

Customs information for travelers

***Information booklet**

Customs service is functioning at all border-crossing points (airports, sea ports, road and railroad crossing points) of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Customs officers wear a special uniform and have identification badges (the flag and identification badges of the customs authorities).

Border crossing points of the Republic of Azerbaijan operate on the borders with Georgia, Russia, Turkey and Iran. Azerbaijan has also sea borders with Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Russia and Iran. Round trip ferry services are available with Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan.

** Detailed information can be obtained from the customs authorities operating at border-crossing points.*

1. When physical persons cross the customs border of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

- 1.1 Goods not intended for production or commercial purposes, as well as those not included in the control lists of the state authorities shall be declared by physical persons in a simplified order.
- 1.2 Purpose of goods, which are conveyed through the customs border by physical persons, shall be determined by the customs authorities based on the nature and quantity of goods, as well as on frequency of passing goods through the border, considering all the circumstances of the physical person's travel and making sure that the goods are passed through the customs border for own use and consumption of the physical person and his/her family members.
- 1.3 "The green corridor" and "the red corridor" release systems are applied at the customs border crossing points for physical persons to use privileged and simplified rules for declaring goods conveyed through the customs border.
- 1.4 "The green corridor" release system is considered for declaring the goods (except for goods conveyed in an unaccompanied baggage and sent by postal shipments) in oral form to the customs authorities by physical persons.
- 1.5 "The red corridor" release system is considered for declaring the goods in a written form, by submitting the declaration to the customs authorities.

- 1.6 When the goods not intended for production or commercial purposes are conveyed by physical persons in a hand luggage and (or) accompanied baggage through the customs border, the declaration shall be submitted concurrently with the submission of goods to the customs authorities.
 - 1.7 The declaration regarding the goods, which are brought into the customs territory in an unaccompanied baggage, shall be submitted no later than 15 (fifteen) days after the submission of those goods to the customs authority, by which the customs clearance shall be carried out, while the declaration regarding the goods, which are taken out of the customs territory in an unaccompanied baggage, shall be submitted concurrently with the submission of those goods to the customs authority.
 - 1.8 The declaration shall be filled in by the physical person, who has reached the age of majority.
 - 1.9 The goods in an unaccompanied baggage, belonging to the person, who is under the age of majority, shall be declared by his/her parents, adoptive parents, trustees, guardians or attorney-in-facts.
 - 1.10 Declaration on goods and means of transport intended to be conveyed through the customs border by physical persons can be filled in and printed out either in advance by using the electronic customs service section on the official website of the State Customs Committee (www.customs.gov.az), or concurrently by using electronic information kiosks installed at the customs border crossing points, and be submitted to the customs authority by the physical persons, when they pass the customs border.
 - 1.11 Physical persons may obtain information on the appropriate legislation acts by using the “Information for travellers” column on the electronic information kiosk installed at customs border crossing points.
2. **The physical persons can convey the following goods not intended for production or commercial purposes (excluding excisable goods and motor transport means) through the customs border of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the privileged order (without customs payments).**
 - 2.1 personal belongings to meet the physical person’s basic needs during the journey;
 - 2.2 goods imported once a calendar month with total customs value up to the equivalent of USD 1500 (and up to the equivalent of USD 500 in addition, for each accompanied physical person under the age of majority);

- 2.3 goods taken out of the customs territory, considering the restriction referred to in sub-paragraph 2.12;
- 2.4 goods imported to the customs territory via international postal shipments or a carrier company, addressed to the same physical person within the period of 30 (thirty) days with total customs value not exceeding the equivalent of USD 1000;
- 2.5 goods sent from the customs territory via international postal shipments or a carrier company, considering the restriction referred to in sub-paragraph 2.12;
- 2.6 fuel not exceeding the tank capacity provided by the automobile design;
- 2.7 medicines in necessary quantity for personal use, including those not included in the state register of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- 2.8 temporal goods, exceeding the limits specified in sub-item 2.2, for the personal use of the foreign traveller during the journey for the period of his/her temporary stay, taking into account all the travel conditions for culture, tourism, sports, professional meetings, health, education and other purposes, except any goods imported for production and commercial purposes;
- 2.9 items acquired on the basis of the right of inheritance as defined by the Civil Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan (by submitting relevant affirmative documents);
- 2.10 3 litres of alcoholic beverages, 600 pieces of cigarettes and 20 grams of gold, including the jewellery and other domestic items thereof, as well as processed, sorted, faceted and fixed 0.5-carat diamond brought to the customs territory for personal use once a calendar month by each physical person, who has reached the age of 18;
- 2.11 up to 30 kg of various kinds of food products brought to the customs territory once a calendar month;
- 2.12 up to 5 kilograms of sturgeon and up to 125 grams of sturgeon caviar taken out of the customs territory once a calendar month;
- 2.13 personal belongings, household equipment and necessary work tools of a foreign migrant worker when crossing the customs border for starting to work in the Republic of Azerbaijan and of a working migrant, who is the citizen of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to start to work in a foreign country, as well as for returning after completion of labour activity;

