

# Moving to Zimbabwe: 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 (263) + Area code
STANDARD TIME:	GMT +2 hours
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	220/240V AC 50 Hz
INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:	Inoculation against malaria, yellow fever, typhoid and polio recommended
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Jan 1, Apr 18, May 1, May 25, Aug 11/12, Dec 25/26. 4 days at Easter
OFFICE HOURS:	08.30-16.30 Monday – Friday
BANK HOURS:	08.00-15.00 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 08.00-13.00 Wednesday & 08.00-11.30 Saturday
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	999 = All, 995 = Police, 994 = Ambulance, 993 = Fire
BRITISH EMBASSY:	3 Norfolk Road, Mount Pleasant Harare PO Box 4490 Tel: 263 (0) 4 8585 5200 Fax: 263 (0) 4 338825 (Consular) Web: <a href="http://ukinzimbabwe.fco.gov.uk/en">http://ukinzimbabwe.fco.gov.uk/en</a>
TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION:	Zimbabwe Tourism Authority Tourism House, 55 Samora Machel Avenue, Harare Fax: +263 4 758826 Email: <a href="mailto:info@ztazim.co.zw">info@ztazim.co.zw</a> Web: <a href="http://www.zimbabwetourism.net">http://www.zimbabwetourism.net</a>
ZIMBABWE HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON:	Zimbabwe House, 429 Strand London WC2R 0JR (Mon – Fri 9am – 5pm) Tel: 020 7836 7755 Fax: 02073 791 167 Web: <a href="http://www.zimlondon.gov.zw">http://www.zimlondon.gov.zw</a>

## **Customs**

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

**The physical presence of the client is required during customs clearance.**

**Customs will inspect all shipments.**

## **Household Goods**

Documents required:

**Immigrants or returning residents after an absence of not less than 2 years**

- The immigrant's Declaration
- Undertaking Form 170 for personal and household effects
- The person's valid passport
- Residence or Work Permit
- The Bill of Lading (BOL) or Airway Bill (AWB)
- Inventory with serial numbers of electrical appliances
- Valued inventory
- For returning residence who have been working / studying out of Zimbabwe: proof of termination of employment / completion of studies is required
- Bank statement for the last six months
- Payslips for the past two years
- Proof of residence in Zimbabwe, either utility bill or lease agreement (first and last page)
- Exit stamp when left Zimbabwe
- Accepted returning resident stamp i.e. Accepted RR

**Returning residents after an absence of less than two years**

- Immigrant's Declaration
- Undertaking Form
- Valid passport
- Proof of original export if it's a re-importation
- Invoice / receipts of goods being imported since the goods will be paying duty
- Valued Inventory
- Bill of lading / airway bill / road manifest
- Proof of residence in Zimbabwe, either utility bill or lease agreement (first and last page)
- Freight Invoice

## **Deceased Estates – Goods forwarded to Beneficiaries in Zimbabwe**

- Certified copy of will
- Statement of value of goods by the executor of the estate

- Written undertaking not to sell or dispose of the goods within one year of importation
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Inventory of items
- Valued inventory
- Bill of lading / airway bill / road manifest
- Freight Invoice

## **Work permit**

- Immigrant's Declaration
- Undertaking Form
- Valid passport
- Work permit
- Inventory of goods
- Valued Inventory
- Bills of lading / airway bill / road manifest
- Proof of residence in Zimbabwe, either utility bill or lease agreement (first and last page)
- Letter of contract from new employ in Zimbabwe

## **Household goods exclude:**

Firearms, motor vehicles, motor caravans.

No duties if the client has a work or residence permit.

No duties applicable if the client is a returning resident and has lived outside Zimbabwe for more than two years.

Duties will be applicable if the client has lived for less than two years outside Zimbabwe.

All immigrants are required to be physically present at Customs for customs clearance.

No imported goods may be sold, leased or otherwise disposed of for 24 months from their date of entry, unless customs duties are paid.

