

COVID 19 Update for ATA Carnet Issuing Bodies and Customers

The impact of COVID-19 on trade continues, with two thirds of the world in the lockdown and severe restrictions imposed by governments. Carnets have been heavily affected by cancellation of events and passenger flights worldwide. It is therefore possible that ATA Carnet Holders may be 'trapped' abroad and unable to comply with the normal procedures e.g. re-export their goods within the time limit for re-exportation specified by the host Customs on importation (if applicable) or within the validity of the Carnet itself.

This notice has been designed to provide advice to any such ATA Carnet Holders and is structured as follows:

- 1. Advice for UK Carnet Holders whose goods are currently abroad and unable to move**
- 2. Advice for foreign Carnet Holders currently in the UK and unable to move their goods**

Please Note: The information in this notice is valid as of the date of issue. Customs administrations worldwide have been encouraged to grant greater facilities toward ATA Carnet procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic and are either in the process of implementing contingency measures, or have already done so, to facilitate extension of the time limits for re-exportation of the goods or, in some cases, validity of the Carnet itself.

We strongly advise that Carnet Holders keep up to date with the developments in the country where their goods are currently located. This can be done as follows: ICC webpage: <https://iccwbo.sharepoint.com/sites/ATACarnetManual/Pages/COVID-19-and-ATA-Carnets.aspx>

Advice for UK Carnet Holders whose goods are currently abroad and unable to move

1. If you are approaching the time limit for re-exportation of the goods (this is shown in Box 2 of the white Importation Counterfoil) and the Carnet still has six or more months validity (validity is shown in Box G(c) on the green Front Cover):

Contact the host customs (via the port where the goods were cleared into the country or via the local NGO <https://iccwbo.org/resources-for-business/ata-Carnet/ata-Carnet-country/>) and ask for extension of the time limit for re-exportation of the goods. This will be applied to the existing Carnet.

2. If your Carnet is about to expire, some countries allow a Replacement to be issued to extend the period of temporary importation up to further 12 months from the date of issue of the original Carnet.

Please Note: once the Replacement Carnet has been issued by your issuing Chamber in the UK, it must be sent to the UK Customs to be validated (contact NCU for information on how to validate your Replacement Carnet - email: ataCarnetunit@hmrc.gov.uk). After the Replacement Carnet has been validated, it must be forwarded to the country that approved the Replacement and presented to the host Customs together with the existing Carnet.

Procedure for obtaining approval for Replacement Carnets is as follows:

Australia	Complete Form B257 and e-mail to VECCI Carnet@victorianchamber.com.au for approval before the original Carnet expires. Once you have obtained approval, forward a copy to your issuing Chamber in the UK and request a Replacement Carnet. Once the Replacement has been issued in the UK and validated by the NCU, Holder must present both the Replacement and existing Carnet to the Australian Customs at the port of importation to allow the goods to remain in the country beyond the validity of the original Carnet.
Canada	Contact CBSA CBSA.Temporary_Importations_Temporaires.ASFC@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca with the details of the existing Carnet (Carnet no, expiry date, port of importation, reason for extension) and request approval for extension before the original Carnet expires. Once you have obtained approval, contact your issuing Chamber in the UK and request a Replacement Carnet. Once the Replacement has been issued in the UK and validated by the NCU, Holder must present both the Replacement and existing Carnet to the Canadian Customs at the port of importation to allow the goods to remain in the country beyond the validity of the original Carnet.
China	No prior approval is required; contact your issuing Chamber in the UK and request a Replacement Carnet before the original Carnet expires. Once the Replacement has been issued in the UK and validated by the NCU, Holder must present both the Replacement and existing Carnet to the Chinese Customs at the port of importation to allow the goods to remain in the country beyond the validity of the original Carnet. If Holders cannot visit the Customs office due to the impact of COVID-19, please request the extension via Chinese Customs website: www.customs.gov.cn/
Hong Kong	No prior approval is required; contact your UK issuing Chamber and request a Replacement Carnet before the original Carnet expires. Once the Replacement has been issued in the UK and validated by the NCU, Holder must present both the Replacement and existing Carnet to the Hong Kong Customs at the port of importation to allow the goods to remain in the country beyond the validity of the original Carnet.
Israel	If the final date of re-exportation originally granted or the Carnet validity are between 1 January 2020 and 1 June 2020, the re-exportation time limits are automatically extended to 1 July 2020 (i.e. there is no need to issue Replacement Carnet or apply for the extension).

