

UAE

For exhibition goods travelling to the UAE, an organiser-issued end-user certificate is mandatory, along with all other shipping documents for customs clearance. As experts in the handling of trade shows and exhibitions in UAE, we are highly experienced and qualified customs agents, shippers and on-site handlers and able to provide local partners at main trade fairs who act as importers of foreign goods

The importance of documentation

Custom authorities of the UAE levy a 5% duty of giveaways and any non-returning items such as leaflets, brochures, catalogues. This duty is based on cost, insurance and freight value declared (CIF) therefore, ensure detailed invoices showing CIF values and correct weights are shown against each item. Shipments will be customs cleared and held at the airport/ seaport customs bonded areas, where storage charges may apply. For shipments arriving directly into Abu Dhabi, there are no temporary import fees how all items must have engraved serial numbers.

Classification and the bonded warehouse

When goods arrive in UAE, whether by sea or air, the carrier will deliver the required documentation to the consignee or their legalised representative who will issue the authority for transfer of the goods from the port/airport to the bonded warehouse. This procedure can take up to 48 hours. Once the materials are in Bond, a process of classification will commence. Classification is a procedure when the customs brokers must physically inspect the goods and identify each item listed in the accompanying documents and then specify the customs tariff heading and number for each item. This is a time consuming process which, depending on the number and complexity of the items, can take up to 10 working days.

Entry and customs examinations

UAE authorities require that some goods including defence related items be transported under military escort both inbound and outbound. Once the classification is completed the entry document is prepared and submitted to the customs authority. The cargo is then checked against the invoices by the UAE customs. Examination is under the control of customs officials responsible at the point of entry. If all the documentation is in order and the freight is identified customs will grant permission for material to be removed from the bonded warehouse and delivered to the exhibition venue.

On the show floor

Under no circumstances can goods or equipment be sold from the exhibition floor, whether in bond or under temporary import. All cargo must be returned to the bonded warehouse and be placed back under customs control, only then can the UAE importer start the nationalisation process.

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The United Arab Emirates is a country located in the southeast end of the Arabian Peninsula on the Persian Gulf, bordering Oman to the east and Saudi Arabia to the south, as well as sharing sea borders with Qatar and Iran. In 2013, the UAE's total population was 9.2 million; 1.4 million Emirati citizens and 7.8 million expatriates.

Established in 1971, the country is a federation of seven emirates (equivalent to principalities). Each emirate is governed by a hereditary Ruler who jointly form the Federal Supreme Council, the highest legislative and executive body in the country. One of the Rulers is selected as the President of the United Arab Emirates.

The constituent emirates are Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras al-Khaimah, Sharjah, and Umm al-Quwain. Abu Dhabi is the capital of UAE, Islam is the official religion, and Arabic is the official language. Its most populous city, Dubai, has emerged as a business hub and a global city. UAE has strict censorship rules as per the religious, cultural and social sensitivity of the region.

DO's

- Adhere to all published deadlines.
- Be aware of restrictions on battery and printer cartridges and certain airlines will not accept these items.
- For military shipping ensure all documents include phrase—"exhibition goods / vehicles for exhibition" or similar wording
- Pre-alert us before your shipment arrives
- Be aware of censorship submission deadlines which apply to all copies of Brochures, CDs, DVDs, USBs, films and videos.
- Use original documents including: certificate of origins, bills of lading or MAWB (3 non-negotiable copies) commercial invoice & packing list (2 original and 4 copies), HS code/country of origin summary, and original Hazardous declarations and copy of MSDS for DG shipments where required
- Send document 10days in advance of vessel arrival
- Where possible affix a photograph of the content to the box to aid swifter inspection
- Arrange insurance cover

DON'Ts

- Do not use a courier or attempt to hand carry
- Do not send alcohol or goods containing alcohol as these are prohibited
- Do not address cargo to yourself, your hotel or exhibition site as it will likely not be delivered
- Do not use the term 'SAMPLES' on shipping documentation
- Do not ship without taking copies of all shipping documents
- Do NOT mix / consolidate shipments
- Airlines should NOT ruck or transfer from one Emirate to another which could cause problems with customs and the local UAE police, resulting in delays and additional charges
- Try to send any materials which could be rejected under UAE's censorship laws
- For ATA Carnet shipments - don't forget to show serial numbers or chassis numbers which must also be engraved on each piece.

