

ATA CARNETS ENHANCE TRADE OPPORTUNITIES

It seems like the world is getting smaller and smaller when it comes to business, and keeping goods moving between countries is more important now than ever before. When it comes to temporary importation, bringing goods into a country for trade shows, short-term jobs or for showing samples to a potential buyer, the ATA Carnet continues to be one of the most flexible and economical documents available.

WHAT IS A CARNET?

A Carnet is an international customs document that provides duty-free customs clearance for temporary imports into foreign countries and can simplify entry by eliminating the need to post a Temporary Import Bond. A Carnet provides a paper trail tracking the movement of merchandise and serves as a guarantee to a foreign country that the goods will be re-exported in a timely and cost efficient manner.

WHAT'S COVERED ON A CARNET?

But the Carnet doesn't only reduce costs. It also acts as a United States registration of goods and is valid on multiple trips for up to one year. It covers a broad range of merchandise including trade show booths, personal computers, satellites, industrial machinery, diagnostic equipment, jewelry, photographic and video equipment, repair tools, rare gems, vehicles and more. Carnets also cover unique or exotic items such as such as a rare piece of art or live animals. Merchandise listed on a Carnet typically fits into one or more of three categories: Commercial Samples (items used for demonstration), Professional Equipment ("tools of the trade") and Exhibitions and Fairs (trade shows and cultural events). Carnets can also be issued for scientific equipment, private or commercial road vehicles, aircraft and pleasure boats. Because the Carnet covers temporary exports only, it should not be used for goods that will be consumed in another country such as hand-outs or pamphlets, food items, plants or other perishables.

CARNET COUNTRIES

Recognized in over 90 countries and their territories, virtually all goods, whether hand-carried or cargo-shipped, may be covered by Carnets. A complete list of countries including information about traveling in these countries, categories of goods accepted, possible restrictions, Guaranteeing Associations and more can be found on Roanoke Trade's web site at www.carnetsonline.com. For goods traveling to Taiwan, Roanoke Trade also provides the TECRO/AIT Carnet to facilitate the special agreement between Taiwan and the United States.

Obtaining a Carnet is quick and easy with no surprises because your documents are complete prior to your departure. Each applicant must furnish the U.S. Council for International Business (USCIB) with security equal to 40% of the total value of all items listed on the Carnet. In the event a road vehicle is included on your General List, security requirement for corporations is 100% or 150% for individuals.

CARNET BONDS

The simplest way to provide security is to obtain a surety bond through Roanoke Trade during the application process. Roanoke Trade's Carnet service team understands the complexities of underwriting Carnet bonds and has a long-standing history of working with sureties that are familiar with Carnets and their purpose, allowing Roanoke Trade to place bonds that other sureties might not be able to underwrite.

CARNET CARGO INSURANCE

Carnet shipments are unique in that they are not a one-time transport. A shipment on a Carnet can continue traveling from country to country, with periodic stops in between where the goods are unpacked and then repacked. With this in mind, it is easy to understand why a typical cargo insurance policy may not fully cover goods moving on a Carnet. Roanoke Trade has developed an enhanced insurance policy that fills the gaps. Features of the policy include "All Risks" coverage for new and used goods, including transit to and from a foreign Carnet member country, as well as the time the merchandise is in those countries; and duty reimbursement in the event goods are lost or stolen. The policy also covers goods checked as luggage or hand-carried on a commercial airline. It is important to note that many cargo policies do not extend coverage for risks when not in transit.

LEARN MORE

Roanoke Trade has been an authorized Carnet Service Provider for the United States Council for International Business (USCIB) since 1978. Obtaining a Carnet is a quick and easy process. After registering to apply for a Carnet at www.carnetsonline.com, you'll receive your login information and can easily obtain a Carnet using Roanoke Trade's online application. Roanoke Trade caters to freight forwarders and customs brokers who prepare Carnet applications by providing the flexibility to manage Carnets 24/7 for multiple clients, under one account, from anywhere in the world. Competitive pricing and first-rate claims handling by a team who knows the "ins and outs" of Carnets add to the value. Roanoke Trade can assist you with your online application process, bond and insurance needs, special instructions throughout the entire validity period of your Carnet, and provide complimentary on-site or webcast workshops explaining the benefits and uses of ATA Carnets. Roanoke Trade's expertise in transportation insurance combined with more than three decades of Carnet experience enables us to design the best coverage in the industry for you and your clients.