2.14 Funds and property, including means of motor transport acquired during the work abroad are not subject to customs payments when they are brought to the customs territory by diplomatic service officers and persons, exercising administrative and technical services of diplomatic service agencies of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as military personnel of the Security Department of the Diplomatic Representations of the Special State Protection Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan by submission of the relevant supporting document (a properly certified copy of the order on recall of the officer, who has been sent on a mission abroad, issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Special State Protection Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan accordingly).

3. Rules for bringing into and taking out of the Republic of Azerbaijan the foreign currency:

3.1 Resident and non-resident physical and legal persons are entitled to bring the foreign currency to the Republic of Azerbaijan without any restrictions, by complying with customs procedures.

3.2 Resident and non-resident physical and legal persons are entitled to take out of the Republic of Azerbaijan the foreign currency up to the equivalent of USD 10,000 (ten thousand) in cash via oral declaration to the customs authorities.

3.3 Resident and non-resident physical and legal persons can take out of the Republic of Azerbaijan the foreign currency equivalent from USD 10,000 (ten thousand) to USD 50,000 (fifty thousand) US dollars in cash, by submitting to the customs authority the customs documents and written declaration certifying the bringing of that amount to the Republic of Azerbaijan before in cash form.

3.4 In all other cases, except for cases specified in sub-paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3. of these Rules, the foreign currency can be taken out of the Republic of Azerbaijan by physical and legal persons by means of transfer via authorized banks and national postal operators.

4. The goods conveyed through the customs border and received (sent) via international postal shipments in a simplified order by submitting the permission documents issued by appropriate state bodies of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

4.1. Endangered species of wild fauna and flora (CITES species), based on the CITES permit/certificate issued by the administrative body for CITES Convention

on “International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora”, - the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as introduction from the sea.

4.2. Service and civilian weapons, as well as their ammunition by submitting the special permit issued by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (as well as by the Special State Protection Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan related to bringing into and taking out of the Republic of Azerbaijan the service weapons and their ammunition for the execution of service duties by the security service officials of foreign countries and international organizations accompanying the state and government leaders, their family members, heads of international organizations, as well as officials of those foreign countries and international organizations during their visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan).

4.3. Animals, veterinary medicines and supplies based on the documents of the State Veterinary Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan specified by law; plants and plant products, as well as plant protection means and agrochemicals based on the documents of the State Phytosanitary Control Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan specified by law.

4.4. Religious literature (in paper and electronic formats), audio and video materials, goods and items, as well as other information materials with religious content on the basis of the consent of the State Committee for Work with Religious Organization of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

4.5. Cultural property objects included to the list of protection, by submitting the protection certificate on possibility of export issued by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan and complying with its requirements.

5. The goods prohibited to be conveyed through the customs border of the Republic of Azerbaijan by physical persons (*based on Articles 214-215 of the Customs Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Law No.564 of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated December 23, 2003 “On the List of items civil circulation of which is not allowed (excluded from civil circulation)”, Law No.565 of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated December 23, 2003 “On the list of goods which may belong to certain participants of civil circulation and circulation of which is allowed on the basis of special permission (circulation of which has been restricted), Decision No. 42 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated February 9, 2006 on approval of the “List of goods, with codes based on their nomenclature, as well as works, services, intellectual activity results falling under export control”, “List of goods and items prohibited to be sent by postal shipments” approved by Decision No. 191 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated December 9, 2004)*)

5.1. Commodities forbidden to be brought into the territory of the country:

- service and civilian weapons, all articles of military purpose, explosives, military equipment, the circulation of which is forbidden by the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- radioactive substances;
- narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, supplies for their use;
- materials advertising immorality, violence, terrorism;
- materials on technology of production of narcotic, psychotropic, poisonous, explosive substances.

5.2. Commodities forbidden to be received by international postal shipments:

- abovementioned commodities forbidden to be brought to the territory of the country;
- equipment for issuing money and postal payment signs;
- human organs and (or) tissues
- live animals;
- inflammable substances;
- poisonous and toxic agents;
- biological and infectious substances;
- mercury, chemical reagents and acids;
- perishable food products;
- shipments that can cause danger for postal officials due to their nature or packaging, as well as those that can cause damaging, perishing or contamination of other postal shipments and postal equipments;
- coins, banknotes and traveller's cheques.

