

FAQs

How can I apply for a carnet?

Please visit the [LCC website for more information](#). You will need to [register and create a profile](#) when applying for the first time.

ISM members can get a [discounted rate for a carnet](#).

What is a carnet?

An ATA (Admission Temporaire/Temporary Admission) Carnet is a customs document recognised by international treaty which can facilitate your compliance with customs requirements around the world, and which will eliminate the need for a Customs declaration at border points, and the requirement to import and export duties for your instrument in the country to which you are taking your instrument.

Will I need a carnet to take my instrument to a country in the EU?

Now that the UK has left the EU you will need to comply with EU Customs requirements for temporary admission for your instrument.

What documentation or formalities are required will depend on whether you are taking your instrument with you as personal baggage, or moving it by freight.

- If you are accompanying your instrument (ie carrying it with you or taking it with you in personal baggage or a vehicle) the government's Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) now advises that an ATA (Admission Temporaire/Temporary Admission) Carnet is not required.
- However if you are not accompanying your instrument or equipment and are transporting it by freight, you will need a carnet.

Do I still need a carnet even if I am taking my instrument as hand luggage into the EU?

No. The UK Government has advised us that a carnet is not necessary where you are travelling with portable instruments.

Do I need a separate carnet for each EU country I am visiting?

No. The EU is considered as one territory for customs purposes under an ATA Carnet.

I am travelling as part of an ensemble or band. Do I need a carnet?

If you are taking your instruments or equipment temporarily out of the UK to work in the EU or elsewhere you will need to address the customs requirements of the countries you are visiting. Your ensemble organiser or management may apply for a carnet for all the band's equipment: check with your organiser to see what they intend.

Can I sell my instrument when I am abroad?

If you are travelling under an ATA carnet, you must return to the UK with all your equipment, including anything which has been broken while on tour. The ATA carnet covers only temporary importation to a foreign country, and therefore anything taken out of the UK must be brought back. If you do sell your equipment you will be liable to pay duty on it.

I have travelled to countries outside the EU before using an ATA carnet. Has anything changed since 1 January 2021?

No: the ATA carnet system remains unchanged for participating countries.

If I am travelling by car to the EU will I need a carnet for my instrument?

You are strongly advised to buy a carnet if you are travelling by a car or other vehicle. This will eliminate risks of entering the EU customs area without proper documentation.

Where can I use an ATA carnet?

Please see [LCC's Frequently Asked Questions](#) – in particular questions 3 and 4.