

Notification to Passengers: Cash Limits and Regulations

Dear Passengers,

As part of our commitment to ensuring a smooth travel experience, we would like to provide you with detailed information regarding cash limits and foreign currency regulations when traveling to and from Ethiopia. These regulations are outlined in Article 22 of the Foreign Exchange Directive issued by National Bank of Ethiopia and are important for all travelers to understand and comply with.

1. **Birr Holding Limit (Article 22.6.1) General Limit:** Passengers entering or departing Ethiopia are permitted to carry a maximum of 3,000 Birr per trip. This limit is enforced to regulate the flow of currency and maintain economic stability within the country.
2. **Increased Limit for Neighboring Countries (Article 22.6.2):** For those traveling specifically to Djibouti or other port cities in neighboring countries, the cash holding limit is increased to 10,000 Birr per trip.
3. **Foreign Currency Holding and Conversion (Article 22.7) 22.7.1:** Conversion Requirement: A person residing in Ethiopia entering into Ethiopia carrying foreign currency must convert the entire amount into Birr at an authorized forex bureau or deposit it into their foreign currency account within 30 days from the date stamped on their travel document by the Immigration and Citizenship Service. This regulation aims to encourage the circulation of local currency and facilitate economic transactions within Ethiopia.
4. If the amount of foreign currency exceeds USD 10,000 (or its equivalent in other currencies), travelers are required to complete a customs declaration.
5. **Provisions for Extended Stays (Article 22.7.2):** Foreign nationals of Ethiopian origin or Ethiopian nationals not residing in Ethiopia who enter the country with foreign currency and intend to stay for more than 90 days must deposit their foreign currency into a Non-resident Foreign Currency Account within 90 days of their entry. This requirement ensures that long-term visitors comply with local financial regulations. Additionally, for amounts exceeding USD 10,000, a customs declaration is necessary. This declaration must be submitted to customs authorities to ensure compliance with the regulations and to provide a record of the currency being brought into the country.
6. **Foreign Currency Holding for Non-Residents (Article 22.7.3):** Foreigners not residing in Ethiopia are allowed to hold foreign currency in their possession up to the validity period of their visa.

7. **Purchases of Foreign Currency (Article 22.7.4):** Ethiopian residents who purchase foreign currency from a bank may carry that currency for a period of days from the date of the bank advice. It is essential for residents to note that they must convert this foreign currency into Birr at an authorized forex bureau within this 30-day period to comply with local regulations.
8. **Customs Declaration of Foreign Currency (Art 22.8.1.a):** All categories of travelers, including Ethiopian residents, foreign nationals of Ethiopian origin, and foreigners not residing in Ethiopia, entering Ethiopia who carry foreign currency exceeding USD 10,000 (or equivalent in other currencies) are mandated to declare this amount upon arrival. The declaration must be made using the Foreign Currency Customs Declaration Form, which is available at the airport or other entry points. This process is vital for maintaining accurate records of foreign currency entering the country.
9. **Declaration not Needed (Art 22.8.1.b and c):** Passengers carrying foreign currency not exceeding USD 10,000 are exempt from declaring their holdings to customs authorities upon entry. And transit passengers are exempted from any foreign currency declaration requirement and shall not be expected to declare such currency holdings to customs authorities upon entry. For the purpose of this exemption, "Transit passenger" means passengers who stay for 24 hours or less in Ethiopia and continues his or her flight to the next destination on a same or different aircraft or airline.
10. **Customs Declaration Form:** The customs declaration form must be filled out accurately and completely, detailing the amount and type of foreign currency being brought into the country. Travelers should ensure that all information provided is truthful and corresponds to the actual amounts being carried to avoid any discrepancies that could lead to complications with customs authorities.
11. **Consequences of Non-Compliance:** Failure to comply with the requirements of any provision of the directive is subject to fines and other penalties consistent with Article 26 of the National Bank of Ethiopia Establishment (as Amended) Proclamation No. 591/2008. Which includes confiscation of undeclared currency by custom authorities in the event of failure to declare amounts exceeding the limit. It is crucial for travelers to understand the importance of compliance with these regulations to avoid legal issues and ensure a hassle-free travel experience.
12. **Important Reminders:** Adhering to these regulations is essential for a smooth travel experience and to avoid any potential legal complications. This practice can provide helpful evidence in case of any inquiries or issues that may arise during your travels. For additional inquiries or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact airline or the relevant authorities.