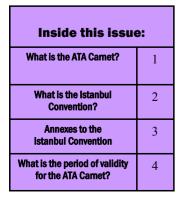
February 2019



Promoting International Trade through the ATA SYSTEM

Questions & Answers (Q&A)





What is an ATA Carnet?

An ATA Carnet (pronounced kar-nay) is an international document approved by Customs, that allows the temporary importation of commercial samples, professional equipment, or goods destined for use in a trade fair or exhibition in countries that are part of the ATA Carnet system.

What is the ATA System?

The ATA system allows for the free movement of goods across borders, and their temporary admission into a customs territory with relief from duties and taxes. The goods are covered by a single document, known as the ATA Carnet, that is secured by an international guarantee system.

What does the term ATA mean?

The term ATA is derived from both English and French, representing a combination of the initial letters of the French words "Admission Temporaire" and the English words "Temporary Admission".

How does the ATA System promote trade?

The ATA system allows for considerable simplification of Customs formalities, which facilitates and promotes international trade. As such, the business community enjoys duty-free and tax-free treatment for the temporary importation of goods covered under the ATA system. The ATA System operates based on security guarantees, that are internationally valid and are established by the national associations that issue the ATA carnets. These national associations are approved by Customs and are affiliated with an international guaranteeing chain, which is administered by the International Bureau of Chambers of Commerce (IBCC). Consequently, the ATA carnet is now the most widely utilised document by the international business community for the temporary admission of goods.

The ATA SYSTEM



Why was the ATA System Established?

The Customs Cooperation Council (CCC), now known as the World Customs Organization (WCO), adopted the Customs Convention on the ATA carnet for the temporary admission of goods (ATA Convention) in 1961, in response to the needs of the international business community. Various types of businesses needed to move their products to trade fairs or international exhibitions, as samples to potential buyers, or as their own professional equipment. There was growing need for these goods to be easily and quickly transported across borders with minimal delays, and as such the ATA carnet system was established.

What happened to all the other agreements on temporary admission?

The establishment of the ATA system brought with it a proliferation of International Conventions, Recommendations, Agreements and other instruments on temporary admission, as well as the temporary admission of specific types of goods. The sheer volume of international instruments that were created between 1950 and 1970, created confusion among the international business community and complicated the work of Customs. By the early 1990s, there were 13 agreements in existence on the treatment of temporary admission. The WCO decided to draft a world-wide convention on temporary admission, to combine into a single international instrument, all that was covered under the existing agreements.

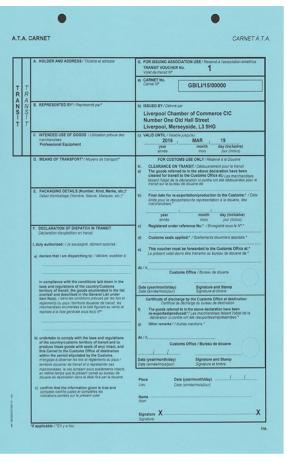
What is the Istanbul Convention?

The Convention on Temporary Admission was adopted in Istanbul in 1990 and became known as the "Istanbul Convention". The Istanbul Convention represents the single instrument for the simplification and harmonization of temporary admission formalities, replacing all the existing Conventions or Recommendations dealing solely or principally with temporary admission. The subject covered by the former Conventions are now covered by the Annexes to the Istanbul Convention, namely Annexes A, B.1. to B.9., C, D and E. Contracting Parties to the Convention are mandated to accede to Annex A, as well as acceding to at least one additional Annex, in accordance with the terms of the Convention.

What is the purpose of the Annexes to the Istanbul Convention?

Each Annex of the Istanbul Convention authorizes the temporary admission of goods imported for a specific purpose.

Annex A :	ANNEX CONCERNING TEMPORARY ADMISSION PAPERS (ATA CARNETS AND CPD CARNETS)
Annex B1 :	ANNEX CONCERNING GOODS FOR DISPLAY OR USE AT EXHIBITIONS, FAIRS, MEETINGS OR SIMILAR EVENTS
Annex B2 :	ANNEX CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL EQUIPMENT
Annex B3 :	ANNEX CONCERNING CONTAINERS, PALLETS, PACKINGS, SAMPLES AND OTHER GOODS IMPORTED IN CONNECTION WITH A COMMERCIAL OPERATION
Annex B4 :	ANNEX CONCERNING GOODS IMPORTED IN CONNECTION WITH A MANUFACTURING OPERATION
Annex B5 :	ANNEX CONCERNING GOODS IMPORTED FOR EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC OR CULTURAL PURPOSES
Annex B6 :	ANNEX CONCERNING TRAVELLERS' PERSONAL EFFECTS AND GOODS IMPORTED FOR SPORTS PURPOSES
Annex B7 :	ANNEX CONCERNING TOURIST PUBLICITY MATERIAL
Annex B8 :	ANNEX CONCERNING GOODS IMPORTED AS FRONTIER TRAFFIC
Annex B9 :	ANNEX CONCERNING GOODS IMPORTED FOR HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES
Annex C :	ANNEX CONCERNING MEANS OF TRANSPORT
Annex D :	ANNEX CONCERNING ANIMALS
Annex E :	ANNEX CONCERNING GOODS IMPORTED WITH PARTIAL RELIEF FROM IMPORT DUTIES AND TAXES



Can goods remain in the country if imported on the ATA Carnet?

If goods are imported duty-free using the ATA Carnet, they cannot remain indefinitely in the country of temporary importation, unless the full duties have been paid. The specified period for re-exportation is laid down in each Annex relating to the type of temporary importation.

Can improvements be made to the goods prior to their re-exportation?

No improvements or value added is permitted for such goods. The goods must be re-exported in the same state, and must not undergo any changes during their stay in the country of temporary importation. However, normal depreciation due to their use is accounted for.

What is the period of validity for the ATA Carnet, and how often can it be used?

The period of validity is typically for one year. Goods under a valid ATA Carnet may be imported temporarily under the same carnet, within the Customs territories of as many Contracting Parties, and as often as the carnet holder wishes, within the specified one year period.

How will other States recognize goods that are covered by an ATA Carnet?

The seals affixed or the identification of the goods by a Customs office can be recognized by the Customs offices of other Contracting Parties where the goods subsequently pass. This facilitates Customs controls and saves the carnet holder time when the goods cross frontiers.

The ATA SYSTEM





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The International and Industry Liaison Unit is committed to raising the level of awareness on topics relating to the Caribbean Community, as well as issues concerning the wider topic of international trade, to both our internal and external stakeholders. Our monthly newsletter seeks to highlight global trade topics and their importance to Customs Administrations worldwide and specifically how they affect the Jamaica Customs Agency. As we realize our vision of becoming a modern Customs administration delivering excellent service, we recognize the importance of knowledge transfer in delivering our objectives and use this forum as our way of contributing to the vision of the JCA. The International Liaison Unit is located at the Myers Wharf head office and our officers are available to respond to your queries and clarify any points of concern.

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