> <li>▪ Inventory /packing list for the goods.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The consignee must have arrived in the country before the goods arrive. He/she will be required to be physically present at customs to sign for duty free forms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The consignee should be same as the Consignor.</li> <li>▪ Goods must be imported within six months after arrival or after Duty Waiver has been granted.</li> <li>▪ Goods must have been used for more than six months.</li> <li>▪ For returning residents who have been working / studying, proof of termination of employment / completion of studies is required.</li> <li>▪ Returning Malawi Diplomats: obtain letter from Ministry of Foreign Affairs.</li> <li>▪ New furniture and household goods are dutiable and invoices are required.</li> <li>▪ Non-household items e.g. building materials are dutiable.</li> <li>▪ Alcoholic beverages may be imported up to a maximum of 5 litres of which not more than 2 litres may be spirits. Otherwise duty is payable</li> </ul>
<b>Deceased Estate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Certified copy of the will</li> <li>▪ Statement of the value of the goods by the executor of the estate.</li> <li>▪ Written undertaking not to sell or dispose of the goods by the executor of the estate.</li> <li>▪ Copy of the death certificate.</li> <li>▪ Inventory list.</li> <li>▪ Bill of lading or airway Bill.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Duty-free.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ These documents are required for estates from the deceased (goods forwarded to beneficiaries in Malawi not for sale).</li> </ul>

GOODS	DOCUMENTS REQUIRED	CUSTOMS PRESCRIPTIONS	REMARKS
<b>Motor vehicles, motor cycles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Invoice and proof of ownership.</li> <li>▪ Copy of passport showing their nationality and date of arrival.</li> <li>▪ Copy of diplomatic card from the organization and its colour are required by Customs.</li> <li>▪ Notification of arrival issued by the Treasury department.</li> <li>▪ Bill of Lading or Airway bill.</li> <li>▪ Duty waiver.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 50% import duties + 18% excise + 16.5% VAT on motor vehicles imported for new and returning residents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One must have been out of the country for more than one year.</li> <li>▪ It must have been owned for more than one year.</li> <li>▪ They must have arrived in the country before the vehicle arrives</li> <li>▪ If Duty Waiver is granted, no taxes or duties will be applied</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The consignee will be required to be physically present at customs to sign for duty free forms.</li> <li>▪ Must be imported within six months after the returning resident's time of arrival or after the time the work or resident permit has been granted to an immigrant.</li> <li>▪ Motor vehicle not exceeding one for each family and that has been owned and used for not less than one year prior to importation.</li> <li>▪ The vehicle may not be lent, hired, given away or otherwise disposed of within five years of the date of customs clearance on importation; one may be required to pay such duty as he would have paid on its importation.</li> </ul>
<b>Pets</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pets are subject to import control.</li> <li>▪ Applications should be made to the Veterinary Department for import Permit.</li> </ul>
<b>Prohibited/Restricted Articles</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prohibited: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Drugs, narcotics</li> <li>▪ Pornographic materials</li> <li>▪ Offensive weapons</li> <li>▪ Forged documents</li> <li>▪ Counterfeit money</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Restricted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Firearms may be imported with a special permit from the Ministry of Home Affairs.</li> <li>▪ Citrus fruits, seeds, and deciduous plants may not be imported unless an import licence has been obtained in advance from the competent agricultural authorities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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Remarks		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Duties are required to be paid on office equipment e.g. computers, cash registers and telefax machines.</li> <li>▪ Duty is assessed according to the value including freight of the item.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The best port into Malawi is Beira but shipment should be through 'Bill of Lading' to arrival Blantyre or Lilongwe Terminals.</li> <li>▪ Major Shipping lines operating in Malawi are Mediterranean Shipping line, CMA-CGM and Maersk</li> <li>▪ The best Airports of entry into Malawi are through Kamuzu International Airport (LLW) or Chileka International Airport (BLZ).</li> <li>▪ Major airlines operating in Malawi are Air Malawi, South Africa Airways, Kenya Airways and Ethiopian Airlines.</li> <li>▪ Shipments are cleared within three days from the time of shipment arrival in either Blantyre or Lilongwe.</li> <li>▪ Customs officials may demand physical examination on household effects.</li> </ul>



## The FIDI Global Alliance

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