Japan	Japan will only accept Replacement Carnets for the purposes of the COVID-19 pandemic facilitation measures. No prior approval will be required; however, the Holder will need to request a letter from the UK issuing Chamber confirming that they were unable to re-export the goods as a result of the pandemic. Copy of the correspondence from the carrier (i.e. airline) confirming that the original return flight was cancelled will need to be appended to the UK issuing Chamber letter. Once the Replacement has been issued in the UK and validated by the NCU, Holder must present both the Replacement and existing Carnet + the letter from issuing Chamber to the Japanese Customs at the port of importation to allow the goods to remain in the country beyond the validity of the original Carnet.
Korea (Republic of)	No prior approval is required; contact your issuing Chamber in the UK and request a Replacement Carnet before the original Carnet expires. Once the Replacement has been issued in the UK and validated by the NCU, Holder must present both the Replacement and existing Carnet to the Korean Customs at the port of importation to allow the goods to remain in the country beyond the validity of the original Carnet.
Mexico	Replacement can be issued only if, at the time of requesting extension, the Carnet has less than six months of validity remaining. Once the Replacement has been issued in the UK and validated by the NCU, Holder will need to register the Replacement Carnet with Mexican Customs Authority http://Carnet-ata.org/ata3/web/index.php?r=importaciones/create . The Replacement and existing Carnet can then be presented to the Mexican Customs at the port of importation to allow the goods to remain in the country beyond the validity of the original Carnet.
Morocco	Moroccan Customs do not accept Replacement Carnets. The Holder should contact the UK Chamber that issued the original Carnet and ask for a letter requesting Moroccan Customs to extend the period of temporary admission of the goods in Morocco, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Holder presents the letter to the Moroccan Customs at the office of importation to request extension.
New Zealand	<p>The Holder must contact the UK Chamber that issued the original Carnet and provide the following details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Carnet Number · Port of Importation · Date of Importation · Reason for Replacement & likely date of re-export <p>The UK issuing Chamber will then lodge a request for approval of the extension with the New Zealand NGO (Carnet@wecc.org.nz). Once the approval has been received and Replacement issued – the Holder will need to get the Replacement validated by the NCU. Both the Replacement and existing Carnet will need to be presented to the New Zealand Customs at the port of importation to allow the goods to remain in the country beyond the validity of the original Carnet.</p>

Norway	<p>The Norwegian Customs Authorities have taken the following decision, regarding the management of ATA Carnets that are about to expire and whose goods cannot be re-exported due to the emergency measures taken by the Norwegian Government from March 12th, 2020. With regard to ATA Carnet, it is recalled that:</p> <p>1) the Holder of the Carnet, before the expiry of its validity, may request a Replacement Carnet to the Chamber of Commerce that issued the previous one, which will have a new term of validity of one year from the date of issue. In order to make the Replacement Carnet valid, it must be presented together with the original ATA Carnet to the Customs of the country of temporary exportation and to the Customs Office where it was presented for temporary importation, or where the goods are located, for taking in charge of the new Carnet and the simultaneous discharge of the "original".</p> <p>Or:</p> <p>2) In consideration of the difficulties of this emergency period, in relation to the carrying out of the re-exportation operations of the goods, in the event that the operators are in no position to comply with the normal procedures mentioned above within the deadlines, it will be possible to request the Customs offices to extend the re-exportation terms, even beyond the validity of the Carnet, The expiry date of the Carnet can be prolonged with one month – at a time for the sole purpose of re-exportation.</p> <p>Holders who have ATA Carnets on the point of expiring could send Oslo Chamber of Commerce a request to authorise the re-exportation specifying that the delay is caused by the current epidemic situation.</p> <p>The data to be communicated are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATA Carnet number • The name of the Holder • Date of validity • Name of the Customs office where the formalities should be accomplished <p>The demands have to be sent to the following address: exportdocuments@chamber.no</p>
Russian Federation	<p>No prior approval is required; contact your issuing Chamber in the UK and request a Replacement Carnet before the original Carnet expires. Once the Replacement has been issued in the UK and validated by the NCU, Holder must present both the Replacement and existing Carnet to the Russian Customs at the port of importation to allow the goods to remain in the country beyond the validity of the original Carnet.</p>
Singapore	<p>No prior approval is required; contact your issuing Chamber in the UK and request a Replacement Carnet before the original Carnet expires. Once the Replacement has been issued in the UK and validated by the NCU, Holder must present both the Replacement and existing Carnet to the Singaporean Customs at the port of importation to allow the goods to remain in the country beyond the validity of the original Carnet.</p>

