

# ATA Carnet — preparation checklist

Goods Across Borders · [goodsacrossborders.com](https://goodsacrossborders.com) · Customs document template

---

Use this checklist 30-60 days before your first international trip with the carnet. Submit the carnet application to your national chamber of commerce only after every item is complete.

- & Item list compiled — every item to travel, with serial number where applicable
- & Commercial value declared for every item (insurance value, not retail markup)
- & Country of origin documented for every item
- & HS code identified for every item (6-digit minimum)
- & Weight per item documented
- & Photograph of each high-value item retained for customs inspection
- & Trip itinerary finalised — countries, order, expected dates
- & Carnet booklet pages estimated (1 yellow + 1 white pair per visited country + transit blue pairs)
- & Security bond posted with the issuing chamber (typically 40% of total declared value)
- & Processing fee paid (chamber-specific, typically USD 200-500)
- & Carnet validity period confirmed (1 year from issue)
- & First-leg customs office identified at departure airport — must stamp before leaving
- & Plan for each visited country's CITES, ITAR, or dual-use issues (some items may require additional permits)
- & Carnet kept with the goods at every border crossing
- & Return to chamber within 14 days of validity expiry to release bond