All personal effects and household goods must be imported within three months after the returning resident's time of arrival or after the time the work or resident permit has been granted to an immigrant.

It takes about two days to clear through customs for returning residence and those coming on residence / work permit.

Goods must arrive within three months from the time that you arrive into Zimbabwe from the date on the passport.

## **Diplomats Removals**

Document required:

- Inventory of goods
- Valued Inventory
- Bill of lading / air way bill / road manifest
- Passport
- Diplomatic card

- A report order letter of Identity from Embassy / Organisation
- All documents, duly completed and signed by the diplomat must be submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Customs for clearance.

Diplomatic shipments must be imported within three months after the time of the diplomat's arrival.

Diplomats first clear their goods through Ministry of Foreign Affairs and then customs. Clearance with Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes four to fourteen days and less than a day at customs.

### **Wedding Trousseaux**

Require original invoices and freight statement.

### **Accompanied luggage:**

Customs will assess the value of presents/souvenirs and if value exceeds USD 300.00 per individual duty is payable on the excess amount.

### **Unaccompanied luggage:**

Customs will need proof that the traveller owns consignment, or customs will charge import duty on full value.

### **Inheritance**

Documents required:

- Copy of Will
- Death Certificate
- Letter from Executor

No duty payable

### **New furniture and household goods**

Require invoices and freight charges.

Subject to duty.

Not applicable for new immigrants.

### **Works of Art, Antiques**

See Household Goods.

Subject to duty.

### **Motor Vehicles**

Documents Required

For immigrants or returning residents after an absence of not less than two years.

- Form 171 (MV) for motor vehicles
- Immigrant's declaration
- Passport
- Residence permit/Work permit
- New vehicles other than above require invoice, registration document and freight costs

Each member of the family over the age of 18 years can import a motor vehicle free of duty and tax, provided the importer before their entry into Zimbabwe purchased the vehicle. Where the vehicle has been recently acquired all

relevant documentation including invoices, bank cheques and statements, etc. will have to be produced to the Customs.

For a returning resident absent for less than two years, vehicle is subject to duty in foreign currency based on full value.

Taxes on car will depend on age and engine capacity. it may vary between 100% and 110% Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF).

The Original Bill of Lading (OBL) must show Chassis Number, Engine number, Cubic Capacity, year of manufacture, brand and model.

There are no restrictions on the importation of vehicles. Used and new cars are allowed as long as they were in physical existence and fully paid for by the Diplomat or Immigrant before their time of arrival in Zimbabwe. Only one vehicle per person aged 18 is allowed duty free and the carrying capacity of the vehicle should be less than fifteen people including the driver.

### **Alcohol**

Persons visiting Zimbabwe and Zimbabwean residents returning to their country, aged at least 18 years, may import a maximum of two litres of alcoholic drink, of which not more than two litres may be spirits.

### **Pets**

Document required:

- Vaccination certificate

Are subject to import control. Applications for licence should be made in the case of animals to the Director of Veterinary Services.

### **Dangerous Goods**

Are subject to import control. Applications should be made in the case of firearms and ammunitions to the Secretary of Home Affairs.

### **Citrus fruits, deciduous plants, seeds**

May not be imported unless an import licence has been obtained in advance from the competent agricultural authorities and a Phytosanitary certificate is required.

### **Prohibited Items**

Drugs, pornographic books, forged documents, counterfeit money, foodstuff.

### **Agricultural equipment**

Documents required

- Commercial invoice
- Packing list
- Bill of Lading / Airway bill

Duty Free

### **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 Zimbabwe

### Background

The UK annexed Southern Rhodesia from the former British South Africa Company in 1923. A 1961 constitution was formulated that favored whites in power. In 1965 the government unilaterally declared its independence, but the UK did not recognize the act and demanded more complete voting rights for the black African majority in the country (then called Rhodesia). UN sanctions and a guerrilla uprising finally led to free elections in 1979 and independence (as Zimbabwe) in 1980. Robert MUGABE, the nation's first prime minister, has been the country's only ruler (as president since 1987) and has dominated the country's political system since independence. His chaotic land redistribution campaign, which began in 1997 and intensified after 2000, caused an exodus of white farmers, crippled the economy, and ushered in widespread shortages of basic commodities. Ignoring international condemnation, MUGABE rigged the 2002 presidential election to ensure his reelection.

