

# Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command

## Customer and Carrier Advisory

February 29, 2024

CA-24-02-29/0007

**Subject:** Oman Customs Clearance Instructions and Country Requirements

**Purpose:** To inform the shipping community of the updated country clearance requirements in the Sultanate of Oman. This SDDC Customer/Carrier Advisory supersedes CA-22-06-23/0063.

**Be Advised:** Effective immediately, the following guidance must be utilized when shipping cargo to Oman.

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. Oman has authorized three (3) permanent harmonized codes (HS) on U.S. Government imported and transit goods based on the cargo description effective 08 June 2022. This will exempt all military shipments from Omani value added taxes (VAT) and other import duties normally levied on commercial shipments. Cargo consigned to the US Embassy-Muscat should use separate HS codes designated for diplomatic cargo.
2. The official processing time for cargo customs clearance packages is **21 calendar days** (Sunday to Thursday work week), all non-US Reserve Material cargo customs clearance requests or questions shall be submitted to [MuscatNAVSUPFLCB@state.gov](mailto:MuscatNAVSUPFLCB@state.gov). The submission of the customs clearance package is the only approval for the import or export of US government-owned cargo. The transportation method and use of transportation ports within Oman by military assets require a separate authorization, please see details in DTR Part V Chapter 512 and within the Foreign Clearance Guide (FCG).
3. The Sultanate of Oman does not allow empty trucks licensed outside Oman to enter through any land borders to pick up cargo located in Oman. Foreign-licensed vehicles entering for this purpose will be denied entry at Oman's ports of entry. The US Embassy-Muscat does NOT have the ability to waive this requirement. Reference: Royal Decree 10/2016.
4. Oman uses the Bayan customs system. Customs agents must be specifically authorized by the US Embassy to use US government VAT exemption codes. The system will return an error (or not zero out the charges) if the customs agent is not preauthorized.

**\*NOTE 1:** Customs agents (or carriers) should NOT attempt to pay VAT charges to bypass the exemption codes because no refund mechanism exists within the Oman payment system.

5. Transport vehicles may be subject to a In-transit/Bank Guarantee fee when transporting cargo to, from, or within Oman. The fee is based on the cargo's stated value. The fee must be paid via electronic funds transfer which can take up to 14 days before it shows in the Omani customs system. This fee is used by the Omani government to cover costs associated with infractions committed in Oman that would not normally be recoverable (speeding tickets, fines, etc.). The 5% fee is refundable (minus any infraction costs). **Carriers are subject to this 5% deposit any time linehaul assets not registered in Oman are used to transport cargo, regardless of the cargo's import or export status (must have Omani license plate). This fee cannot be waived by any US Government entity.**
6. Military cargo is required to be tarped while on Omani roadways. Carriers in violation of this rule are subject to fines by the Royal Omani Police (ROP). Carriers should not attempt to enter any land border (or depart a port) with un-tarped cargo as the trucks will be denied entry/exit permission from the ROP.

### **Import Shipments Consigned to Oman:**

1. To initiate the customs clearance request, the carrier shall provide the Office of Military Cooperation Customs Liaison office with the following required documentation after cargo sails from origin.
  - OMC Customs Clearance Worksheet
  - Airway Bill/Seaway Bill
  - Bill of Lading
  - Commercial Invoice and Packing List (CIPL)
2. The Customs Liaison office will then engage with the Oman Ministry of Defense (MOD) who officially requests through the Directorate of Military Cooperation (DMC) to initiate the MOD clearance process.
3. The MOD request is routed through the DMC within the Office of the Chief of Staff Sultan Armed Forces (COSSAF).
4. Once the MOD clearance letter is received from COSSAF (via fax), the Customs Liaison office will forward the approval letter to the shipping/clearing agent.
5. The shipper clearing agent will then need to process the clearance request and upload MOD approval in the ROP Customs Bayan System.
6. The shipper/clearing agent will select the applicable US military exemption code with the drop-down menu. These codes will exempt USG cargo from all Omani Customs fees and Value Added Tax (VAT).
7. The requirements in the Bayan System for exemptions are as follows: The shipper/clearing agent will need to select the US Reserve Material (USRM)-USE exemption under the exemption category drop down menu. This will exempt all

military shipments from customs fees and Value Added Tax (VAT). For the description of cargo categories, the shipper/clearing agent must choose one of the three permanent HS Codes for US military equipment based on the cargo type. This will exempt the cargo from any Oman ministry approvals or inspections. H.S. codes and examples are provided on attachment 1.

**\*NOTE 2:** If the Bayan system does not "zero" all charges, the customs agent/carrier shall contact the US Embassy-Muscat to ensure the customs agent has been preauthorized to use the exemption codes. The customs agent must be specifically authorized by the US Embassy to use the codes, or the system will return an error (or not zero out the charges). Customs agents (or carriers) should not attempt to pay the charges to bypass the exemption codes because no refund mechanism exists within the system.

### **Booking Destination Terms - Foreign Military Sales (FMS):**

All FMS booked cargo by the Ordering Officer **MUST** be confirmed that the shipper has verified the receiving and downloading capabilities of the consignee prior to booking the cargo.

### **Transit shipments (final destination outside Oman):**

1. ROP Customs will provide approval authorization in the Bayan system. Customs and duty fees will be cleared, and VAT will be manually cleared for some classes of shipments.
2. Commercial carriers are encouraged to submit for an In-transit Guarantee to the associated secured account at least **14 days prior** to the projected cargo movement to allow the Royal Oman Police Customs authorities to continue clearing the cargo.
3. Omani authorities will not clear the cargo for movement until the In-transit Guarantee funds receipt is confirmed.
4. For more information on the In-transit Guarantee process, please contact the US Embassy-Muscat by email at [MuscatNAVSUPFLCB@state.gov](mailto:MuscatNAVSUPFLCB@state.gov). If the shipping agent does not already have a Bank Guarantee in place, they can coordinate with the Customs Liaison Office for assistance in establishing one.

**\*NOTE 3:** Most food items and some other items (i.e., petroleum) are assessed a "0% VAT rate". Proper use of accepted HS Codes will enable a default VAT rate of 0% in the Bayan system.

### **Questions or concerns should be addressed to the POCs below:**

#### **831st Transportation Battalion (SDDC)**

Comm +973 1785-4954/9203, DSN: 318-439-4954/9203

Emails: [usarmy.bahrain.sddc.list.831st-ops@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.bahrain.sddc.list.831st-ops@army.mil)

#### **595th Transportation Brigade, OCCASWA**

Comm +973 1785-6639/6740/8231, DSN 318-439-6639/6740/8231

Email: [usarmy.bahrain.595-trans-bde.mbx.occaswa-booking@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.bahrain.595-trans-bde.mbx.occaswa-booking@army.mil)  
[usarmy.bahrain.595-trans-bde.mbx.occaswa-qa@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.bahrain.595-trans-bde.mbx.occaswa-qa@army.mil)

**Embassy of the United States Muscat, Oman**

USAFCENT Liaison Officer

Commercial: 011-968-2464-3514

DSN: 312-294-9000-wait for dial tone-8741-3514

Mobile/WhatsApp/Signal: +968 9931-5395

Office of Military Cooperation - AFCENT Customs Liaison

Mobile: +968 9788 2027

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[MuscatNAVSUPFLCB@state.gov](mailto:MuscatNAVSUPFLCB@state.gov).

**Expiration:** N/A

**Category:** Ocean/Barge