



A Guide to the ATA Carnet

What is an ATA Carnet?

An ATA Carnet is an international customs document that provides duty and tax free customs clearance for temporary imports into foreign countries. ATA Carnets simplify the entry by eliminating the need to post some form of financial guarantee, i.e., a Temporary Import Bond. ATA Carnets are recognized in over 100 destinations for virtually all types of goods, whether hand-carried or cargo-shipped.

The ATA Carnet doesn't only reduce costs; it also facilitates customs clearance in both the U.S. and foreign countries 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, live animals, rare gems, vehicles and more. And there are no surprises! ATA Carnet fees are paid prior to your departure so you know the costs before you leave. An added bonus, the ATA Carnet can also be used in place of the U.S. CBP form 4455, Certificate of Registration, which allows you to register your goods with the U.S. CBP when traveling to non-ATA Carnet countries.

Obtaining an ATA Carnet is a quick and easy process. To set up an account visit CarnetsOnline™. Once your registration is complete, you will receive your login information and can easily obtain an ATA Carnet using Roanoke Trade's online application system. Freight forwarders or customs brokers who prepare ATA Carnet applications can manage all of their clients under one account.

To start an application, you'll need to know the full legal name of the holder (the company that will be named on the ATA Carnet), the Tax ID or FEIN number, the physical address (ATA Carnets cannot show a P.O. Box) and holder contact information.

Merchandise Covered on an ATA Carnet

ATA Carnets cover virtually all types of merchandise for commercial use, whether it's ordinary goods used in the course of business or whether it's something unique or exotic, such as a rare piece of art or live animals. Merchandise listed on an ATA Carnet typically fits into one or more of the three categories listed below.

Commercial Samples include any and all items which are temporarily imported for the purpose of demonstration or for the solicitation of orders. Examples might include a heart monitoring system, jewelry, fashion garments, pipes and fittings or goods to be exhibited at a foreign trade show or conference.

Professional Equipment are typically "tools of the trade" and include equipment or goods needed to work while in a foreign country. Examples include equipment for the press or for television; scientific, mining, engineering, electrical, surgical, entertainment and sporting equipment, such as race cars and boats; and exhibition booths used to display merchandise at trade shows.

Roanoke Trade

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How to Calculate the Fee for an ATA Carnet Bond

The premium, or fee for posting an ATA Carnet bond is typically one percent (\$10 per 1,000) of the required security amount shown on the bond or \$50, whichever is greater, however for Brazil, India and General lists including vehicles the percentage is higher.

ATA Carnet travel to India: Bond must cover this percentage of Carnet value 55%.

ATA Carnet travel to Brazil: Bond must cover this percentage of Carnet value 60%.

General list with vehicles (for Corporations): Bond must cover the percentage of Carnet Value 100%.

General list with vehicles (Individual) Bond must cover the percentage of Carnet value 150%.

How to Calculate the Fee for Cargo Insurance on an ATA Carnet

Your premium is based upon the value of your goods, as well as the number of times you will be making entries into foreign countries. The following breakdown shows typical premiums for ATA Carnet Cargo coverage.

1-3 visits or transits = Value of goods x .80%
 4-7 visits or transits = Value of goods x 1.05%
 8-11 visits or transits = Value of goods x 1.55%
 12-15 visits or transits = Value of goods x 1.80%

A minimum premium of \$50 applies regardless of the value of the goods or the number of entries. Rates may be subject to change.

Exhibitions, Fairs, and similar cultural events include trade, industrial, agricultural or crafts exhibitions, as well as fairs, world events, exhibitions for a charitable purpose or to promote learning, crafts, scientific or cultural activity, or religious knowledge or worship.

The ATA Carnet covers temporary exports only; it cannot be used for goods that will be consumed in another country such as handouts or pamphlets, food items, plants or other perishables. Personal cars intended to be driven on public roads cannot go on an ATA Carnet.

ATA Carnet Benefits

There are other ways the ATA Carnet can ease temporary importation. For example, an ATA Carnet is valid for up to one year and users can travel to as many ATA Carnet member countries as necessary during that period. In addition, partial and split shipments can be made. Since you don't have to take all of the merchandise listed on your General List on each trip, one ATA Carnet can cover the needs of several trips for different purposes.

Remember, however, that an ATA Carnet does NOT take the place of other Government agency requirements, licenses and permits. U.S. and foreign Government regulations specific to each respective country must be followed for both the export and import.

ATA Carnet Bonds

The USCIB generally requires a security/bond amount of 40% of the total General list value. Except when traveling to Brazil, USCIB requires 60% of the General list value, and India the requirement is 55%. In some cases where vehicles are traveling on an ATA Carnet USCIB requires 100% to 150% of the value of the security deposit.

The simplest way to provide security and avoid tying up your funds for up to 30 months is to obtain an ATA Carnet Bond from Roanoke Trade. This reduces the time needed to process your ATA Carnet since it is possible for all information to be supplied during the ATA Carnet application process, ensuring quick and reliable processing. Merely select "Bond Process with Carnet" when completing your online application.

Roanoke Trade has a longstanding history of working with sureties familiar with ATA Carnets and their purpose. This relationship allows Roanoke Trade to obtain bonds other surety agents may not be able to place. Once all documents are completed and approved, same day processing is possible.

Bonds provided as a guarantee must be authorized by the U.S. Treasury Department, admitted in the State of New York, have an A.M. Best rating of A- or higher and be written in the language required by the USCIB. Cash deposits are also accepted, but may be held for up to 30 months during a claims process.