In April 2005, the capital city of Harare embarked on Operation Restore Order, ostensibly an urban rationalization program, which resulted in the destruction of the homes or businesses of 700,000 mostly poor supporters of the opposition. MUGABE in June 2007 instituted price controls on all basic commodities causing panic buying and leaving store shelves empty for months. General elections held in March 2008 contained irregularities but still amounted to a censure of the ZANU-PF-led government with the opposition winning a majority of seats in parliament. Movement for Democratic Change - Tsvangirai opposition leader Morgan TSVANGIRAI won the most votes in the presidential poll, but not enough to win outright. In the

lead up to a run-off election in June 2008, considerable violence against opposition party members led to the withdrawal of TSVANGIRAI from the ballot. Extensive evidence of violence and intimidation resulted in international condemnation of the process. Difficult negotiations over a power-sharing "government of national unity," in which MUGABE remained president and TSVANGIRAI became prime minister, were finally settled in February 2009, although the leaders failed to agree upon many key outstanding governmental issues. MUGABE was reelected president in June 2013 in balloting that was severely flawed and internationally condemned. As a prerequisite to holding the election, Zimbabwe enacted a new constitution by referendum, although many provisions in the new constitution have yet to be codified in law.

### Geography

The Republic of Zimbabwe is a land locked state situated in Central Southern Africa, between the Limpopo and Zambezi rivers. It is bounded by Mozambique in the east and north east, Zambia in the north, Botswana in the west and South Africa in the south. The capital of Zimbabwe is Harare.

The Zambezi forms a natural river boundary with Zambia; in full flood (February-April) the massive Victoria Falls on the river forms the world's largest curtain of falling water.

### International disputes

Botswana has built electric fences and South Africa has placed military along the border to stem the flow of thousands of Zimbabweans fleeing to find work and escape political persecution; Namibia has supported and in 2004 Zimbabwe dropped objections to plans between Botswana and Zambia to build a bridge over the Zambezi River, thereby de facto recognizing a short, but not clearly delimited Botswana-Zambia boundary in the river.

### Climate

Situated south of the equator; the seasons are the reverse of those in the northern hemisphere with mid-summer at Christmas and winter lasting from May to August. The temperatures given are those for the main centres and it must be realized that it is considerably warmer all year round in low lying areas such as Kariba, Victoria Falls, Hwange, Gona-re-Zhou and the Zambezi Valley. In winter the days are generally dry and sunny with average temperatures of 15°C - 20°C.

Light clothing is essential and it is advisable to wear a hat out of doors. The rainy season is November to March and can be cooler.

### Environment Issues

Deforestation, soil erosion, land degradation, air and water pollution, the black rhinoceros herd – once the largest concentration of the species in the world has been significantly reduced by poaching; poor mining practices have led to toxic waste and heavy metal pollution.



## Population

The population of Zimbabwe is approximately 12 million, in recent times the life expectancy has reduced by 17% because of the effect of AIDS.

The bulk of Zimbabwe's population is formed by two major Bantu-speaking ethnic groups: the Shona (Mashona), who constitute at least 70% of the total population, and the Ndebele (Matabele), who constitute about 15% of the total and are concentrated in the south-western regions. There are several minor indigenous ethnic groups, including the Tonga, Sena, Venda and Sotho. The country also has small minorities of Europeans, Asians and persons of mixed ethnic origin.

## Language

English is the official language of Zimbabwe. The most important spoken languages are Shona and Sindebele sometimes called Ndebele. There are numerous other tribal dialects.

