



INFORMATION SHEET

CUSTOMS

Charter Flights

Customs Approved Ports

All aircraft arriving in, or departing from Papua New Guinea must do so at an approved Customs airport (as required under the Customs Act), which is also an approved port for the purposes of the Civil Aviation Act 2000. Additionally, aircraft may not visit places within Papua New Guinea other than approved Customs airports.

Exceptions

Amendments to the Customs Act that came into force in January 2006 now allows Customs, in certain circumstances, to grant **passenger** charter flights permission to enter or depart Papua New Guinea via non-Customs approved airports.

Operators must submit their written applications at least 30-days in advance of the arrival or departure of the aircraft to allow Customs and other border agencies the time required to consider their applications. Customs will try to assist operators but it should be noted that applications could be refused due to lack of resources or other factors.

All approvals will be subject to conditions imposed by Customs to ensure compliance with various border legislation and may include full cost recovery for the use of

border agencies resources that would normally be free of charge when provided in a Customs approved port. Failure to comply with any of the conditions imposed may lead to the approval being revoked and, in some cases, prosecution.

Passenger and Crew Processing

Customs, the National Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Authority (NAQIA) and Department of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Citizenship Division (Immigration - DFAI) officers will process passengers and crew on arrival in Papua New Guinea.

Processing passengers and crew on departure will take place after the security checkpoint. Security checks are vital if the departing aircraft is to satisfy international security requirements.

Processing passengers and crew at airports whose infrastructure is not designed for international travellers may slow processing times and cause delays in embarkation. This may be avoided if suitable arrangements are made with the border agencies and airport facilitation and security committees to ensure these requirements are allocated sufficient resources and additional infrastructure.

Customs Requirements

The following is a brief guide to Customs requirements for arriving aircrafts, their passengers and crew:

Arrivals

Advance Notice of Arrival

Aircraft owners or operators, or their agents, are required to supply advance notice of arrival and specific information at least 3 hours prior to an aircraft's arrival into Papua New Guinea.

Documents required to be presented on arrival

- Papua New Guinea Customs Inward
- Report and supporting documentation;
- Papua New Guinea Customs, Quarantine and Immigration Passenger Arrival Cards (to be completed individually by all passengers);
- Valid travel document for each person on board;
- Valid visa for each person (excluding crew) on board.

Importation of Prohibited and Restricted Items

Papua New Guinea has strict laws to protect its citizens and its pristine natural environment and penalties may be imposed on passengers and crew if they breach those laws by illegally importing, or attempting to import:

- Illicit drugs;
- Animal or plant material or soil;
- Firearms, weapons or ammunition;
- Endangered species of flora and fauna and products derived from these endangered species;
- Objectionable articles (indecent);
- Some food items;
- Some medicinal products including performance-enhancing drugs;

If passengers or crew are unsure about the items in their possession, they must make a declaration on the relevant forms.

Departures

Documents required to be presented on departure

- Papua New Guinea Customs Outward Report and supporting documentation;
- Papua New Guinea Immigration Passenger Departure Card for all passengers;
- Valid travel document for each person on board (and, if required, visa and ticketing that also allows them entry to the country of destination)

Exportation of Prohibited and Restricted Items

Papua New Guinea has strict laws to protect its natural environment and cultural heritage from being exploited and penalties may be imposed if passengers and crew breach those laws by illegally exporting, or attempting to export:

- Firearms;
- Controlled drugs;
- Unrefined Gold;
- Endangered species of flora and fauna and products derived from these endangered species;
- Animals, Birds and other wildlife;
- Cultural heritage artifacts including
- World War II relics;

This information is provided as a guide only.

For more information please contact your nearest Customs office or write to The Chief Commissioner of Customs, PO Box 923, Port Moresby, NCD or telephone +675 312 7500.

Legislative References:
Customs Act Section 25(3)