5.3. Commodities forbidden to be taken out of the territory of the country:

- zoological collections, their parts or separate objects, as well as objects of animal world, taking out or sending, bringing or receiving of which is not allowed by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- valuable kinds of trees (walnut, chestnut, lime-tree, oak, beech, argan-tree);
- service and civilian weapons, all articles of military purpose, explosives, military equipment, circulation of which is prohibited by the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- radioactive substances;

- narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, supplies for their use;
- materials advertising immorality, violence, terrorism;
- materials on technology of production of narcotic, psychotropic, poisonous, explosive substances;
- special confidential communication facilities, their ciphers and operation manuals;
- information systems, documents and archives on operational investigation activities of the Ministry of Defence, State Security Service, State Border Service and Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- documents, inventions, projects of state importance;
- rare plants, deer and roe horns included into the Red Book of the Azerbaijan Republic;
- cultural property objects included to the State Registry of national cultural property of the Republic of Azerbaijan, except for cases of holding temporary exhibitions, guest performances, restoration works, presentations, international cultural events;
- Data carriers are not permitted to be conveyed through the customs border of the Republic of Azerbaijan when it is not possible to read their content;
- Weapons and their ammunition are not permitted to be sent by physical persons.

5.4. Commodities forbidden to be sent by international postal shipments:

- abovementioned commodities forbidden to be taken out of the territory of the country;
- equipment for issuing money and postal payment signs;
- human organs and (or) tissues
- live animals;
- inflammable substances;
- poisonous and toxic agents;
- biological and infectious substances;
- mercury, chemical reagents and acids;
- materials humiliating human honour and dignity, insulting national and religious feelings;
- perishable food products;
- shipments that can cause danger for postal officials due to their nature or packaging, as well as those that can cause damaging, perishing or contamination of other postal shipments and postal equipments;
- coins, banknotes and traveller's cheques;
- goods and items the import of which is forbidden by the country of destination;
- firearms and their ammunition;
- originals of the documents with the State Emblem fixed on them;

- state standards of units of quantity;
- documents of the State Archives Foundation.

5.5. Commodities restricted from being passed through the customs borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan by the physical persons:

- equipment for manufacturing military weapons and ammunition;
- equipment for production of military machinery for war purposes;
- service and civilian weapons;
- space-satellite communication devices, special means of confidential communication and ciphers, equipment intended for production of these means and ciphers;
- means of production of precious stones, production and processing of gold and other precious metals, oil, oil products and natural gas, and processing of wastes of oil and oil products;
- ionizing radiation sources, including radioactive substances, equipment for production of such sources and substances, radiation apparatus, with exception of household and medical equipment;
- equipment for printing securities and the equipment for production of such equipment;
- narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, circulation of which is restricted in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan by law, psychotropic substances with controlled circulation in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, equipment used for production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, circulation of which is under control
- explosive substances and devices, inflammable substances and pyrotechnic items;
- ozone depleting substances and products containing such substances;
- potent or toxic agents, not classified as narcotics or psychotropic substances, equipment for their production or processing;
- technical means for extraction of information in secret manner;
- wideband radio receivers for radio surveillance and radio control;
- radio transmitters with power rating exceeding the level determined by the relevant executive body;
- military and special uniforms with distinguishing badges of the subjects of operational-search activities, military servants and procuracy officials;
- genetically modified plants, as well as agricultural plant materials created by modern biotechnological and gene engineering methods, intended for scientific research, testing and demonstration at exhibition purposes;
- food products manufactured by using genetic materials of genetically modified plants, intended for scientific research, testing and demonstration at exhibition purposes;
- unmanned aerial vehicles (air drones) controlled from distance.

6. Customs clearance rules of transport means moved through the customs border of the Republic of Azerbaijan

6.1. When the transport means are brought into the customs territory by the physical persons, customs clearance is carried out in a simplified manner, by collecting customs payments, according to the tariff and non-tariff regulations of foreign economic activity, as well as in accordance with other requirements and affirmative documents identified by law.

6.2. Bringing the right-hand drive vehicles to the Republic of Azerbaijan and registering them is prohibited.

6.3. Vehicles which are not permanently registered in foreign countries or which are removed from registration (except for vehicles which pass through as transit) are not allowed to be temporarily imported into the customs territory.

