

# Moving to South Africa: Your Relocation Guide



By Appointment To  
Her Majesty The Queen  
Removals and Storage Contractor Abels

# ABELS™

THE ART OF MOVING

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Memb No: A001



FS 23942



198656



TELEPHONE:	Country code (27) + Area code
STANDARD TIME:	GMT +2 hours
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	220/380v or 230/400v
INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:	Inoculation against typhoid, malaria and polio recommended
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Jan 1, Mar 21, Mar 25 Good Friday, Mar 28 Easter Monday, Apr 27, May 1, 2, June 16, Aug 9, Sept 24, Dec 16, 25-27
OFFICE HOURS:	08.30-16.30 Monday – Friday
BANK HOURS:	08.30-15.30 Monday – Friday, 08.00-11.30 Saturday
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	999 – Police/General Emergency
UK EMBASSY IN SOUTH AFRICA:	UK Embassy 255 Hill Street, Pretoria 0002 Tel: +27 12 421 7500 Web: <a href="http://ukinsouthafrica.fco.gov.uk/en/">http://ukinsouthafrica.fco.gov.uk/en/</a>
TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION:	South Africa Tourism Board 422 Rigel Avenue South Frasmusrand 0181, Pretoria 0001 Tel: (12) 347 0600
SOUTH AFRICAN HIGH COMMISSION:	South Africa House, Trafalgar Square London WC2N 5DP Tel: 02074 517 299 Fax: 02074 517 284 Web: <a href="http://southafrica.embassyhomepage.com/">http://southafrica.embassyhomepage.com/</a>

## Moving to South Africa from the UK – Information and Advice: Abels Relocation Guide

### Customs

**To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import household goods and personal effects into South Africa. However, it is advisable to check with the authorities that documentation is in order, prior to despatch.**

You will be required to supply the following, prior to the departure of your effects from our warehouse, which should be submitted either prior to, or upon completion of packing at residence:

It is essential that the owner of the goods is in South Africa and has made contact with the Removal Company 10 working days before the arrival of the vessel at the port of entry. This is necessary in order to avoid port charges.

Returning residents must have been out of South Africa for an unbroken period of at least 6 months.

**In accordance with the South African Customs Regulations, “no packed by owner cartons (PBO)” or “cartons with contents unknown,” will be allowed into South Africa without automatic customs inspection. Should these cartons arrive, this will result in additional charges and may lead to re-exportation of the shipment back to origin.**

### Household Goods

Documents Required:

- DA 304 and P.1.160
- ORIGINAL Passport including page with date of entry in South Africa
- Avadavat (To be completed in South Africa by the customer)
- Permanent residence documents or Temporary residence permit and work permit
- Detailed inventory for attestation

Owner of the shipment must be in South Africa before Customs clearance can take place.

Returning residents must have been out of South Africa for an unbroken period of at least six months. If there is an unbroken period, Customs will apply duty and taxes.

No Duty Free import will be allowed on a tourist / visitor visa even if there is a pending work / resident permit application.

### Diplomats' removals

Documents require:

- Detailed inventory
- Diplomatic clearance
- Certificate from relevant Embassy in South Africa, and countersigned by South African Department of Foreign Affairs

Duty free.

### Wedding trousseaux

Invoice required.

Subject to payment of duties.

### Inheritance

Documents required:

- Copy of Death Certificate
- Copy of will of deceased or certified relevant extract there from or copy of Probate from the Court, if the deceased died interstate. An English translation is necessary if document is not in English
- Inventory (if copy Will or other document does not specifically detail the goods to be imported) with supporting declaration from the Lawyer confirming that the goods to be imported are the legatee's rightful share of the estate
- Import permit
- Declaration from the Legatee confirming that they are a permanent resident in South Africa and a beneficiary under the Will of the deceased
- Special application must be made to Customs

Duty free entry if the legatee is permanently residing in South Africa.

Duty is payable on motorcars, motor cycles and mopeds. A “Letter of Authority” (LOA) is to be issued by the South African Bureau of Standards in Pretoria.

The goods should not be dispatched until the Customs have given authority for Duty free entry.

### New furniture, Household items, Presents and Souvenirs

- Detailed inventory with values

Subject to payment of full duties.

### Works of art, Antiques

Duty free entry if:

Works of art are forming a part of a bona fide household removal or articles are over 100 years old. These articles have been in the use and possession of the owner for more than 12 months and are not for sale or other disposal.

### Precious metal objects

Duty free entry is allowed on the same basis and under the same conditions as furniture and other articles.

Motor cars, motor-cycles, mopeds, power driven boats with inboard engines.

