

PRACTICAL GUIDE · FREIGHT FORWARDING AND CUSTOMS

Exporting from Guinea: declaration, documents, certificates and loading in Conakry

A lot is said about importing into Guinea, much less about exporting. Yet agricultural produce, processed timber, re-exported equipment and goods sold within the region leave the port and airport of Conakry every week. An export follows much the same logic as an import, in reverse: check that the goods may leave, gather the documents, book the transport, declare and load.

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01 The steps of an export from Guinea

To export from Guinea, you need goods that are allowed to leave, an identified exporter (tax number and trade register), consistent commercial documents, the certificates required by the product or by the buyer's country, a booking with a shipping line or airline, and an export declaration lodged on SYDONIA by a licensed customs broker. Once the declaration has been checked and validated, the goods are loaded and the transport document is issued.

1. Check the rules that apply to the product for export.
2. Agree the contract and the Incoterm with the buyer.
3. Gather the commercial documents and certificates.
4. Book the freight and obtain the empty containers.
5. Stuff, weigh and declare the goods.
6. Pass the checks, load, and collect the bill of lading (B/L) or air waybill.

02 Before you sell: can the goods leave?

Most goods can be exported freely, but not all. Under the regulations in force, some products require prior authorisation, a licence, a quality check or registration with a specialised service, and others may bear export taxes or fees.

- Agricultural and forestry products: sanitary or phytosanitary checks, sometimes approval of the exporter, depending on the product.
- Timber, wildlife, protected plants, cultural goods: specific rules and authorisations, as the case may be.

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- Mining products and precious metals: they fall under special regimes, outside the scope of this guide.
- Equipment under temporary admission: its departure is declared as a re-export, to discharge the procedure.

> Have your customs broker confirm, before you sign with the buyer, any authorisations and taxes that apply to your product. The destination country also has its own requirements: ask your buyer for them.

03 Commercial documents

- The commercial invoice: seller, buyer, precise description, quantities, unit price, total value, currency and Incoterm.
- The packing list: number of packages, gross and net weights, dimensions, marks and container numbers.
- The sales contract or the buyer's purchase order.
- The certificate of origin, issued by the authorised body; for a sale within ECOWAS, the community certificate of origin allows, where the product qualifies, preferential treatment in the buyer's country.
- Where applicable: a quality, analysis, fumigation or conformity certificate, required by the buyer or by the destination country.

> If payment is by letter of credit, every document must match the terms of the credit exactly. A difference in description or date can hold up payment: check with your bank before loading.

04 Agricultural products: phytosanitary and quality

Cashew nuts, coffee, fruit, plant products processed or not: most countries require on arrival a phytosanitary certificate issued in the exporting country. In Guinea, it is issued by the official plant protection service after inspection of the goods, under the procedure in force.

- Request the inspection early enough: it is done on goods that are ready, before or during stuffing.
- Plan fumigation if the destination country requires it, with its certificate.
- Check moisture and packing: a poorly dried cargo can spoil during the voyage.
- Check the buyer's country requirements (standards, labelling, residue limits) before the sale.

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05 Booking and port formalities in Conakry

The schedule of a sea export starts with the booking with the shipping line. It gives the vessel, the cut-off date for delivering full containers to the terminal and the deadline for sending documents.

1. Booking and release order for the empty containers.
2. Stuffing at the exporter's warehouse or at the port, with photos and seals.
3. Weighing and declaration of the verified gross mass (VGM), required by shipping lines before loading.
4. Lodging of the export declaration on SYDONIA and checks according to the assigned channel: documentary, scanner or physical inspection.
5. Delivery of the containers to the terminal before the cut-off, then loading.
6. Issue of the bill of lading (B/L): read the draft before approval, as every error is harder to correct once the vessel has sailed.

For air freight, the logic is the same at Conakry airport: booking with the airline, delivery of the packed and labelled goods, export declaration, then issue of the air waybill (AWB).

06 Payment and the bank

The payment method is chosen with the buyer and your bank: advance payment, documentary collection or letter of credit. Under the exchange control rules in force, exports may require bank domiciliation and repatriation of proceeds: check with your bank before the operation. This guide does not replace its advice.

07 What we do for you

TransXpress checks your file, books sea or air freight, arranges transport to the port, declares the goods for export and follows the loading through to the issue of the bill of lading. Send us the product description, the quantities, the destination country and the Incoterm agreed with your buyer.

? Frequently asked questions

Do you need a customs broker to export from Guinea?

Yes, the export declaration is lodged on SYDONIA by a licensed customs broker, on behalf of the exporter.

Who issues the phytosanitary certificate for export?

The official plant protection service, after inspecting the goods, under the procedure in force. Most countries require it for plant products.

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Are there export taxes in Guinea?

Most goods are exported without export duty, but some products bear taxes or fees under the regulations in force. Have it checked for your product before the sale.

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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