6.4. Transport means and their trailers (semitrailers) falling under commodity headings 8703 and 8711 of the Commodity Nomenclature of the Foreign Economic Activity (CN of the FEA), which are permanently registered in foreign countries, are allowed to be brought into the customs territory temporarily by non-residents accompanied by proper affirmative documents for the period of 90 (ninety) days and the prolongation of this period is permitted for the period indicated in the visa or permission card for temporary residence in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan of the related person, or for the period stipulated by the decision on extension of the period of temporary stay of the foreigner or stateless person, provided this period doesn't exceed 1 (one) year, by application of methods of provision of a guarantee for the payment of customs debt in accordance with Article 258 of the Customs Code.

6.5. Transport means which are permanently registered in the foreign countries are allowed to be brought into the customs territory temporarily by the residents for the period not exceeding 1 (one) year by application of methods of provision of a guarantee for the payment of customs debt in accordance with Article 258 of the Customs Code and temporary registration period of those vehicles are not further extended.

6.6. One of the following requirements must be observed by the end of the period of temporary import of the vehicle, and within 72 hours when the vehicle is passed in transit:

6.6.1. the vehicle is taken out of the customs territory;

6.6.2. methods of provision of a guarantee for the payment of customs debt are applied in accordance with Article 258 of the Customs Code;

6.6.3. vehicles are kept under customs control at the places determined by the customs authority;

6.6.4. affirmative document is submitted issued by the Main State Traffic Police of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the breakage of the vehicle as a result of an accident, and issued by the state body making the decision on arrest of the vehicle when the vehicle is taken under arrest;

6.6.5. customs clearance is carried out in a simplified manner, by collecting customs payments according to the tariff and non-tariff regulations of foreign economic activity.

6.7. In cases stipulated by sub-paragraph 6.6.3. of these rules, the delivery or transportation of vehicles to the places determined by the customs authority, as well as operations with regard to their keeping must not cause any additional costs for the customs authorities.

When the non-resident temporarily importing the vehicle or passing it in transit leaves the territory of the country, he/she must observe one of the requirements stipulated in the above paragraph by the end of the period specified in these rules.

6.8. Non-residents carry the responsibility in accordance with the Code of Administrative Violations of the Republic of Azerbaijan for taking the temporarily imported vehicles out of the customs territory by violating the determined period or for not taking them out of the customs territory by violating the requirements of these rules.

6.9. Transport means which are permanently registered in the Republic of Azerbaijan are allowed to be taken out of the customs territory temporarily for 2 (two) years period or be taken out permanently by removing from the registration, by the physical persons.

6.10. Passing the transport means in transit through the customs territory by physical persons, or taking the vehicle to the customs authority, in which the customs clearance will be carried out, must be done within 72 (seventy two) hours, provided that those vehicles are not granted to be used by others and are not at their disposal.

6.11. Temporary state registration certificate and registration signs to the vehicles which are temporarily brought into the customs territory for more than 30 (thirty days) period shall be granted by the appropriate authority dealing with the state registration of vehicles in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “on Traffic”, based on the obligation taken by the owner of that vehicle to take the vehicle back and the customs card (appropriate permit document) issued by the relevant customs authority.

7. Rules of customs clearance and customs control of service and civilian weapons and their ammunition conveyed through the customs border of the Republic of Azerbaijan by physical persons

- 7.1. The period of validity of the special permit issued for the bringing of civilian weapons and their ammunition to the Republic of Azerbaijan by physical persons is six months.
- 7.2. Service and civilian weapons and their ammunition can be brought to the customs territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan by residents.
- 7.3. Civilian weapons can be brought to the Azerbaijan Republic by non-residents only temporarily for demonstration at exhibitions of weapons or use at sports contests and for hunting purposes as defined by legislation.
- 7.4. The special permit on service and civilian weapons issued by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan cannot be given to other physical or legal persons by power of attorney.
- 7.5. Non-residents can obtain civilian weapons and their ammunition on the basis of the special permit issued by the Ministry of Internal Affairs based on the application of the representations of the states of which they are citizens, provided they take them out of the customs territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan within five days from the date of their purchase. When the period determined for taking the purchased weapons and ammunition out of the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan is violated, those weapons and ammunition are confiscated.

8. Rules of conveyance of cultural property objects through the customs border of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

- 8.1. Cultural objects conveyed through the customs border of the Republic of Azerbaijan must be compulsorily declared to the customs authority in written form.
- 8.2. Cultural property objects are allowed to be taken out of the customs territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan only for holding temporary exhibitions, guest performances, presentations, restoration works and international cultural events, for the period of no more than six months in a year;
- 8.3. Originals of the documents of the State Archives Foundation or the copies substituting them can be taken out of the boundaries of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the established order for the period of maximum three months.
- 8.4. The person temporarily conveying the cultural property objects through the customs border of the Republic of Azerbaijan must submit to the customs authority the obligation on taking them back in the order established by the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.