

PRACTICAL GUIDE · FREIGHT FORWARDING AND CUSTOMS

Temporary admission in Guinea: importing a machine without paying all the duties

A machine rented for a project, a drill rig mobilised for a campaign, demonstration equipment: when a machine enters Guinea only for a while, paying all the duties and taxes as for a permanent import can be a heavy burden. The temporary admission regime exists for these situations. Here is how it works, what it requires and the mistakes to avoid.

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01 What is temporary admission?

Temporary admission is a customs regime that allows a machine or piece of equipment to be imported into Guinea with duties and taxes suspended, for a limited period and a specific use, provided it is then re-exported in the same condition, apart from normal wear. The duties are not cancelled: they are suspended, and become payable if the machine stays in the country.

This regime is one of the so-called economic or suspensive regimes provided for by customs regulations. It typically applies to construction machines, drill rigs, lifting equipment or equipment used for a specific contract and then sent back abroad.

The most common cases:

- A machine rented abroad for the duration of a project in Guinea.
- Equipment brought in by a foreign subcontractor for a time-limited contract.
- Equipment intended for trials, a demonstration or an exhibition.
- A machine sent to Guinea for repair or for a job, then sent back.

If the machine is bought to stay in Guinea for the long term, temporary admission is generally not the right regime: a permanent import, or an exemption regime if your project benefits from one, is more suitable.

02 The guarantee required by customs

Because the duties are suspended rather than paid, customs generally asks for a guarantee covering them: a bank guarantee, an undertaking from an approved surety company or, depending on the case, a cash deposit. If the machine is not re-exported under the agreed conditions, customs can call on this guarantee.

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The amount and form of the guarantee are set according to the regulations in force and the customs decision. The cost and conditions of a bank guarantee should be confirmed with your bank before committing to the operation.

> Some regimes require part of the duties to be paid while the machine is in the country. Ask your customs broker to confirm which arrangement applies to your case.

03 Authorised duration and follow-up

The temporary admission authorisation sets a period of stay. It takes into account the duration of the contract or project, and an extension can be requested before expiry, with supporting documents. Throughout this period, the machine must be identifiable: make, model, serial number, chassis or engine number.

- Keep the temporary admission declaration and the authorisation with the machine's documents.
- Track the expiry date like a contractual deadline: an extension request is prepared in advance.
- Inform customs, under the rules in force, if the machine changes site or user.

04 How does the regime end?

Temporary admission ends with discharge, that is the closing of the file with customs. There are two main outcomes:

1. Re-export: the machine leaves the country under a re-export declaration, customs records the exit, the file is discharged and the guarantee is released.
2. Release for home use: if you decide to keep the machine, it is declared as a permanent import and the duties and taxes are paid under the regulations in force, on the basis used by customs.

Other outcomes may exist depending on the case, such as transfer to another regime. These are handled with customs, file by file.

05 Documents to prepare

A temporary admission file is prepared before the machine is shipped. Customs must be able to see why the machine is entering, for how long, where it will be used and how it will leave.

- The invoice or rental contract, which sets the machine's value and the rental period.
- The contract or purchase order for the project in Guinea, which justifies the temporary use.
- The bill of lading (B/L) or air waybill, and the packing list.
- The machine's technical data sheet, with make, model, year and serial number.
- The authorisation request and the re-export undertaking, on the forms in force.

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- The guarantee (bank guarantee or another accepted form), arranged before the declaration is lodged.

> Photograph the machine's identification plate on arrival: on re-export, customs checks that it is the same machine.

06 Mistakes to avoid

- Using the machine for another purpose or contract than the one authorised, without informing customs.
- Letting the expiry date pass without requesting an extension or re-exporting.
- Transferring or selling the machine in Guinea without regularising its customs status.
- Losing the machine's identification documents or the original declaration: without them, discharge becomes difficult.

> This guide describes the general principle. The precise conditions (eligible users, guarantee, duration, formalities) are governed by the customs regulations in force and the customs decision: have them confirmed before the machine arrives.

07 What we do for you

TransXpress prepares the temporary admission file, declares the machine in Conakry, tracks the expiry date and organises the re-export or release for home use when the time comes. We also move the machine on a lowbed to your site. Send us the machine's technical data sheet, the invoice or rental contract and the expected project duration.

? Frequently asked questions

Are duties waived under temporary admission?

No, they are suspended. They become payable if the machine is not re-exported under the agreed conditions or if it is released for home use in Guinea.

Is a bank guarantee required?

Customs generally asks for a guarantee covering the suspended duties. Its form and amount are set under the regulations in force; the guarantee's conditions should be confirmed with your bank.

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Can the machine stay in Guinea at the end of the project?

Yes, by releasing it for home use: it is then declared as a permanent import and the duties and taxes are paid.

General information guide written by TransXpress. Customs rules and procedures change: every file is checked against the documents and the regulations in force. This guide is neither a quotation nor a commitment.

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