



UNITED STATES COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

ATA Carnet, commonly referred to as the “**Merchandise Passport**” or “**Passport for Goods**”, is a unified customs document used by 80+ countries. The initials, ATA, are an acronym of the French and English words Admission Temporaire/Temporary Admission. The ATA Carnet helps U.S. exporters of all sizes, in particular micro, small and medium size businesses (MSMEs), to explore new markets, promote their goods and services, and attend trade shows as well as conferences, *and saves time and money in the process.*

It simplifies customs procedures for the temporary movement of goods and allows goods to enter Customs territories of the ATA Carnet system free of customs duties and taxes for up to one year.

Designated by U.S. Treasury in 1969, [United States Council for International Business](#) (USCIB) is the National Guaranteeing Association (NGA) and Issuing Association (IA) for ATA Carnets in the United States (U.S.). More than 185,000 ATA Carnets are issued worldwide every year covering goods valued at more than \$25 billion. The U.S. issues over 21,000 Carnets for goods valued at more than \$6 billion. USCIB appointed two authorized service providers, [Corporation for International Business \(Boomerang Carnet\)](#), and [Roanoke Insurance Group](#), to issue Carnets in the U.S.

ATA Carnets cover virtually all types of merchandise for commercial use that fits into one or more of the three categories: **Commercial Samples, Professional Equipment, Exhibitions and Fairs, and similar cultural events.** However, it cannot be used for goods that will be consumed in another country such as handouts or pamphlets, food items, plants or other perishables.

Examples of Goods:

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|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| - Broadcast equip. | - Film & video equipment | - Construction equip. |
| - Diagnostic devices | - Security equip. | - Jewelry |
| - Musical/Audio equip. | - Computer equip. | - Sports gear |
| - Trade show booths | - Apparel for shoots/shows | - Testing devices |
| - Artwork/Antiques | - Horse for training/show | - Orchestras instruments |

Benefits of ATA Carnets are:

- Saves Time & Money (Helps Cash Flow!)
- Is Issued Prior to Departure
- Can be Processed in 24 Hours
- Streamlines the Process for Exports & Imports
- Simplifies the Customs Process with a Single Document
- Eliminates Duties, Taxes & Temporary Importation Bonds
- Provides Unlimited Use in Multiple Countries for One Year
- Easier & Less Costly than a Temporary Import Bond (TIB)

The price of an ATA Carnet ranges from \$235 to \$475 U.S. depending on the value of the goods traveling on the ATA Carnet. A standard security deposit equal to 40 percent of the value of the goods is required to guarantee the terms of the Carnet. This ATA Carnet deposit can be secured with a surety bond which can be provided along with the ATA Carnet.