Documents required:

- Customs form DA 304/A
- Registration papers
- Document showing that the vehicle has been in the owner's use and possession abroad for more than 365 days before the importation of the vehicle



- Original purchase invoice, copy insurance certificate
- Import permit issued from the Department of Trade and Industry in South Africa, has to be submitted to Customs at the time of clearance of all vehicles imported into South Africa
- A “letter of authority” (LOA issued by the National Regulator for Compulsory Regulation in Pretoria – South Africa, has to be submitted to Customs at the time of clearance of all motor vehicles (excluding motor cycles) imported into South Africa.

Duty free entry if:

The vehicles (cars, motor cycles, mopeds) will not be sold or otherwise disposed of for two years after the date of importation.

Value added tax as current rate is assessed on the imported value of the vehicle.

A fee of R1800.00 per vehicle, payable to the National Regulator is applicable..

Temporary residents must pay a CASH customs bond to cover full duties and taxes and can only apply for a refund from the South African Department of Customs and Excise of this Cash Bond on proof of re-export of the motor car from South Africa.

Returning residents pay full duties and taxes. Temporary residents must provide a customs bond to cover full duties and taxes, and do not need an Import Permit.

Foreign Diplomats pay no duties or taxes, subject to provision of Diplomatic clearance certificate, and proof of value.

No left-hand drive motor vehicles new or used purchased after January 1st 2000 will be allowed to be imported in South Africa.

If the left-hand drive motor vehicle is purchased prior to January 1st 2000. It is a customs requirement for the motor vehicle to have been registered in South Africa. If not registered in South Africa, customs will not grant customs clearance.

The vehicle must not be dispatched from Origin until you receive the Import Permit from the Department of Trade and Industry and a “Letter of Authority” from the National Regulator for Compulsory Regulation.

### **Caravans, Trailers**

Subject to payment of duties.

### **Dangerous Goods, Firearms**

Documents required:

- Import permit
- South African Police Firearm Registrar
- Certificate SAP 312

### **Plants and vegetable products**

Documents required:

- Phytosanitary certificate

### **Dogs, Cats, Birds**

Documents required:

- Rabies Vaccination certificate
- Health certificate
- Import permit

Import permit granted after the owner has made arrangements for the period of quarantine required for pets travelling from most, but not all countries.

### **Wine, Liquor, Alcohol**

Documents required:

- Import permit obtained from Department of Agriculture, Directorate Plant Health and Quality. Telephone number +27 11 970 3130/1. Fax +27 11 970 3132
- Liquor removal certificate

Subject to payment of full duties.

It is necessary to fulfill these conditions before the arrival of the shipment. In order that the permit is to be submitted, the customer will need to supply the following information:

- Type of Alcohol
- Trade name of maker / winery
- % of alcohol
- Year of manufacture
- Seal number / codes on each bottle
- Number of bottles, each type / make
- Value for customs purposes

### **Prohibited Goods**

- Narcotic and habit-forming drugs in any form
- Fully automatic, military and unnumbered weapons, explosives and fireworks
- Poison and other toxic substances
- Cigarettes with a mass of more than 2 kgs per 1000
- Goods to which a trade description or trade mark is applied in contravention of any Act, (for example counterfeit goods)
- Unlawful reproduction of any works subject to copyright
- Prison-made and penitentiary-made goods
- Left hand drive vehicles registered in South Africa after 23rd July 2004
- Pornographic books and magazines
- “Walkie-talkie” radios
- Certain feathers, furs, skins, tusks, etc of animals coming under the protected species regulations

### **Restricted Goods**

Certain goods may only be imported provided you are in possession of the necessary authority/permit.

If you are in any doubt whether the importation of other goods is restricted, please contact Abels Moving Services. A few examples of the goods in question are listed here for your information:

- South African bank notes in excess of R 500000, gold coins, coin and stamp collections and unprocessed gold are subject to currency control
- Endangered species of plants or wild life, whether live or dead, including any parts of and articles made from them
- Plants and plant products, such as seem, flowers, fruit, honey, margarine and vegetable oils
- Animals, birds, poultry and products thereof, for example dairy products butter and eggs
- Medicine (excluding sufficient quantities for one month for own personal treatment) accompanied by a letter or Director-General: National Health and Population Development
- By way of a concession, up to 10 kg of tinned or hermetically sealed pork per family, may be imported from Zimbabwe without production of the necessary permit

### **Fumigation of wood packaging**

All wood packaging utilized on Import Shipments to South Africa must be ISPM 15 certified at origin. This means that each wooden crate that comes into the country must be treated against plagues and marked in accordance with the requirement of ISPM 15.

Inspectors from the South African Department of Agriculture will inspect Import Shipments at South African Ports to determine that this requirement has been adhered to and obviously shipments containing wood packages not having the ISPM 15 International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures mark will not be allowed into South Africa.

Therefore you are urged to research this requirement with your suppliers of wood / timber packaging materials at origin to ensure that this South African regulation is complied with.

