Temporary Export of Field Equipment to Foreign Countries

If you have an upcoming trip or expedition to a foreign country and you are planning a temporary export of equipment that will be returned to the US in less than one year, you may wish to consider shipping your goods under a US ATA Carnet. This document can be a very powerful tool to avoid paying customs duties and taxes.

All countries have procedures allowing for the temporary importation of goods across their borders. Such importations are generally valid for up to one year. Importers may choose from three options when considering a temporary importation:

- ATA Carnet
- Temporary Importation under Bond (TIB)
- Duty Drawback

The ATA Carnet provides the best option for university scientists shipping field research equipment internationally. The other options are logistically exhausting and financially prohibitive.

The ATA Carnet was created by international convention thirty years ago. It is an international customs document used worldwide to facilitate temporary imports into member countries. ATA Carnets:

- May be used for unlimited exits from and entries into the U.S.
- Are valid for one year
- Are accepted in over 55 countries
- Eliminate payment of value-added taxes (VAT) and duties
- Simplify customs procedures

ATA Carnets cover virtually all goods, including ordinary goods such as computers, tools, cameras and video equipment, industrial machinery, automobiles, jewelry, and apparel. Carnets do not cover consumable goods (food and agriculture products), disposable items, or postal traffic.

Contact export@duke.edu for further details or visit www.uscib.org/register-and-apply-ud-859/