

PRACTICAL GUIDE · CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

Supplying a construction site with cement, rebar and materials in Guinea

On a site, a late cement truck stops a pour and idles a whole team. Conversely, too much badly protected cement in stock is lost to damp. Supplying a site well in Guinea means buying on specification, delivering at the pace of the works, storing correctly and checking every receipt.

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01 How do you organise supply?

To supply a site with cement, rebar and materials in Guinea, start from the drawings and the schedule to quantify requirements, write a specification for each product, compare local and imported supply, then set a calendar of staggered deliveries with a systematic check at each receipt. Stock on site should cover the upcoming works without leaving materials exposed to the weather for too long.

02 Local or imported?

Cement is produced locally in Guinea and covers part of the demand; rebar, steel products and some specific materials are often imported. The choice depends on availability, the quality required and the delivered-to-site cost, transport included.

- Local: shorter supply times, split deliveries are easier, but availability must be checked in periods of high demand.
- Imported: a wider choice of specifications, but shipping time, port charges and clearance must be factored in, and minimum quantities are often higher.
- In both cases, compare the delivered-to-site cost, not just the ex-works price.

On import, cement falls under heading 25.23 of the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET) and rebar under chapter 72, the exact heading depending on the product. The amount of duties and taxes is the one on the assessment issued by customs; special measures may apply to these products depending on the period and the regulations in force. The documents (invoice, packing list, bill of lading, certificate of origin, mill certificates) must match on quantities and weights, and for a large volume, truck rotations between the port and the site are organised before the vessel arrives.

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03 Specifications and standards

The specification comes from the design office or the tender documents. The buyer copies it as it stands into the request for quotation and the purchase order.

- Cement: type and strength class, reference standard, packing (bags or bulk); the marking on the bag must match the order.
- Rebar: steel grade (deformed or plain), diameters, bar length, reference standard, and the manufacturer's mill certificate for each batch.
- Welded mesh, tie wire, aggregates and sand: dimensions, grading and origin, as set by the specification.
- Any substitution (another brand, class or diameter) requires the design office's written approval.

04 Planning deliveries

1. Set quantities per phase (foundations, superstructure, slabs) from the quantity take-off.
2. Align deliveries with the pouring and reinforcement schedule, with a margin for the unexpected.
3. Check truck access to the site: track, rainy season, hours, unloading area.
4. Plan the unloading method (manual handling, forklift, crane) according to the packing.
5. Follow each order through to delivery and adjust the calendar to actual progress.

> During the rainy season, access to remote sites becomes harder: bring forward deliveries of materials that store well and protect them.

05 Storing on site

- Bagged cement: in a room or a closed shelter, on pallets, never directly on the ground or against a damp wall, in stacks of reasonable height.
- Cement: first in, first used; a bag that has hardened or taken on moisture must not be used for structural work.
- Rebar: on timber bearers off the ground, sorted by diameter and labelled, covered to limit rust, away from traffic areas.
- Aggregates and sand: on a clean area, separated by type to avoid mixing.
- Keep a simple register of goods in and out to know the actual stock.

06 Checking every receipt

- Count the bags, weigh or count the bars and compare with the delivery note and the order.
- Check the markings: cement type and class, date of manufacture, steel grade and bar diameter.

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- Check the condition: torn or hardened bags, bent or heavily rusted bars.
- Collect the manufacturer's certificates (mill certificate for steel, product sheet for cement) and file them by batch.
- Write any reservations on the delivery note before signing it, and photograph any damage.

07 What we do for you

TransXpress consults local and foreign suppliers, buys on your behalf, clears imported materials in Conakry and delivers them to your site on your schedule. Send us the list of materials with their specifications, the quantities per phase and the site location.

? Frequently asked questions

How long can cement be stored on a site?

Cement loses its properties with moisture and time. Store it dry, on pallets, and use it in order of arrival; take into account the date of manufacture on the bag and the manufacturer's recommendations.

Is a certificate needed for rebar?

It is strongly recommended: the manufacturer's mill certificate attests the grade and properties of the batch. The design office or the project owner often requires it.

What is the tariff heading for cement?

Cement falls under heading 25.23 of the ECOWAS CET; the subheading depends on the type of cement.

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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TransXpress supports mining, industrial and construction operators in Guinea and on the corridors to Mali and Sierra Leone. A name, a number and a few words are enough: we call you back within 24 business hours.

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