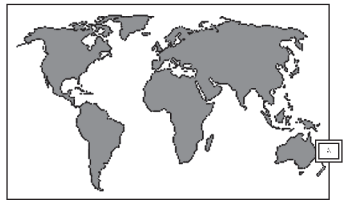
7.3. Import/Transit/Export Regulations

7.3.2. Countries Alphabetically Listed

Tonga (TO)
Incl. Tongatapu, 'Eua, Ha'apai, Vava'u, Niuatoputapu and Niuafo'ou Islands
Amounts shown are expressed in Pa'anga (TOP)



0. General Information

- IATA Area : 3
- Capital : Nuku'alofa (TBU)
- Capital : GMT + 13
- Daylight Saving Time : Tonga does not observe DST.
- ☎ Country Code : + 676
- Local Currency : Pa'anga (TOP)
- Bank Information : Tongatapu (Nuku'alofa) and Vava'u - All banks closed on Saturday and Sunday. However, ANZ and Westpac are providing electronic banking on both days and after office hours.
- Public Holidays :

Date
01 Jan 2015
03 Apr 2015
06 Apr 2015
25 Apr 2015
04 Jun 2015
12 Jul 2015
01 Aug 2015
04 Nov 2015
04 Dec 2015
25 Dec 2015
26 Dec 2015

- **Cargo Claims Information**
  The following Protocols / Conventions have been ratified:
  1. Warsaw Convention (1929)
  2. Hague Protocol (1955)
  3. Montreal Convention MC99 (1999)

  For further details, explanation and how to apply these Protocols / Conventions see paragraph 2.1.5. (General Rules) including list of countries.

1. Airport Information

1.1. Customs Airports

- **Nuku'alofa - TBU**
  Tel.: +676 35 145 (Direct line to the Director of Airports)
  +676 35 001 (General Airport Administration office)
  +676 35 002 (Airport VIP Lounge)
  Fax: +676 35 003
  E-mail: kmafi@tongaairports.com
  Website: www.tongaairports.com
- **Vava'u - VAV**
  Tel.: +676 79 649 (Airport Administration)
  Fax: +676 79 375
  E-Mail: stokolahi@tongaairports.com
- The remaining four airports are domestic airports and international services must first land at the above two airports before proceeded to any of them.

1.2. Airport Facilities

1.2.2. Storage
Cold storage: Available, limited.
Safe for valuables: Not available.
Room for radio-active material: Not available.

1.2.3. Clearance
Nuku'alofa
At the airport upon departure of international flights or at the One Stop Shop, Vuna Rd, Ma'ufanga.
Vava'u
At the Customs Bond Warehouse, Neiafu

1.2.4. Customs hours
Monday through Friday 08.30 - 16.30 hrs. Clearance outside Customs hours pre-arrangement required.

1.2.5. Delivery
Possible from airport and airline bond warehouses after customs clearance, by services provider.

2. Import

2.1. General

2.1.1. Packing
Avoid re-using fruit packing material (boxes), they will be subject to Quarantine confiscation.

2.1.2. Marking
Number of pieces must be indicated clearly on the labeling, incl. combined/strapped consignments palletised.

2.1.4. Language on documents
English.

2.2. Documentary Requirements

2.2.1. Commercial consignments
- 2 Original Commercial Invoices stating country of origin, Cost of Goods (including other related expenses for e.g. cartage), Insurance and Freight or C.I.F.
- 2 Original Invoice F.O.B (including other related expenses e.g. cartage), provided an original copy of the AWB, MAWB or HAWB and Insurance payable (applicable 2% of the FOB if Insurance is yet to be paid).
- Privileged shipper or consignee issued by a carrier, consolidator or special arrangement freight free of charge (F.O.C) or special rate other than the applicable IATA TACT rate, must evidently be provided on the AWB, BAWB or HAWB F.O.C must at least declare a minimum Amount of Freight (usually 1% of the applicable chargeable weight and rate of the IATA TACT rate) for customs and duty purposes.
- Photocopied or facsimile copies of Invoice AWB, MAWB or HAWB are not accepted.

2.2.2. Sample Consignment
Subject to customs duty for temporary exhibits till re-exported, duty refundable.

2.2.3. Gift Consignment
A declared value declared on the AWB.

2.2.4. Unaccompanied baggage
Packing list.

2.2.5. Other consignments
Re-entry consignments (Repairs and Returned) 2 Original Invoice of Job Description and cost of replacement component (invoice), Insurance and Freight, accompanied with the export entry and air waybill.

2.3. Restrictions

2.3.2. Live animals
Including of live animals & pets, livestock (farm animal), live insects (including bees), reptiles, rodents, snails, all other live animals and live fish.
IMPORT REQUIREMENTS:
1. Importation of live animals is prohibited unless an import permit has been obtained in advance of importation.
2. Original copy of Health Certificate (Zoosanitary Certificate or Veterinary certificate) from the country of origin must accompany the live animal.
3. Permit to import live animal can be obtained from the offices of Quarantine & Quality Management Division or Livestock Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry at Nuku 'alofa or Neiafu, Vava'u.

