**1. Who is qualified to import household goods duty free into Nigeria?**

1. Any Nigerian who had been living outside the country for a continuous period of 9 months or more. This is usually interpreted by customs to mean that the person had not visited or entered Nigeria in the last 9 months.

1. Any foreigner with a work visa or residence permit longer than 6 months.

1. **What items are allowed in?**

All **previously used** household items are allowed in.

New items, Motor Vehicles and items in commercial quantities are not permitted.

1. **What items are prohibited for importation?**

The Nigerian customs constantly updates the list of prohibited items on their website https://www.customs.gov.ng/ProhibitionList/import.php. Please note that the website is not updated frequently, and you may want to check with MEBS if you have any questions on specific items.

1. **What is classified as a new item?**

Any item that is disassembled or left in its original packaging (for example a box of IKEA furniture) or any item that appears completely unused, even if not recently purchased.

1. **What happens if I have new items?**

Customs can ask you to pay the applicable import duty on the items. If the items are prohibited for import, Customs can declare the container as contraband and seize the entire container.

In all cases, having new items delays the clearing process, sometimes considerably.

1. **What amount of goods would be classified as commercial quantity?**



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The regulations are not clear and are subject to the judgement of the customs officer inspecting the cargo. Usually we advise that clients do not bring more than 1 carton of any item.

1. **What are the requirements for importing a motor vehicle?**

The vehicle must be less than 10 years old. Duty is usually 35% of assessed value plus 5% VAT. Please note that assessed value is set by Nigerian customs and does not depend on how much the car was purchased for but based on their estimate of its market value.

1. **Are there any time restrictions for bringing in my personal effects?**

Yes. Customs provides that all personal effects must be brought in within 3 months of entry into Nigeria, as determined by the immigration date of entry stamp on your passport.

Exemptions are possible but there are cumbersome, and we recommend that you keep to the 3 months rule.

1. **How long does the clearing process take?**

For air cargo, it usually takes less than 5 working days and for ocean containers, about 10 working days to clear and deliver.



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1. **What documents would you need from me?**

We always need the original international passport of the shipper for the duration of the clearing process. This is to allow customs process the duty exemption. For foreigners, we will also need their work visa or residence permit.

In some specific cases, we may also need official letters on letterheads from your employers. We will usually provide a template to guide the drafting of these letters.

1. **Am I allowed to bring in food?**

Yes, as long as it is not in commercial quantities and is not on the list of prohibited items.

1. **What is a container deposit and why do I have to pay it?**

A container deposit is a monetary security collected by the shipping line to ensure that customers return their empty containers after use. It is approx. ₦100,000 ($278) for 20’ containers and approx. ₦200,000 ($555) for 40’ containers. For legal reasons, the shipping container refunds this money to the consignee on the Bill of Lading. This means we cannot pay it on our client’s behalf.

The refund is usually processed within 45 days after delivery of container and, depending on shipping line, either a bank draft is issued, or a transfer is sent to client’s account directly. Please ensure that the refund is returned back to your organization quickly.

1. **Do I have to pay any parking fees/estate fees at time of offloading?**

MEBS takes responsibility for offloading of your container and for official receipted payments charged by estates or government agencies at time of delivery. However, where demand for unreceipted charges are made by unregulated persons or groups during delivery, we would need you to be involved in the discussion and resolution of these cases as the outcome can only be determined on a case by case basis.

1. **What happens if any of my items are damaged?**

Your employer may have purchased insurance on your behalf. If your employer does not offer insurance, MEBS can provide insurance for your items at the point of packing. The MEBS fee for insurance is usually a percentage of the declared value of your items.



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For uninsured items, MEBS will only pay for damage that occurred due to our action or inaction. Please note that all damage claims must be noted on delivery documents at time of offloading. In exceptional cases, MEBS will accept claims for damage within a week of delivery.

I ……………………………………………………………. certify that I have read and understood this FAQ

Date …………………………. Signature ……………………….



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