# "Carnets are the secret weapon?

- representative of Laufer Group International

#### What is an ATA Carnet?

The ATA Carnet, also known as the Merchandise Passport, is an international customs document that expedites temporary imports into foreign countries.

# How long is a Carnet valid?

Use it for up to one year for unlimited exits from the U.S. and entries into foreign countries. The goods must return to the U.S.

#### What are the benefits?

- Reduces your costs by eliminating value-added taxes (VAT), duties, and the posting of security normally required at the time of importation.
- Streamlines customs procedures by using a single document for all customs transactions and making customs clearance arrangements in advance of departure.
- Costs are pre-determined and paid in U.S. dollars.
- Simplifies reentry into the U.S. by serving as a U.S. Customs registration.

#### What merchandise is covered?

- Just about all commercial goods, including samples, professional equipment and items for trade shows and exhibitions.
- Ordinary goods such as medical devices, industrial machinery, artwork, computers, vehicles, repair tools, film equipment, wearing apparel, furniture, and display booths.
- Extraordinary items such as vintage costumes, Stradivarius violins, human skulls, satellites, race horses, billiard tables, rare gems and jewels, and prototype vehicles.

# What is not covered?

 Carnets DO NOT cover giveaways, consumable goods, disposable items, personal items or postal traffic.

# What does a Carnet cost?

Value of Goods	Basic Fee
\$1-9,999	\$225
\$10,000 – 49,999	\$260
\$50,000 – 249,999	\$325
Over \$250,000	\$380

Additional costs may be incurred in obtaining security, expedited service, and/or other services.

### How widely are Carnets used?

More than 150,000 are issued every year around the world covering goods valued at over \$12 billion. USCIB issues 16,000, valued at \$3 billion.

#### How do I start?

Visit www.merchandisepassport.org to receive your user name and password. Advance registration is required.

# How long will it take?

Completed applications submitted before 4pm ET (with approved security) will be delivered within two business days without an expedited service fee.

# What is 'approved security'?

USCIB is required to take a security deposit, usually 40% of shipment value, to cover any customs claim that might result from misuse of the Carnet.

Acceptable forms of security are cash or surety bond. Cash deposits are returned in full and surety bonds are cancelled upon Carnet redemption.

#### What is a customs claim?

A claim is a notice issued by a foreign customs administration when:

- Goods are not re-exported in a timely manner.
- Goods are lost, stolen or destroyed.
- Carnet certificates are not properly validated by U.S. or foreign customs.

# How can I get more information?

#### **Contact Carnet Headquarters:**

Go to: www.merchandisepassport.org
Call: 1.866.786.5625
Email: atacarnet@merchandisepassport.org

This brochure provides general information on the ATA Carnet. Detailed instructions and the obligations of the Carnet Holder can be found at www.merchandisepassport.org.



#### **ATA Carnet**

- ATA Carnet Convention on temporary imports was adopted by the World Customs Organization in 1961 to encourage world trade by reducing the barriers caused by varying national customs regulations.
- "ATA" is an acronym of the French and English words "Admission Temporaire/Temporary Admission."
- Issued and guaranteed by national groups that manage the ATA system under a set of conditions established by the World Chambers Federation, a division of the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris.
- United States Council for International Business was appointed by the Treasury Department in 1969 to operate the ATA Carnet system in the United States.

# **United States Council for International Business (USCIB)**

- The leading business organization advancing the global interest of American companies doing business internationally.
- Provides global leadership as the exclusive U.S. affiliate of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), International Organization of Employers (IOE) and Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC) to the OECD.
- Members include more than 300 multinational companies, law firms and business associations.
- Headquartered in New York City with offices in Washington, D.C.
- Manages the ATA Carnet system in the United States.

A Trade Service of the United States Council for International Business

04/2013



# **Countries and Territories where Carnets are accepted**

Albania Algeria Andorra Antarctica Aruba Australia Austria • Balearic Is. Belarus Belgium • Bora Bora Bosnia-Herzegovina Botswana Brazil 1 France •

Bulgaria Canada
Canary Is.
Ceuta
Chile
China
Corsica
Croatia
Curacao
Cyprus Czech Rep.
Denmark
Estonia

French Guiana
Germany 
Gibraltar
Greece 
Guadeloupe
Guernsey
Hong Kong
Hungary 
Iceland
India
Ireland 
Isle of Man
Israel

Japan
Jersey
Korea
Latvia •
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liechtenstein
Lithuania •
Luxembourg •
Macao
Macedonia
Madagascar
Malaysia
Malta •
Martinique

Mauritius
Mayotte
Melilla
Mexico
Miquelon
Moldova
Monaco
Mongolia
Montenegro
Morocco
Namibia
Netherlands
New Caledonia
New Zealand
Norway

Pakistan
Poland Portugal Puerto Rico
Qatar¹
Reunion Is.
Romania Russia
Saudi Arabia¹
Seychelles
Senegal
Serbia
Singapore
Slovakia Slovenia

South Africa
Spain ●
Sri Lanka
St. Barthelemy
St. Martin (French side)
St. Pierre
Swaziland
Sweden ●
Switzerland
Tahiti
Taiwan²
Tasmania
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey

Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom ●
United States
Wallis & Futuna



www.merchandisepassport.org

Italy •

Ivory Coast