

Import Requirements in Angola

Import taxes and fees for products entering Angola are calculated on CIF (cost, insurance and freight) value of the product and include:

- Import duty can vary from: 2 to 50 percent
- General customs fee: 2 percent
- Brokerage fee: 0.5 to 2 percent average
- Port fees: USD 90 for 20' container and USD 153 for 40' container
- Terminal handling port fees up to the equivalent of USD 278 per 20' container and USD 473 per 40' container
- Stamp duty: 1 percent

Import Quotas & licenses:

Importers must be registered with the Ministry of Industry and Trade for the category of product they are importing.

Only registered companies can apply for an import license Import quotas on 14 food and beverage products where domestic production is deemed to meet 60 percent of market demand. The decree also required importers of a range of food and building materials products to register through a new process that includes presentation of company details, projected import volume, and a demonstration of warehousing/ refrigeration capacity. Delays in obtaining import licenses remains the top barrier for importers in the retail network.

Another regulation requires that importers demonstrate that they either cannot find a product domestically or already have a contract to purchase products domestically. The decree aims to decrease reliance on imports by increasing local production in 54 product categories.

On March 17, 2021, Executive Decree 63/21 of established new rules on the importation of pre-packaged products starting June 15, 2021. The decree established that imports of a series of identified products must be packaged in bulk for shipping, in “big bags” of at least one ton. The decree then mandates that the packaging process be carried out in Angola. According to the Ministry of Industry and Trade, this measure will make it possible to generate jobs and revenue for the country since the products will be imported at lower prices and create opportunity for the emergence of small and medium-sized packaging and logistics industries. However, from a WTO perspective of free trade, the measure may constitute a non-tariff barrier to trade.

Testing Requirements:

Imports of foods and pharmaceutical products are subject to quality testing during customs clearance. Once imported into Angola, these products are subject to additional oversight by the Ministries of Industry and Trade, Agriculture, and Health.

Labeling Requirements:

The Angolan Government requires labeling in Portuguese on all products imported and sold in the country. Labels must include list of ingredients, expiration dates, quantity, production batch, name and address of manufacturer or seller, and country of origin. Imports are only permitted if a minimum six-month shelf life is remaining for the product.

Testing, Inspection and Certification

Conformity Assessment

The conformity assessment system is managed by two separate public entities, which fall under the supervision of the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The Angolan

Institute of Standardization and Quality (IANORQ) is responsible for certification and the Angolan Institute of Accreditation (IAAC) is responsible for accreditation.

Angola is also an affiliate country of the International Electro-technical Commission that publishes consensus-based International Standards and manages conformity assessment systems for electric and electronic products, systems and services.

Product Certification

The certification system is managed by IANORQ, which is responsible for coordinating national standardization activities and overseeing legal metrology in Angola.

Given the strong presence in Angola of products distributed through Portugal, ISO and CE markings are commonly found on products sold in Angola. While these standards are not required to be met in Angola, they give consumers a sense of confidence in product quality.

Angola is a member country of WHO/FAO Codex Alimentarius International Food Standards and uses these standards to enforce food safety.

Accreditation

Currently, accreditation is not mandatory in Angola. However, in 2015 the Angolan government through the Ministry of Industry established the Angolan Institute of Accreditation (IAAC) which will be the entity responsible for accreditation in the future. At this time accreditation can be done by foreign entities. The IAAC currently serves as a point of contact for Southern African Development Community Accreditation Services (SADCAS).

SADCAS is a multi-economy accreditation body established in the terms of Article 15 B of the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Annex to the SADC Protocol on

Trade with the primary purpose of ensuring that conformity assessment service providers (calibration/testing/medical laboratories, certification and inspection bodies) operating in those SADC Member States, which do not have national accreditation bodies are subject to oversight by an authoritative body.

Prohibited imports

Items prohibited from import into Angola include:

- Animals and Plants - The Angolan Government prohibits the import of animals and animal by-products from areas affected by epizootic diseases and plants coming from areas affected by epiphytic disease.
- “Morality”-related products – Certain distilled beverages, pornography, roulette and other gambling machines, and other goods specified by law. Despite this law, several casinos operate in Luanda.
- Vehicles – Passenger vehicles more than 6 years from the manufacturing date are not permitted to be imported into Angola. Vehicles for industrial use such as trucks and those for transportation of more than 10 persons are only prohibited if older than 10 years from the manufacturing date.
- Biotechnology Products - Angola prohibits the importation of viable transgenic grain or seed. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries controls all agricultural imports and requires importers to present documentation certifying that their goods do not include biotechnology products. Transgenic food aid is permitted but must be milled. Biotechnology imports for scientific research are subject to regulations and controls established by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.
- Imitations of national franchise formulas.

- Home-made or handmade medicines.
- Food products that do not meet the conditions established by current legislation or that are in a poor state of conservation.
- Used batteries and accumulators.
- Retreaded or used tires.
- Counterfeit goods.

Goods requiring import licenses for specific Ministries include:

- Pharmaceutical products for human use, saccharine, and saccharine-derived products (Ministry of Health).
- Radios, transmitters, receivers, and other devices (Ministry of Telecommunications, Information Technology and Social Communications).
- Weapons, ammunitions, fireworks, and explosives (Ministry of Interior).plants, roots, bulbs, microbial cultures, buds, fruits, seeds, and crates and other packages containing these products (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries).
- Fiscal or postal stamps (Ministry of Telecommunications, Information Technology and Social Communications).
- Poisonous and toxic substances and pharmaceuticals including animal vaccines (Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries, Industry and Trade, and Health).
- Samples or other goods imported for promotion and not commercial sale (Customs).