

Transit Cargo Documentation Guide

A control-focused guide for cargo moving through Tanzania under customs supervision.

RESOURCE	REVIEWED	USE
SAS-KC-TRN-02	JULY 2026	OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE

IMPORTANT

This resource is general operational guidance, not a customs ruling or legal advice. Requirements and rates can change, and additional approvals may apply by commodity, origin, destination, customs regime and port. Confirm the current position with TRA, the relevant regulator and your licensed clearing and forwarding agent before shipment.

Transit cargo operating model

Transit cargo remains under customs control while moving through Tanzania to a foreign destination. The operating file must connect the port entry, customs declaration, security, tracking device, licensed vehicle, approved route and exit confirmation.

TRANSIT IS NOT A LOCAL IMPORT

Do not use a standard home-use import workflow for cargo destined to another country. Confirm whether the movement falls under the EAC Single Customs Territory, another regional arrangement or a national transit procedure.

Minimum shipment profile

- Consignor, consignee, notify party and final destination.
- Port or place of entry, intended border exit and approved route.
- Goods description, HS code, quantity, package marks, value and origin.
- Container numbers, seal numbers, vehicle and trailer registration.
- Carrier, driver and licensed customs-agent details.
- Destination-country declaration or supporting entry where SCT applies.
- Bond or guarantee reference and electronic tracking status.

Transit document matrix

DOCUMENT / CONTROL	PURPOSE	CHECK BEFORE MOVEMENT
Transport document	Establishes carriage and cargo particulars.	Bill of lading, airway bill or road consignment note matches the declaration and packing list.
Commercial invoice	Supports identity, value and destination.	Parties, values, currency and goods descriptions are complete.
Packing list	Controls packages and physical verification.	Marks, package count, weights and contents reconcile.
Transit declaration / entry	Places cargo under the correct customs regime.	Entry, route, exit office, vehicle and cargo references are correct.
Bond / guarantee	Secures customs revenue while cargo is in transit.	Adequate, valid and correctly linked to the movement.
Tracking and seal record	Protects cargo integrity and route compliance.	Device activation and customs seals recorded before departure.
Destination documents	Supports SCT or destination-country processing.	Reference accepted by the relevant destination authority.
Vehicle and carrier approvals	Confirms lawful conveyance of goods under customs control.	Vehicle, trailer and carrier licensing are valid for the corridor.
Commodity permits	Controls restricted or regulated goods.	Transit, handling or destination permits confirmed as applicable.

Port-to-exit control sequence

CONTROL POINT	OPERATION	RELEASE EVIDENCE
1. Pre-arrival	Confirm regime, destination entry, permits, bond capacity, licensed truck and route.	Approved shipment file and movement plan.
2. Port documentation	Lodge the transit or SCT declaration and supporting documents; resolve customs queries.	Accepted declaration and assessment / control instructions.
3. Cargo release	Complete terminal, line and customs formalities; arrange examination if selected.	Customs and terminal release.
4. Tracking and sealing	Apply or verify customs seals and electronic tracking controls where required.	Seal and tracking references.
5. Dispatch	Release only to the declared vehicle and driver on the approved route.	Gate pass, dispatch record and driver briefing.
6. Corridor control	Monitor milestones, weighbridges, delays, incidents and any customs instructions.	Time-stamped tracking and incident log.
7. Border exit	Produce goods, transit entry and required evidence to the proper officer.	Exit confirmation / acquittal evidence.
8. Bond acquittal	Confirm the transit movement is closed in customs systems and the security is released.	Closed entry and reconciled bond ledger.

Route, time and integrity controls

- Use only the route and exit point approved for the declaration.
- The EAC Customs Management Regulations state a transit period not exceeding 30 days from entry unless the Commissioner allows a further period. The actual movement instruction may be shorter.
- Do not break a customs seal, change vehicle, transload, divert or open cargo without the required customs authorization.
- Escalate accidents, breakdowns, tracking-device failure, security incidents and unavoidable route deviations immediately to the agent and proper authorities.
- At exit, ensure the cargo and transit entry are produced to the proper officer and obtain evidence that supports customs-system closure.

Dispatch gate checklist

- ☐ Transit / SCT declaration accepted.
- ☐ Bond or regional guarantee confirmed.
- ☐ Port, shipping-line and terminal releases complete.
- ☐ Declared truck, trailer and driver verified.
- ☐ Vehicle authorization and insurance current.

- [] Customs seal and tracking device references recorded.
- [] Approved route, exit point and contact tree issued to driver.
- [] Destination and border teams have the same reference pack.
- [] Incident and escalation procedure understood.
- [] Exit and bond-acquittal owners assigned.

CLOSE THE LOOP

Physical arrival at the border does not by itself prove customs acquittal. Track the declaration and bond until the exit is confirmed and the movement is closed.

Official sources and verification links

- **TRA Single Customs Territory:** <https://www.tra.go.tz/page/single-customs-territory-sct>
Official overview of SCT declarations, regional bonds and electronic cargo tracking.
- **TRA Customs Resource Centre:** <https://www.tra.go.tz/resource-center/35>
Official EAC customs forms, including transit and conveyance bond forms.
- **EAC Customs Management Regulations 2010:** <https://www.eac.int/documents?controller=download&file;=67723f18-67c4-4fb4-b176-d47ed594166c&name;=EAC+Customs+Management+Regulations.pdf&task;=download.file>
Official transit controls, approved routes, production at exit and vehicle requirements.
- **EAC Customs Management Act:** <https://repository.eac.int/handle/11671/24105>
Governing customs-management legislation.
- **Tanzania Trade Portal:** <https://trade.tanzania.go.tz/>
Commodity and corridor-specific procedures and agency requirements.

Source pages were reviewed in July 2026. Always open the live source to check for later notices, amendments, fees or commodity-specific procedures.