Inspectors from the South African Department of Agriculture will inspect Import Shipments at Ports to determine that this requirement has been adhered to and obviously shipments containing wood packages not having the ISPM 15 mark will not be allowed in the country.

### **Food**

We strongly recommend that shippers be advised not to ship any commercially prepared and purchased food product with your unaccompanied personal goods.

This includes: wines, spirits, beer, cider, spices, herbs, canned packed or wrapped foods, pet food, pastas, rice, food supplements, vitamins, fruit juices, carbonated / non carbonated drinks, milk, perishable foods, dry foods and any other item intended for human or animal consumption.

If the shipper insists on shipping food items, the specified information below must be gathered and provided for each food item imported. If the information is not provided, the

food items may face refusal of entry, requiring segregation / manipulation of the shipment under customs supervision at a bonded facility, at substantial additional cost. Costs could be in the thousands of dollars and can not be anticipated. These costs will be the responsibility of the client.

- Product brand name
- Product classification
- Country of production
- Country of packaging
- Type of product (canned, bottled, packaged)
- Quantity

Ask for Abels **form QF565** for completing.

### **General Information on the Republic of South Africa**

#### **Background**

Dutch traders landed at the southern tip of modern day South Africa in 1652 and established a stopover point on the spice route between the Netherlands and the Far East, founding the city of Cape Town. After the British seized the Cape of Good Hope area in 1806, many of the Dutch settlers (Afrikaners, called “Boers” (farmers) by the British) trekked north to found their own republics in lands taken from the indigenous black inhabitants. The discovery of diamonds (1867) and gold (1886) spurred wealth and immigration and intensified the subjugation of the native inhabitants. The Afrikaners resisted British encroachments but were defeated in the Second South African War (1899-1902); however, the British and the Afrikaners, ruled together beginning in 1910 under the Union of South Africa, which became a republic in 1961 after a whites-only referendum. In 1948, the Afrikaner-dominated National Party was voted into power and instituted a policy of apartheid - the separate development of the races - which favored the white minority at the expense of the black majority. The African National Congress (ANC) led the opposition to apartheid and many top ANC leaders, such as Nelson MANDELA, spent decades in South Africa’s prisons. Internal protests and insurgency, as well as boycotts by some Western nations and institutions, led to the regime’s eventual willingness to negotiate a peaceful transition to majority rule. The first multi-racial elections in 1994 following the end of apartheid ushered in majority rule under an ANC-led government. South Africa since then has struggled to address apartheid-era imbalances in decent housing, education, and health care. ANC infighting came to a head in 2008 when President Thabo MBEKI was recalled by Parliament, and Deputy President Kgalema MOTLANTHE, succeeded him as interim president. Jacob ZUMA became president after the ANC won general elections in 2009; he was reelected in 2014.

#### **Geography**

South Africa occupies most of the southern part of Africa. It borders five states, surrounds Lesotho and has a long coastline stretching from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean.



Much of the land is a vast plateau, covered with grassland or bush and drained by the Orange and Limpopo river systems. A fertile coastal plain rises to mountain ridges in the South East, including Table Mountain near Cape Town and the Drakensberg range in the East.

## Climate

African summers begin in October and end in March. The climate is generally sunny and temperate and the average number of sunshine days are among the highest in the world. Winters are mild and clear, although snow does occur on the higher mountain ranges in the Cape and Natal, causing cold spells in the surrounding areas. Winter nights are far cooler ranging from between minus one Celsius to around eight Celsius throughout the country. The South-Western Cape province enjoys a Mediterranean type climate (dry summers, winter rainfall).

The remainder of the country experiences summer rainfall, mostly in the form of short thunderstorms. Summer temperatures range from 22 degrees Celsius to 29 degrees Celsius.

## Population

The estimated population is 44 million. Estimates for this country explicitly take into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS. This can result in lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality and death rates. Lower population and growth rates and changes and changes in the distribution of population by age and sex than would otherwise be expected.

## Language

South Africa has a range of languages, English being the official language, together with Afrikaans and languages of all the nine major ethnic groups, including Zulu, Xhosa, North and South Sotho, Tswana, Shangaan-Tsonga, Swazi, Venda and Ndebele. South Africa also has large Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese and German communities.

## Environmental Issues

There is a lack of important arterial rivers or lakes which require extensive water conservation and control measures. The growth in water usage is outpacing the supplies. There is pollution of rivers from agricultural runoff and urban discharge. Also air pollution resulting in acid rain, soil erosion and desertification.

