

ATA carnet

If you are entering Russia from a country that issues ATA carnets, goods can be temporarily imported for use at the Games with certain customs benefits. Using an ATA carnet can help to simplify customs clearance of goods in any countries visited en route to Russia, providing those countries also participate in the ATA carnet system.

The ATA carnet is an international customs document issued for a certain fee by national chambers of commerce or other national associations authorized by the customs authorities in participating countries. The ATA carnet replaces the normal customs documentation required at the time of import and export.

The ATA carnet covers eligible goods temporarily imported for up to one year. It does not cover consumable goods, disposable items or goods intended for commercial use.

If the goods stay in Russia for a period longer than the validity of the ATA carnet (but not longer than one year), a replacement ATA carnet will need to be requested from the association that issued the first one. The new ATA carnet must be provided to the Russian customs authorities to be duly formalized. It is highly recommended to indicate in commercial documents accompanying the goods and in section C of the carnet "Intended use of goods" that the goods are designated for the Games or a respective Test Event. Although it is not obligatory to provide a confirmation letter from a holder of the ATA carnet about the designated use and the expected period of stay in Russia such letter may speed up the customs clearance process. Please note that the Sochi 2014 Organizing Committee does not issue any confirmation letters for goods imported under the ATA system.

The issuing association may make a charge for the issue a carnet and will require the holder to provide them with a guarantee or other security to help ensure that the goods will be exported from the country being visited.

Goods eligible to be covered by the ATA carnet system

1. Professional cinematographic equipment, and press, sound or television broadcasting equipment, including accessories
2. Equipment for installation, testing, commissioning, checking, control, maintenance or repair of machinery, means of transport, etc.
3. Goods necessary for business purposes (e.g. PCs, audio/video devices)
4. Medical tools and instruments
5. Equipment necessary for photography trips (cameras of all kinds, cassettes, exposure meters, lenses, tripods, accumulators, battery belts, battery chargers, monitors, lighting equipment, etc.)
6. Goods for display or use at exhibitions, fairs, meetings or similar events
7. Containers and other reusable tare.

Countries participating in the ATA carnet system

An ATA carnet is only valid in the countries that are signatories to the Convention on Temporary Admission (Istanbul, 1990). The list of countries is in Appendix 6.

Benefits available if an ATA carnet is used

Using an ATA carnet:

- simplifies import/export customs clearance of goods by replacing customs documents that would normally be required
- provides financial security for customs duties potentially due on goods that will be used in the countries visited (i.e. Russia)
- helps to overcome language barriers and removes the need to complete unfamiliar customs forms
- allows the use of a single type of document along the entire route, regardless of the number of borders crossed (provided all countries visited are signatories to the Convention on Temporary Admission).

Please note that the ATA carnet system does not allow import goods without permissive documents. Therefore, you may choose to either apply for the respective permissive documents to appropriate authorities in Russia or use the Sochi 2014 Customs Procedure that does not require presenting permissive documents for import.

How does ATA carnet work?

The carnet must be presented at customs each time goods are imported, exported or transported through a country. The carnet consists of a cover and vouchers to be used during entry and exit from each participating country visited. The cover sheet identifies the holder, address, intended use of the goods, which countries the carnet can be used in, and how long it is valid for.

Please accurately fill in the fields to ensure that the name of a holder of the ATA carnets and its representative, description, quantity and value of goods as well as other items are correct. You must include the exact name of an organization using the ATA carnet (e.g. "Sports Federation" instead of "Sports team") who will act as an importer of record.

A person accompanying the goods, whose name is indicated in field B of the ATA carnet as the holder's representative, or if field B does not specifically mention such representative but rather refers to "any authorized person" must have a respective power of attorney or letter of authorization from the holder of the ATA carnet.

You must present the ATA carnet with your temporarily imported goods to customs at the point of entry of the Russian territory. If the customs point at the border is authorized to accept the ATA carnets they will endorse a white voucher ("Importation counterfoil"). The white voucher will be removed and the carnet returned to you. This means that your goods are released through customs for temporary stay and can be delivered to the place of destination.