## Religion

Syncretic (part Christian, part indigenous beliefs) 50%, Christian 25%, indigenous beliefs 24%, Muslim and other 1%.

## Currency

The Zimbabwe dollar stopped circulating in 2009; since then the US dollar and South African Rand have been the most frequently used currencies; there are no reliable estimates on the amount of foreign currency circulating in Zimbabwe.

## Economy

Zimbabwe's economy depends heavily on its mining and agriculture sectors. Following a decade of contraction from 1998 to 2008, the economy recorded real growth of more than 10% per year in the period 2010-13, before slowing to roughly 3% in 2014 due to poor harvests, low diamond revenues, and decreased investment. Lower mineral prices, infrastructure and regulatory deficiencies, a poor investment climate, a large public and external debt burden, and extremely high government wage expenses impede the country's economic performance.

Until early 2009, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) routinely printed money to fund the budget deficit, causing hyperinflation. Dollarization in early 2009 - which allowed currencies such as the Botswana pula, the South Africa rand, and the US dollar to be used locally - ended hyperinflation and reduced inflation below 10% per year. The RBZ introduced bond coins denominated in 1, 5, 10, and 25 cent increments on a par with the US dollar in December 2014, more than five years after the Zimbabwe dollar was taken out of circulation. In January 2015, as part of the government's effort to boost trade and attract foreign investment, the RBZ announced that the Chinese renminbi, Indian rupee, Australian dollar, and Japanese yen would be accepted as legal tender in Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe's government entered a second Staff Monitored Program with the IMF in 2014 and undertook other measures to re-engage with international financial institutions. Foreign and domestic investment continues to be hindered by the

lack of clarity regarding the government's Indigenization and Economic Empowerment Act. In 2015 the depreciation of the South African rand against the US dollar has led to deflation in Zimbabwe as prices for South African imports decline while the costs of domestic production in US dollars remains stable.

## Health

The provision of basic services and health care is unreliable. There is a shortage of drugs and trained medical staff in hospitals, making it difficult for hospitals to treat certain illnesses including accidents and trauma cases. Standards of nursing care even in private hospitals vary. Private clinics will not treat patients until they pay and often require large amounts of cash before they will admit even emergency cases. Hospitals are often too full to admit patients and medical costs for evacuation can be high. The shortage of fuel has reduced emergency response capabilities. Pharmacies may not be able to provide you with the appropriate drug prescribed by your doctor.

Zimbabwe has suffered serious outbreaks of cholera in the past killing thousands, malaria is common. 14% of the Adult population have AID's. There have been Typhoid outbreaks. Sporadic outbreaks of E-coli and other diarrheal diseases. Measles is endemic in parts of Africa.

## Local Laws and Customs

Photography of Government military establishments, airports, embassies and sensitive facilities including State house in Harare is strictly prohibited. Avoid the area of the Presidents residence and do not use GPS in this area.

The simultaneous holding of a Zimbabwean and a foreign passport is prohibited and authorities may prosecute.

There are laws against indecency. It is against the law to wear any form of clothing made from camouflage materials.

## Travel by Public transport

Air Zimbabwe flights, buses and trains are unreliable and may be cancelled or not run on schedule. Buses are overcrowded inadequately maintained, frequently not insured and the drivers are often reckless. They are not recommended.

## Telephone

The general assessment: system was once one of the best in Africa, but now suffers from poor maintenance

**Domestic:** consists of microwave radio relay links, open-wire lines, radio, telephone communication stations, fixed wireless local loop installations, and a substantial mobile-cellular network; Internet connection is available in Harare and planned for all major towns and for some of the smaller ones.

**International:** satellite earth stations - 2 Intelsat; 2 international digital gateway exchanges (in Harare and Gweru).

## **Broadcast Media**

The government owns all local radio and television stations; foreign shortwave broadcasts and satellite television are available to those who can afford antennas and receivers; in rural areas, access to television broadcasts is extremely limited.

*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.*