TRANSXPRESS



PRACTICAL GUIDE · CUSTOMS CLEARANCE

Importing a used vehicle into Guinea: documents, shipping, customs clearance and registration

Importing a used car, pick-up or truck into Guinea is common, but files often stall for simple reasons: a chassis number copied wrongly, a missing invoice, a vehicle loaded with undeclared personal effects. Here are the steps, from the purchase abroad to Guinean number plates.

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01 How does importing a used vehicle work?

To import a used vehicle into Guinea, you gather the vehicle's ownership and purchase documents, ship it to the port of Conakry by RoRo or in a container, have it declared to customs by a licensed customs broker, pay the assessed duties and taxes, then pass the roadworthiness test and apply for Guinean registration. Each step depends on the previous one: no customs receipt, no registration.

The rules specific to used vehicles (age conditions, reference values, temporary measures) change over time. Before buying, have your customs broker confirm the regulation in force for the type of vehicle you have in mind.

02 Documents to gather

- The title or registration certificate from the country of origin (or the export certificate that replaces it, depending on the country), in the seller's name or transferred to you under the rules of the country of departure.
- The purchase invoice or bill of sale, showing the price paid, make, model, year and chassis number (VIN).
- The bill of lading (B/L), the sea transport document issued by the shipping line, which must show the same chassis number.
- For a vehicle in a container, the packing list if other items travel with it.
- The importer's identity document or company documents, and tax number (NIF) if any.

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> The chassis number is the key to the file: it must be identical, character by character, on the title, the invoice, the bill of lading and the vehicle itself. A single difference is enough to block the declaration.

03 RoRo or container?

RoRo (roll-on roll-off) is a vessel the vehicle drives on and off. A container is a closed box in which one or more vehicles are lashed.

- RoRo: suited to a vehicle that runs and travels empty. Shipping lines generally refuse items left on board.
- Container: better protected, and lets you group several vehicles or add spare parts, provided everything is declared on the packing list.
- Non-running or very heavy vehicle: depending on the case, a flatbed or flat rack is needed; ask for advice before booking.

> Everything travelling in the vehicle or in the container must appear in the declaration. Undeclared personal effects or goods expose you to a penalty and delay release from the port.

04 Duties and taxes to expect

Vehicles fall under chapter 87 of the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET): heading 87.03 for passenger cars and heading 87.04 for goods vehicles, with subheadings by engine size, fuel type or gross weight. The customs duty band (0, 5, 10, 20 or 35%) depends on that subheading.

On top come the levies set by the tariff and, depending on the case, 18% VAT and other taxes applicable to vehicles. The basis is the customs value: for a used vehicle, customs may use a value different from the invoice price, under the valuation method in force.

> For a reliable budget, ask for an estimate based on the model, year, engine and purchase price. The final amount is always the one on the customs assessment.

05 Customs clearance at the port of Conakry

1. Documents sent to the customs broker before the vessel arrives.
2. Customs declaration lodged on SYDONIA and checks according to the assigned channel (documents, scanner or physical inspection of the vehicle).
3. Assessment of duties and taxes, then payment at the bank.

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4. Customs release order (BAE) and delivery order (DO) from the shipping line, once its charges are paid.
5. Exit from the terminal, driven out or on a flatbed truck depending on the vehicle's condition.

Every day beyond the free period in the port can lead to storage or parking charges. Preparing the documents and the duty payment before arrival is the best way to limit them.

06 After customs: roadworthiness test and registration

Once cleared, the vehicle must pass the roadworthiness test and then be registered with the competent office. The registration file generally requires the customs clearance documents (declaration and receipt), the original title, the invoice and the owner's identity document. The exact documents and fees are set by the administration: check with the registration office before applying.

Keep the originals of the declaration and the receipt safe: they prove the vehicle is in order and you will be asked for them when you sell it.

07 What we do for you

TransXpress can arrange pickup and shipping of the vehicle through our partner agents, check that the documents match, declare and clear the vehicle at the port of Conakry and deliver it on a flatbed if needed. Disbursements are re-invoiced to you at actual cost with their receipts. Send us the model, year, chassis number, country of departure and purchase price.

? Frequently asked questions

Is there an age limit for importing a used vehicle into Guinea?

The conditions for used vehicles are set by the regulation in force and can change. Have them confirmed by your customs broker before buying.

Can I put belongings in the vehicle being shipped?

By RoRo, shipping lines generally refuse it. In a container it is possible, provided everything is declared on the packing list and in the customs declaration.

Does customs use the invoice price?

Not always. For a used vehicle, customs may apply another value under the valuation method in force. The exact amount is shown on the assessment.

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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