South Africa	Contact SACCI (glennaleeh@sacci.org.za or samuelm@sacci.org.za) and request approval for Replacement to be issued before the original Carnet expires. Once you have obtained approval, contact your issuing Chamber in the UK and request a Replacement Carnet. Once the Replacement has been issued in the UK and validated by the NCU, Holder must present both the Replacement and existing Carnet to the South African Customs at the port of importation to allow the goods to remain in the country beyond the validity of the original Carnet.
Switzerland	No prior approval is required; contact your issuing Chamber in the UK and request a Replacement Carnet before the original Carnet expires. Once the Replacement has been issued in the UK and validated by the NCU, Holder must send both the Replacement and existing Carnet to the Swiss Customs: Federal Customs Administration, Zollinspektorat Kreuzlingen, Dienstabteilung St. Gallen, Oberstrasse 222, 9014 St. Gallen, Switzerland.
Thailand	No prior approval is required; contact your issuing Chamber in the UK and request a Replacement Carnet before the original Carnet expires. Once the Replacement has been issued in the UK and validated by the NCU, Holder must present both the Replacement and existing Carnet to the Thai Customs at the port of importation to allow the goods to remain in the country beyond the validity of the original Carnet.
Turkey	Holder should contact the Turkish NGO to request details of how the temporary admission can be extended serdar.moldibi@tobb.org.tr , sila.kockaya@tobb.org.tr , asli.calik@tobb.org.tr A Replacement Carnet must be applied before the expiry of the original Carnet. Turkish Customs may request a report on the location and situation of the goods. Such a report can be produced, subject to additional service costs, by an 'authorized Customs broker acting on behalf of the Customs administration. A list of the 'authorized Customs brokers' in Turkey can be provided upon request by the Turkish Ministry of Customs and Trade: http://www.gtb.gov.tr/ Once you have obtained approval, contact your issuing Chamber in the UK and request a Replacement Carnet. Once the Replacement has been issued in the UK and validated by the NCU, Holder must present both the Replacement and existing Carnet to the Turkish Customs at the port of importation to allow the goods to remain in the country beyond the validity of the original Carnet.
Ukraine	Holder should contact the Ukraine NGO to request details of how the temporary admission can be extended zav-ata@ucci.org.ua before the original Carnet expires. Once you have obtained approval, contact your issuing Chamber in the UK and request a Replacement Carnet. Once the Replacement has been issued in the UK and validated by the NCU, Holder must present both the Replacement and existing Carnet to the Ukrainian Customs at the port of importation to allow the goods to remain in the country beyond the validity of the original Carnet.
United Arab Emirates	Holder should contact the UAE Customs to request approval for extension of the temporary admission before the existing Carnet expires: The UAE Federal Customs Authority, P.O. Box 111333, Dubai (UAE), Tel: + 9714 3119900 / Fax: + 9714 3930199. Once you have obtained approval, contact your issuing Chamber in the UK and request a Replacement Carnet. Once the Replacement has been issued in the UK and validated by the NCU, Holder must present both the Replacement and existing Carnet to the UAE Customs at the port of importation to allow the goods to remain in the country beyond the validity of the original Carnet.

Please Note: India, Taiwan and USA either do not accept Replacement Carnets or have not yet communicated their COVID-19 Carnet contingency procedures. For these countries Carnet Holders, who will be unable to re-export the goods within the validity of the Carnet, are advised to gather any evidence to justify the reason for failing to comply with the Customs regulations. This could be flight cancellation notifications, government notice of lockdown, hotel booking extension etc and will be used to plead for leniency in case of a foreign Customs claim. Naturally, Carnet Holders should still do their best to ensure that the Carnet is stamped on re-export as well as back into the UK even if the document has expired.

Advice for foreign Carnet Holders currently in the UK and unable to move their goods

Any traders whose goods have been imported into the UK under cover of a foreign issued ATA Carnet, which has less than two months of validity remaining, should aim to obtain a Replacement Carnet. The procedure is as follows:

1. Contact the UK Customs ataCarnetunit@hmrc.gov.uk and request permission to obtain a Replacement Carnet. The email must include the reason for extension and details of the existing Carnet: Carnet number, validity date, date of entry into UK and port of entry into UK
2. If the UK Customs approve the request (usually by email), the Holder should contact the Chamber that issued the original Carnet and request a Replacement. This must be done before the original Carnet expires
3. The Replacement Carnet will need to be validated by the Customs of the country of issue before being sent to the UK
4. Both the Replacement and the existing Carnet must be sent to the National Carnet Unit to be endorsed:
HM Revenue and Customs
National ATA Carnet Unit
Ralli Quays
3 Stanley Street
Salford
M60 9LA

Any foreign Carnet Holders who are unable to re-export the goods within the validity of the Carnet, are advised to gather any evidence to justify the reason for failing to comply with the UK Customs regulations. This could be flight cancellation notifications, government notice of lockdown, hotel booking extension etc and will be used to plead for leniency in case of a UK Customs claim. Naturally, Carnet Holders should still do their best to ensure that the Carnet is stamped on re-export from the UK as well as back into their home country even if the document has expired.

This information will be updated on a regular basis.

Yours sincerely,

Davor Antonic-Mckinley

London Chamber of Commerce and Industry