## Economy

South Africa is a middle-income, emerging market with an abundant supply of natural resources; well-developed financial, legal, communications, energy, and transport sectors; and a stock exchange that is Africa's largest and among the top 20 in the world. Even though the country's modern infrastructure supports a relatively efficient distribution of goods to major urban centers throughout the region, unstable electricity supplies retard growth. Economic growth has decelerated in

recent years, slowing to just 1.5% in 2014. Unemployment, poverty, and inequality - among the highest in the world - remain a challenge. Official unemployment is roughly 25% of the work force, and runs significantly higher among black youth. Eskom, the state-run power company, is building three new power stations and is installing new power demand management programs to improve power grid reliability. Load shedding and resulting rolling blackouts gripped many parts of South Africa in late 2014 and early 2015 because of electricity supply constraints that resulted from technical problems at some generation units, unavoidable planned maintenance, and an accident at a power station in Mpumalanga province. The rolling black outs were the worst the country faced since 2008. Construction delays at two additional plants, however, mean South Africa will continue to operate on a razor thin margin; economists judge that growth cannot exceed 3% until electrical supply problems are resolved.

South Africa's economic policy has focused on controlling inflation; however, the country faces structural constraints that also limit economic growth, such as skills shortages, declining global competitiveness and frequent work stoppages due to strike action. The current government faces growing pressure from urban constituencies to improve the delivery of basic services to low-income areas and to increase job growth.

## International Disputes

South Africa has placed military along the border to apprehend the thousands of Zimbabweans fleeing economic dysfunction and political persecution; as of January 2007, South Africa also supports large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (33,000), Somalia (20,000), Burundi (6,500), and other states in Africa (26,000); managed dispute with Namibia over the location of the boundary in the Orange River; in 2006, Swazi king advocates resort to ICJ to claim parts of Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal from South Africa.

## Currency and Banks

The currency of South Africa is the Rand, which is subdivided into 100 cents. Notes are in the following denominations: R100, R20, R10, and coins: R5, R2, 50c, 20c, 10c, 5c, 2c, 1c. Cheques and credit cards are widely used and accepted. The banking system is highly sophisticated.

Potential immigrants should contact their local bank for advice on bringing money into South Africa - there is no limit on the amount.

## Education

Education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and sixteen and consists of primary and high schools. Most children attend government schools which are state subsidised, but school fees are still paid. Approximately 6% of children attend private schools where fees are higher than government schools. A school uniform is compulsory at almost every school. There are a wide variety of tertiary educational



institutes in South Africa. Students pay fees for their university and other territory education facilities.

Since apartheid investment in Education has more than doubled from R31 billion to R69 billion. Adult basic educational training to address the high illiteracy proportion is seen as an important progression which the state through reasonable measures must make progressively available to all.

### Religion

Zion Christian 11.1%, Pentecostal/Charismatic 8.2%, Catholic 7.1%, Methodist 6.8%, Dutch Reformed 6.7%, Anglican 3.8%, Muslim 1.5%, other Christian 36%, other 2.3%, unspecified 1.4%, none 15.1%.

### Health

Sanitation standards in South Africa are high, all city water is safe to drink and milk is pasteurised but not homogenized. If you intend visiting game parks, it is advisable that medication be taken against malaria.

South African medical facilities are very good, with excellent clinics, hospitals and laboratory facilities. Medical care and pharmaceutical products are expensive and a good medical insurance scheme is a must.

### Pets

Household pets and other animals can only be brought into South Africa with a permit. Animals may be subject to quarantine at the owners expense. The length of quarantine varies depending on the animal's country of origin. There are three quarantine centers in South Africa based at the three international airports. Quarantine is for at least 30 days.

### Electricity

In Pretoria, electrical current is 250 volts, single phase, 50 cycles AC, in Durban and Cape Town current is 220 volts, two wire 50 cycles AC. For the most part 230 volt appliances can be operated safely. Transformers, available locally, are necessary for all 110 volt appliances. Some units, particularly TV sets, cannot be successfully converted, since they sometimes work from 60 cycles AC. Electric blankets and heaters need not be converted and are highly recommended because of lack of central heating. All appliances and maintenance services are readily available, at prices frequently higher than those in Western countries.

### Employment

Foreign nationals intending to work in South Africa must obtain temporary work and residence permits. The applicant must have a job offer in South Africa. Employed persons with valid work permits need not renew their residence permits.

The Department of Home Affairs issues work permits and administrate matters relating to residence. Due to a shortage of skilled labor and management personnel in South Africa, work permits are generally granted. Work permits are valid for six months and may be renewed regularly.

### Banking hours

Weekdays from 9.00 am to 3.30 pm and Saturday from 8.30 am to 11.30 am. Cash dispensing machines (ATMs) operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### Housing

Flats and houses are widely available in the major centers and expatriates usually rent a detached house with garden and garage or other parking facilities. Utilities are never included in rental prices. In case of flats, service charges are usually included in the rent as is garage space. Telephones can take anything from one day to four weeks to install. Leases are normally one year with the option to renew. Landlords prefer company lets.

*Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Abels Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Abels cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.*