

HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY PASS SOUTH AFRICA CUSTOMS

Meest
China



TO AVOID ISSUES AT CUSTOMS, PLEASE ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT RULES:

1

Accurate Product Descriptions: Specify the category and exact name of the product, matching the contents of the parcel. Avoid generalizations.

2

Indicate Danger Levels: Clearly indicate if the goods are simple, contain liquids, or include batteries. Note if the parcel contains goods from well-known brands.

3

Declare Real Values: Provide the actual value and quantity of the goods. Customs has the right to inspect parcels to verify the declared value against invoices.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
PROHIBITED GOODS IN SOUTH
AFRICA, PLEASE VISIT:**

- ➔ PROHIBITED, RESTRICTED,
AND COUNTERFEIT GOODS
- ➔ CUSTOMS AND EXCISE



TYPES OF PRODUCTS

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SIMPLE GOODS

- Do not contain liquids, batteries, cosmetics, food, or electronics.
- Examples: Clothing, shoes, bags, purses, battery-free toys, musical instruments without batteries, auto/motorcycle/bicycle parts.



TYPES OF PRODUCTS



SPECIFIC GOODS

- Products with batteries and liquids require an MSDS certificate and DG declaration from the seller. If unavailable, transport is not possible.



DANGEROUS GOODS

- Aerosols



TYPES OF PRODUCTS

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PROHIBITED GOODS:

- Certain foods (e.g., fish snacks, meat snacks, spices, canned food).
- Cosmetics (e.g., talcum powder, leg balm, aloe gel).
- Manicure products (e.g., base gel, gel paint, manicure tapes, poly gel).
- Fresheners (e.g., home fragrance, car fragrance, car air fresheners, car spray).
- Insect repellents (e.g., pest control concentrate, rodent poison, insect traps, baby mosquito/insect repellent).
- Stationery (e.g., hole punch, stapler, electromagnetic stapler, active cooling system).



IMPORTANT NOTES:

1

Do not underestimate the value of goods as customs inspections will verify this. If under-valued, customs will reassess and apply duties based on their regulations. Keep a payment receipt as proof of declared value. Customs only accept official payment documents, not screenshots or WeChat messages.

2

Correct declaration is crucial to avoid confiscation without compensation for the goods and shipping.

3

The parcel passes the customs zone within 72 hours. Then it is transferred for delivery to the recipient.



CUSTOMS DUTY AND VALUE DECLARATIONS

- ➔ Duty-free import value is \$27. The maximum declared value of a shipment is \$800 (a license is required for amounts over \$800).
- ➔ When ordering through an intermediary, ensure to notarize powers of attorney for transactions where goods are paid for by one person but sent to different recipients.



CALCULATING CUSTOMS PAYMENTS

AT: 10% x 15% VAT on high-value goods

(ATV - Added Tax Value)

- Customs Levy: Flat 20% of the value of low-value goods.
- If goods value up to 500 rand (approx. \$27), only 20% customs duty applies.
- For goods over 500 rand, 10% duty (based on HS code) plus 15% VAT applies.



The image shows a hand holding a pen pointing to a financial document. The document contains several tables, including a 'Company's Growth' table, an 'Opportunities to increase sales and achieve the company's target' table, and an 'Improvement Measurement' table. The 'Company's Growth' table shows sales data from 2013 to 2015 for various retail formats. The 'Opportunities to increase sales and achieve the company's target' table shows sales data from 2013 to 2015 for various product categories. The 'Improvement Measurement' table shows sales data from 2013 to 2015 for various departments.

Place	2013	2014	2015	% Growth
Department Store	109,808	118,283	127,812	+11%
Super Center	98,812	102,512	105,918	+12%
Shopping Center	87,179	91,120	95,128	+11%
E-commerce	8,714	9,018	9,283	+11%
Specialty Store	8,714	9,018	9,283	+11%

Categories	2013	2014	2015	2016
Computers & Devices	107,812	118,283	127,812	138,283
Electronics	98,812	102,512	105,918	118,283
Clothes & Fashion	87,179	91,120	95,128	102,512
Home Living	8,714	9,018	9,283	9,512
Kids Products	8,714	9,018	9,283	9,512
Medical	8,714	9,018	9,283	9,512
Others	8,714	9,018	9,283	9,512

Departments	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Sale & Marketing	24,788	45,556	12,267	20,775	24,788	45,556
Production	1,876	1,876	1,876	1,876	1,876	1,876
Design	133	133	133	133	133	133
Financial	25,399	47,750	13,890	25,399	25,399	47,750
Customer Service	25,399	47,750	13,890	25,399	25,399	47,750

ADDITIONAL TIPS:

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- ➔ Provide your user ID number to sellers and ensure it is on the boxes. Warehouse specialists need this to identify your goods. Unidentified goods will be stored for 1 month and disposed of if unclaimed.
- ➔ For branded goods, note that delivery is at your own risk. In case of confiscation, no compensation for the cost of goods and delivery is provided.





**FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE,
FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US**

before making a purchase to check if
the product can be delivered to South Africa