If the border customs authorities have no authority to customs clear goods under the ATA carnet system they should accept a blue voucher (“Transit counterfoil”) of the ATA carnet along with shipping and commercial documents as a transit declaration. In this case they will remove the blue voucher and return the carnet to you. Then the goods can be delivered to the respective inland customs office where you should be able to release your goods under the ATA carnet by presenting to customs the white voucher (“Importation counterfoil”).

After the use of the temporarily imported goods for designated purposes at the Games you will need to declare them for re-export under the ATA carnet. You may choose any customs office authorized to accept the ATA carnets to perform customs formalities for export.

Since the Sochi Customs Procedure provides for additional advantages for import of Games-related goods you may choose to declare your goods under the Sochi 2014 Customs Procedure rather than release under the ATA carnet. In this case you should submit to customs a declaration form for the Sochi 2014 Customs Procedure instead of the white voucher (“Importation counterfoil”) of the ATA carnet. Please, however, note that in this case you will not be able to utilize this ATA carnet to bring the goods out of Russia to your home country.

Please note that the ATA carnet is not accepted as a transit customs document if your goods cross the CU border in Belarus and, therefore, it is highly recommendable to choose another logistics routes for goods covered by the ATA carnet. If it is not possible to avoid moving your goods across the territory of Belarus please consult with your freight forwarder what procedure and/or financial security are required to pass the Belarus border and move your goods to the inland customs office in Russia.

Designated customs offices

Note that not all Russian customs offices are authorized to accept ATA carnets. Therefore, if you intend to bring goods into Russia under an ATA carnet, we advise that you check beforehand whether the customs office you plan to use is on the list of those entitled to carry out customs procedures for ATA carnet-covered goods. A list of some of such customs offices is specially marked in Appendix 1.

For more information on ATA carnets or for any practical advice, contact the Russian Chamber of Commerce at www.tpprf.ru

Sports equipment

NOCs/NPCs and Sport Federations may ship sports equipment to Russia for teams participating in the Sochi 2014 Games and Test Events as freight and assign such equipment to the Sochi 2014 Customs Procedure. Customs declarations should be formalized in the name of NOCs/NPCs or the respective Sport Federation.

The ATA carnet system is also applicable to sports equipment.

Personal imports

Personal sports equipment temporarily brought into Russia by athletes and other team members is not subject to customs declaration. Such equipment is eligible for duty-free entry into Russia, provided that the quantities are appropriate for their use during a temporary stay in Russia, the intended purposes, kind of competition and period of stay.

Biathlon rifles and ammunition thereto

Some categories of lethal weapons cannot be brought into Russia under any circumstances. This includes some long guns, rapid-fire weapons, switchblades, gravity knives, brass knuckles, and highly lethal ammunition (e.g. armor-piercing, incendiary, discontinuous, tracers, and cartridges with a displaced center of gravity).

There is also a list of Restricted Goods that can be imported only by a person holding a special permit from the Russian authorities. The list of restricted weapons includes firearms including biathlon rifles and ammunition thereto intended for sports events.

If athletes or team officials bringing biathlon rifles with the respective ammunition to the Games hold Olympic/Paralympic Identity and Accreditation Card or are accredited for the Test Events they are not required to obtain such special permits and submit to customs a declaration form. A list of persons accredited for the Test Event will be provided by the Organizing Committee to the customs authorities in advance. Such rifles including unused ammunition must be taken back out of Russia after the Games.

Biathlon rifles and ammunition thereto will be moved from luggage processing facilities at Sochi airport directly to the competition venue. Athletes should then be able to bring their rifles with ammunition to a secure storage place. The special procedure for moving, storage and use of rifles and ammunition is being developed by the Organizing Committee and is pending approval of the relevant authorities. The Sochi 2014 Organizing Committee will send more detailed information about this procedure to NOCs/NPCs in due course for them to advise athletes and teams accordingly.

If athletes arriving in Russia do not have an Olympic/Paralympic Identity and Accreditation Card or are not accredited for the Test Events they may bring biathlon rifles with the respective ammunition under the regular procedure that involves obtaining a special permit and declaring rifles and ammunition thereto to customs. In this case biathlon rifles and ammunition must be presented to customs for physical checks.

No special permits are needed for air and electronic rifles imported by athletes or team officials for the Paralympic Games. Such air and electronic rifles can be brought to Russia as sport equipment as described in the section "Sport equipment" above.