Note:
Animals should be free of rabies, foot and mouth disease and tuberculosis.

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7.3. Import/Transit/Export Regulations

7.3.2. Countries Alphabetically Listed

2.3.3. Plants and plant material

Plants (Live Plants)

Including plants in tissue culture, seeds, cut flowers, nursery stock.

Plant Material and Goods

Including fresh fruits & vegetables, tubers, roots, leaves, twigs, timber (logs, poles, dunnage, branchwood, firewood, bark and all wood) etc.

Straw, hay, chaff, soil or forest litter - importation of these specified articles is prohibited unless an import permit has been obtained in advance of importation.

IMPORT REQUIREMENTS for Plants (live plants) and Plant Material & Goods:

1. Importation of live plants or plant material is prohibited unless an import permit has been obtained in advance of importation.
2. All imported plants and plant material shall be free from soil.
3. An approved packing material may be used around the roots of the plants after soil has been removed. Plants established in growing media, except in sterile flasks, are prohibited.

Note:

SWAMP TARO can only be introduced with an import permit with special conditions.

2.3.4. Arms, ammunition and explosives

Require permit from Ministry of Police prior to Customs Clearance.

2.3.5. Narcotics and drugs

Require permit from Director of Health, with the provision of a letter of medical evidence and condition from physician or doctor.

2.3.6. Human remains

- (Embalmed or cremated), death certificate, certificate of embalming or cremation attached to AWB. Notify cargo stations in Tongtapu (Nuku'alofa) or Vava'u 24 hrs. in advance with information of cause of death, routings, name of decease and consignee.
- (Non Embalmed bodies) require permit from Director of Health for conditions applicable, provided that the carriers comply with ICAO Technical Instructions chapter 8, note 602.

2.3.8. Medicines and vaccines

Shipper must advise consignee prior to departure from airport of origin. Consignee or broker must arrange for pre-clearance upon arrival at Customs Airports.

2.3.9. Animal products

Information on import requirements for travelers to Tonga

Tonga quarantine import requirements for the importation of meat (animal products and by-products) as accompanied passengers' baggage (imported with air passengers, aircraft/sea passengers or aircraft/ship's crew entering Tonga).

The import requirements should ONLY apply to **non-commercial consignment** of food products of animal origin (such as fresh or frozen meat) **as accompanied passengers'** baggage (usually with air-passenger entering Tonga) from New Zealand, Australia, USA or Vanuatu.

No imports from Samoa or Fiji are allowed.

Quarantine import requirements:

1. Passenger may take out an Import Permit (to-import meat product into Tonga) from Quarantine on arrival at port/airport of entry (e.g. Fua'amotu International airport);
2. Passenger are limited to bringing in a maximum of TWENTY (20) KILOGRAMS of meat products in total for each adult air- or sea passenger, ship's crew;
3. All meat products MUST BE in UNBROKEN, SEALED PACKAGES which clearly state the name of the store, meat packer or manufacturer and country of origin (commercial packaging and labeling); and
4. A purchasing receipt from the meat packer or store be accompanied the meat consignment into Tonga and be presented to Tonga Quarantine at airport/port of entry for inspection.

Please note:

i). The product must be commercially prepared, packaged and labeled.
ii). The product must be in its original sealed packaging on arrival.
iii). The country of origin is identifiable from the packaging.
iv). The total weight of the consignment is 20 kilograms or less.

List of meat products permitted into Tonga (with import requirements) by country of origin

Animal product [meat]	Requirements	Origin
BEEF/VENTION/BUFFALO [sausage, luncheon, saveloy, meat, hot dogs, frankfurts, pies]	cooked, uncooked (frozen, chilled, smoked, salted and dried)	Australia, New Zealand, United States of America Vanuatu
POULTRY including turkey, duck, chicken, ostrich. [carcasses, pieces, sausage, luncheon meat, frankfurts and offal]	cooked, uncooked (including frozen, smoked, dried and chilled)	Australia, New Zealand, United States of America
PIG MEAT [ham, sausage, bacon, saveloy, luncheon meat, hot dogs, pies, salami and frankfurts]	frozen and cooked	Australia, New Zealand, United States of America
	chilled ONLY	Australia, New Zealand
SHEEP and GOAT MEAT [mutton and lamb]	cooked, uncooked (frozen, chilled, smoked, salted and dried)	Australia, New Zealand
SHEEP offal	must be frozen and/or cooked	Australia, New Zealand, United States of America
CHICKEN EGGS	UNFERTILISED AND CLEAN, commercially packaged	Australia, New Zealand, United States of America
MILK PRODUCTS [yoghurt, cheese, milk, ice cream, UHT products]	commercially packaged	Australia, New Zealand, United States of America
Animal product (meat)	**Requirements**	**Origin**

Private consignments of meat products and products containing dairy ingredients originating from Australia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Vanuatu and United States of America may be given biosecurity clearance provided all the following requirements are met:

i). The product is commercially prepared and packaged.
ii). The product is in its original sealed packaging on arrival.
iii). The country of origin is identifiable from the packaging.
iv). The total weight of the consignment is 20 kilograms or less.

