

PRACTICAL GUIDE · FREIGHT FORWARDING AND CUSTOMS

How import duties and taxes are calculated in Guinea

Before importing, the first question is almost always the same: how much will I pay in duties and taxes? The answer rests on three things: the value of the goods delivered to Conakry, their position in the tariff, and the rates attached to that position. Here is how they fit together.

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01 1. The customs value

The basis is the customs value, usually the CIF value: price of the goods plus freight and insurance to Conakry. It is converted into Guinean francs at the rate applied by customs.

- Keep the commercial invoice, the freight invoice and the insurance certificate: they support the declared value.
- A value considered too low may be revalued by customs, which raises the basis.

02 2. Tariff classification

Guinea applies the ECOWAS Common External Tariff, in the HS 2022 nomenclature, with 10-digit codes. Each code belongs to a customs duty band: 0, 5, 10, 20 or 35%.

> Classification is the most important step: a precise description (material, use, power, packing) avoids reclassification and disputes.

03 3. Duties and levies

- Customs duty (DD): the band's rate, applied to the customs value.
- RTL levy, ECOWAS community levy (PC) and African Union contribution (CA): rates set by the tariff, applied to the same value.
- Import VAT: 18% for most products, calculated on the CIF value plus customs duty and RTL. Some lines are exempt.

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04 A worked line of reasoning

For goods in the 10% band that are subject to VAT: work out the DD on the CIF value, then the RTL, PC and CA on the same value, and finally the VAT on the CIF value plus DD and RTL. The total assessed is the sum of these amounts, rounded by customs.

> Our online quote tool does this calculation for any tariff code, from your CIF value, and shows the breakdown line by line.

05 What can change the amount

- A special regime: temporary admission, transit, exemption under a mining convention or an approval.
- A specific tax on certain products (excise duties, one-off measures).
- A revaluation or reclassification by customs.

The final figure is always the assessment issued by customs on SYDONIA.

06 What we do for you

TransXpress checks the classification before arrival, estimates duties and taxes, declares the goods and checks the assessment. Duties and taxes are re-invoiced to you at the exact amount on the receipt, with no VAT or margin added.

? Frequently asked questions

On what value are customs duties calculated in Guinea?

On the customs value, usually the CIF value: goods, freight and insurance to Conakry.

What are the ECOWAS CET rates?

Five customs duty bands: 0, 5, 10, 20 and 35%, plus the levies set by the tariff and VAT.

What is import VAT calculated on?

On the CIF value plus customs duty and RTL, at 18% unless exempt.

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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Procurement, freight forwarding and customs, heavy transport and equipment rental in Guinea.

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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