



Customs Guide **MALAWI**

Information from FIDI Africa

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GOODS	DOCUMENTS REQUIRED	CUSTOMS PRESCRIPTIONS	REMARKS
Diplomats removals – New resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Copy of passport showing their nationality and date of arrival. ▪ Copy of diplomatic card from the organization and its colour are required by Customs. ▪ Notification of arrival issued by the Treasury department. ▪ Inventory with serial numbers for electrical appliances. ▪ Bill of Lading or Airway bill. ▪ Duty waiver. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The consignee must have arrived in the country before the goods arrive. He/she will be required to be physically present at customs to sign for duty free forms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Goods must be imported within six months after the returning resident's time of arrival or after the time the work or resident permit has been granted to an immigrant. ▪ Goods must have been used for more than six months. ▪ New furniture and household goods are dutiable and invoices are required. ▪ Non-household items e.g. building materials are dutiable. ▪ Alcoholic beverages may be imported up to a maximum of 5 litres of which not more than 2 litres may be spirits. Otherwise duty is payable. ▪ The Consignee should be same as the Consignor.
Non-Diplomats removals – New resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Copy of passport showing their nationality and date of arrival. ▪ Resident/Temporary Employment Permit. ▪ Letter of employment from the employer. ▪ Inventory with serial numbers for electrical appliances. ▪ Bill of Lading or Airway bill. ▪ Duty waiver. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The consignee must have arrived in the country before the goods arrive. He/she will be required to be physically present at customs to sign for duty free forms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Goods must be imported within six months after the returning resident's time of arrival or after the time the work or resident permit has been granted to an immigrant. ▪ Goods must have been used for more than six months. ▪ The consignee should be same as the Consignor. ▪ New furniture and household goods are dutiable and invoices are required. ▪ Non-household items e.g. Building materials are dutiable. ▪ Alcoholic beverages may be imported up to

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			a maximum of 1 litre. For the excess, duties and taxes will be applied.
Returning Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Copy of passport showing the nationality. ▪ Proof from passport that they have been out of the country for more than one year. ▪ Inventory with serial numbers for electrical appliances. ▪ Bill of Lading or Airway bill. ▪ Duty waiver. ▪ The following documents are required for returning residents after an absence of less than one year; they will be paying duty: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Copy of passport showing their nationality. ▪ Invoice/receipts of goods being imported. ▪ Certificate of origin. ▪ Bill of lading or airway bill. ▪ Inventory /packing list for the goods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The consignee must have arrived in the country before the goods arrive. He/she will be required to be physically present at customs to sign for duty free forms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The consignee should be same as the Consignor. ▪ Goods must be imported within six months after arrival or after Duty Waiver has been granted. ▪ Goods must have been used for more than six months. ▪ For returning residents who have been working / studying, proof of termination of employment / completion of studies is required. ▪ Returning Malawi Diplomats: obtain letter from Ministry of Foreign Affairs. ▪ New furniture and household goods are dutiable and invoices are required. ▪ Non-household items e.g. building materials are dutiable. ▪ Alcoholic beverages may be imported up to a maximum of 5 litres of which not more than 2 litres may be spirits. Otherwise duty is payable
Deceased Estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Certified copy of the will ▪ Statement of the value of the goods by the executor of the estate. ▪ Written undertaking not to sell or dispose of the goods by the executor of the estate. ▪ Copy of the death certificate. ▪ Inventory list. ▪ Bill of lading or airway Bill. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Duty-free. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ These documents are required for estates from the deceased (goods forwarded to beneficiaries in Malawi not for sale).

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Motor vehicles, motor cycles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Invoice and proof of ownership. ▪ Copy of passport showing their nationality and date of arrival. ▪ Copy of diplomatic card from the organization and its colour are required by Customs. ▪ Notification of arrival issued by the Treasury department. ▪ Bill of Lading or Airway bill. ▪ Duty waiver. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 110% import duties + 18% excise + 16.5% VAT on motor vehicles imported for new and returning residents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One must have been out of the country for more than one year. ▪ It must have been owned for more than one year. ▪ They must have arrived in the country before the vehicle arrives ▪ If Duty Waiver is granted, no taxes or duties will be applied 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The consignee will be required to be physically present at customs to sign for duty free forms. ▪ Must be imported within six months after the returning resident's time of arrival or after the time the work or resident permit has been granted to an immigrant. ▪ Motor vehicle not exceeding one for each family and that has been owned and used for not less than one year prior to importation. ▪ The vehicle may not be lent, hired, given away or otherwise disposed of within five years of the date of customs clearance on importation; one may be required to pay such duty as he would have paid on its importation.
Pets			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pets are subject to import control. ▪ Applications should be made to the Veterinary Department for import Permit.
Prohibited/Restricted Articles		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prohibited: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drugs, narcotics ▪ Pornographic materials ▪ Offensive weapons ▪ Forged documents ▪ Counterfeit money ▪ Restricted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Firearms may be imported with a special permit from the Ministry of Home Affairs. ▪ Citrus fruits, seeds, and deciduous plants may not be imported unless an import licence has been obtained in advance from the competent agricultural authorities. 	

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Remarks		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Duties are required to be paid on office equipment e.g. computers, cash registers and telefax machines. ▪ Duty is assessed according to the value including freight of the item. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The best port into Malawi is Beira but shipment should be through 'Bill of Lading' to arrival Blantyre or Lilongwe Terminals. ▪ Major Shipping lines operating in Malawi are Mediterranean Shipping line, CMA-CGM and Maersk ▪ The best Airports of entry into Malawi are through Kamuzu International Airport (LLW) or Chileka International Airport (BLZ). ▪ Major airlines operating in Malawi are Air Malawi, South Africa Airways, Kenya Airways and Ethiopian Airlines. ▪ Shipments are cleared within three days from the time of shipment arrival in either Blantyre or Lilongwe. ▪ Customs officials may demand physical examination on household effects.



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