



# Carnets and Brexit



## **Paddles Up Training Carnets and Brexit**

### **Table of Contents**

Introduction.....	3
What is an ATA Carnet?.....	4
Key Points:.....	4
Do you need an ATA Carnet or not?.....	5
Applying for an ATA Carnet.....	5
Other documents that may be required.....	7
Traveling with an ATA Carnet.....	7
Importance of getting things right.....	9
Policy Review Arrangements.....	10
Contact us.....	10

### **Introduction**

This short information sheet has been pulled together to support Providers who run trips, products and courses in Europe and focuses on the use of Carnets & implications since the UK left the European Union.

This document is our interpretation of the guidance and based on our experience moving Athletes and their Equipment across Europe. Paddles Up Training is not an expert in this area and accepts no liability for the content of this document.

Providers are encouraged to seek further support, guidance and consider this as an ever evolving situation and consult the UK Government Website for the most up to date information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-ata-carnet>

## **What is an ATA Carnet?**

An ATA Carnet is a customs document (effectively a passport for goods), which allows for the temporary movement of goods out of the UK (and back) without import/export duties being payable. ATA stands for Admission Temporaire/Temporary Admission. The document is bespoke to each individual trip and movement of goods.

### **Key Points:**

- Brexit has significantly increased the need for carnets.
- Everything that travels out on a carnet must return.
- The maximum duration for a temporary export on a carnet is one year.
- Consumables cannot be listed on a carnet.
- Personal belongings accompanying a traveler do not need to be listed on a carnet, i.e. a driver's personal bags.

We use the Carnet Guarantee Scheme, which can only be done through the Chamber of Commerce and removes the requirement to put up a large financial bond. An indemnity must be signed by the responsible person to guarantee the goods will return to the UK.

### **Do you need an ATA Carnet or not?**

When multiple boats / equipment are being transported internationally for others, i.e. to run a paddlesport course in France for example, an ATA Carnet is the internationally recognised declaration for the temporary export/import of goods.

Another option is to use a Duplicate List. However, this document applies for UK customs only and may not be accepted by the countries you travel to.

You may be able to carry personal items temporarily out of the UK by making an oral declaration or a declaration by conduct for temporary admission. Personal effects and goods for sports purposes are permitted for oral declarations. See the .gov

pages on this subject, link [here](#). This is the equivalent to travelling with your own boat or surfboard on the top of a car for a holiday. However, there have been incidents where vehicles have been stopped by foreign customs and charged duties when doing this.

There are still some grey areas here. Customs agents themselves were still learning the processes in 2022 (the first year Brexit procedures were enforced) and many people experienced some ambiguities. The situation is still very fluid with more changes scheduled for implementation in late 2023 and beyond.

### **Applying for an ATA Carnet**

ATA Carnets in the UK are issued by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Authorised Chamber Network.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-ata-carnet>

Register with the Chamber of Commerce (first time application): [Carnet Registration Page \(ecarnet.co.uk\)](#) Note this is for East Midlands Chamber, you can also use the London CoC or your local CoC.

Create a new Carnet application - either by using the wizard or by editing a previous carnet.

For an extensive equipment/boat list, an excel carnet template sheet can be completed and uploaded.

Visits/Transits:

If going to the EU only, just one visit is required.

If travelling through the EU to a non-EU country, such as Serbia, the EU is a transit country (2 x transits required) and the destination country is the visit.

Be sure to include all transit countries in each direction, for example if travelling through Switzerland (non-EU) this is an additional transit country. If travelling through

Serbia to Macedonia, you will need transits for both the EU and Serbia, in each direction and Macedonia is the visit country.

Give accurate descriptions of the goods (boats, equipment etc.). The description on the carnet should be thorough enough for the customs authorities to identify them. Include serial numbers if applicable.

Be accurate with the weights, this is a useful tool to ensure the maximum permissible mass of the vehicle or the train weight of the vehicle and trailer is not exceeded.

Complete, submit, sign forms as requested. Arrange payment and collection/delivery.

The front page must be signed by the person carrying overall responsibility for the carnet (usually the person completing the application). Send a copy of the signed front page to the Chamber of Commerce.

### **Other documents that may be required**

Goods Movement Reference (GMR): required to move goods through ports which use the Goods Vehicle Movement Service. Required when travelling by Eurotunnel. A separate GMR is required for both the outbound and inbound journeys.

Can be obtained from HMRC or via a customs document preparation service such as [www.customs-link.com](http://www.customs-link.com)

Safety and Security declaration (ENS). Has been a requirement when travelling by freight on Brittany Ferries to Spain. The UK were due to introduce this for imports from July 2022, however this has been postponed until the end 2023. It is not clear at the time of writing whether this will be required in conjunction with an ATA Carnet.

Some other acronyms you may come across:

EORI - Economic Operators' Registration Identification number;

MRN - Movement Reference Number;

CHIEF - customs system used by HMRC (only used by certain ports).

## Traveling with an ATA Carnet

See the .gov guidance about how to use an ATA Carnet:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-use-your-ata-carnet>

If travelling across the Chanel via Dover or Folkestone, you must use an Inland Border Facility (IBF) to get the carnet stamped in the UK (exiting and returning to the UK). Information on attending an IBF can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/attending-an-inland-border-facility>

If travelling via other ports, such as Harwich or Portsmouth, the carnet must be stamped at the port. The customs office is usually located on the freight side rather than the passenger side.

Important - you must show the carnet to customs and a corresponding stamp obtained each time you import or export your goods or pass through a country, including the UK (the EU is considered one customs territory).

The relevant (re)exportation/(re)importation slips can be completed in advance but must be signed in the presence of the customs agent. The slip will be retained at each customs stop.

Do not expect the customs agents to find you, it is your responsibility to find the customs office at each point and get the carnet stamped.

For a simple carnet, when travelling to and from the EU only, the finished carnet will have two stamps on the yellow pages from the UK (Exportation and re-Importation) and two stamps on the white pages from the EU (Importation and re-Exportation). If transfers are involved, these pages are blue.

Obtain an invitation from the event you're travelling to, include the drivers name on the invite. A must if travelling through Serbia or former eastern bloc countries but can only be an advantage should verification of your purpose for travel be requested.

## **Importance of getting things right**

General recommendation is to book a passenger reservation rather than freight.

Freight bookings can require additional customs paperwork.

Customs procedures should be taken seriously. You may have an easy transition on one trip but encounter a difficult customs agent on the next. Complacency is not advised.

- Possible problems/negative outcomes:
- Customs officials could demand on the spot fines or duties if they think correct procedures have not been followed.
- A customs agent could request a full inspection (ensure drivers are familiar with the carnet list and corresponding goods).
- HMRC could enforce an inspection on return to the UK (costs involved).
- Goods could be impounded.
- If there are irregularities, a Carnet could receive a conditional discharge, which means it will remain 'open' for up to 33 months and duties/taxes could be demanded within that period.





## **Policy Review Arrangements**

We will review this policy on an ongoing basis as part of our continuous improvement activity and revise it as and when necessary in response to customer and learner feedback, changes in our policies and processes and actions from allegations.

In addition, we may update this policy in light of operational feedback to make sure our arrangements for dealing with suspected cases of malpractice and maladministration remain effective.

## **Contact us**

If you have any queries about the contents of the policy, contact our customer service team:

Tel: 0300 0119 500

Email: [coaching@paddlesuptraining.com](mailto:coaching@paddlesuptraining.com)

Darryll Shaw

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