Definitions:

1. Commercially prepared and packaged - A product that has been manufactured in a commercial manner by a commercial enterprise and is packaged in tamper proof packaging.
2. Animal Products - Non-viable products derived from animals.
3. Animal by-products - Mechanically removed meat and other animal parts that remain after the skeletal muscle has been removed in dressing or trimming. Animal by-products include offal, fat and blood intended for human consumption.
4. Private Consignment - A consignment imported as personal property and not intended for resale. Maximum size of a private consignment will be specified in the individual standards.
5. Meat - Skeletal muscle with naturally included or adherent tissue or bone. This definition excludes animal by-products.
6. Meat products - This refers to products prepared from or with meat that has undergone treatment such that the cut surface shows that the product no longer has the characteristics of fresh meat.
7. Dairy product - Any product manufactured from the milk and cream of animals.

Private consignments of New Zealand origin meat, meat products, dairy products, egg products or products with New Zealand origin meat/dairy/egg ingredients from *any country* may be given quarantine clearance provided all the following requirements are met:

i). The product is commercially prepared and packaged.
ii). The product is in its original sealed packaging on arrival.
iii). New Zealand is clearly identifiable as the country of origin from the packaging
iv). The total weight of the consignment is 20 kilograms or less.

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2.3.10. Meat and meat Products
Including fresh meat products, dried/dehydrated meat products. With exception commercially cooked, processed and packed (hermetically sealed) meat products from Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Samoa and United States of America.
IMPORT REQUIREMENTS:
Importation of animal products is prohibited unless an import permit has been obtained in advance of importation.
Original copy of a Health Certificate (Zoosanitary Certificate) from the country of origin must accompany the animal product consignment.
Permit to import animal products can be obtained from the offices of Quarantine & Quality Management Division or Livestock Division.

2.3.14. Radio-active Material
Uranium and other radioactive substances, waste is forbidden.

2.4. Prohibitions
Pornographic material is forbidden.

2.5. Charges
2.5.2. Handling
All airlines Cargo Bond

Per kg.	TOP	0.10
Additional Handling fee per piece	TOP	10.00

2.5.3. Clearance
At the Airport upon departure of Flights (TBU and VAV)
At the One Stop Shop, Vuna Rd, Ma'ufanga, Tongatapu (TBU)
At the H.M Customs Bond Warehouse, Neiafu, Vava'u (VAV)
Inspection centers of combined Customs officers and Quarantine officers at the Airport(s) TBU and VAV upon international flights, Nuku'alofa (at the capital) Airlines cargo bond warehouse, Ma'ufanga (commercial area) and at Neiafu (capital of Vava'u).

Inspection fee*	TOP	4.00
Documentation*	TOP	4.00

Note:
* Exclusive of Consumption Tax.

Office hours fee for both Inspection and Documentation per hour	TOP	13.80
On Saturdays, per hour	TOP	14.95

2.5.4. Documentation
Customs requires copy of manifest, copy of AWB, MAWB and HAWB.
Quarantine requires copy of manifest upon arrival.

3. Transhipment/Transit

3.3. Restrictions
3.3.2. Live Animals
Within 3 hours of transit carrier must provide necessary assistance stated on the AWB handling information under Quarantine supervision. Any delays or disruptions or an 8 hour split schedule must be immediately transferred to M.A.F Livestock Division, Veterinary Section, Animal Hostel.

3.3.3. Plant and plant products
Tuber Crop (specified) Swamp taro prohibited to offload in transit, must remain in the aircraft.

Exceptions:
Swamp taro to transit from NIUE must advise Quarantine prior to acceptance of cargo at Peleni's Travel, cargo department, NIUE Island.

3.3.14. Radio-active materials
Uranium and other radio-active substances, waste must never arrive in transit or flown over/across the Tongan Airspace or flight plan Technical Alternate or weather Alternate includes Tongan Airports is forbidden.

3.5. Charges
3.5.4. Documentation
Transfer fee from Cargo Bond Warehouse to Cargo Bond Warehouse, special arrangements if embargo imposed to Final Destination where as destination shown on AWB or MAWB to Tonga tapu (TBU) or (VAV) handling information stating "On forwarding to Final Destination".

Customs, per piece (wharfage)	0.70
Airline Cargo handling (inwards)	10.00
Airline Cargo handling (outwards)	10.00

Secondary AWB issued against the MAWB.

3.5.5. Transhipment
Live animals refer to New Zealand MAF Charges (refer to New Zealand TRANSHIPMENT/TRANSIT 3.5 Transhipment applicable fee). Convert charges to TOP.
Please note that confirmed arrangement with 2nd carrier must take heed and is responsible for execution of Animal by MAF after 6 months in detention.
Quarantine requires copy of manifest upon arrival.

4. Export

4.2. Documentary Requirements
All consignments leaving the country must provide an export entry. Consignments exported for repair and re-entry must be declared on the AWB and the Customs Export entry (details of damage and serial number is required from the shipper).

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