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## **HOT TOPICS Archives**

March , 2001 Edition

### **Carnet Country Update**

Russia, Lithuania, and Latvia are newest Carnet Countries; Mexico next.

Duties and Value Added Taxes (VAT) can now be eliminated on temporary imports into three more countries. Recently, Russia, Lithuania and Latvia became the newest countries accepting the ATA Carnet or "The Merchandise Passport." The customs document allows Holders to travel duty-free for up to one year in any ATA Carnet Member country.

Carnet holders traveling to Russia need to be aware, however, of some special requirements for their Carnet applications. Most important, Russian Customs authorities require a detailed itinerary of your travel through the country. Itinerary forms can be obtained through any Roanoke Trade office and should be completed at the time you apply for the Carnet.

Carnets may be issued to Russia for commercial samples, professional equipment or exhibitions and fairs. While Carnets will be accepted in a number of customs districts in Russia, but not all, it is recommended that Holders enter the country through the cities of Bagrationovsk, Kaliningrad, Kingisep, Moscow, Mormansk, St. Petersburg, Vladivostok or Vyborg. If you are entering through any other city, please contact your Roanoke Trade Carnet Service Representative to verify that your Carnet will be accepted there.

Due to the additional paperwork required to process an ATA Carnet for Russia, Holders should be aware that a \$100 country surcharge will apply for all Carnets going to Russia.

Lithuania and Latvia will also accept Carnets for commercial samples, professional equipment and exhibitions and fairs. While no itinerary is required in advance, there are a limited number of customs locations that will accept Carnets. Your Roanoke Trade Carnet Service Representative can work with you as you plan your itinerary to these countries.

### ***Mexico Update***

Roanoke Trade and the U.S. Council for International Business are pleased to announce that Mexico has cleared the first major hurdle to becoming a full partner in the ATA Carnet System by formally acceding the ATA Conventions in early February, 2001. Operational details and the date on which Mexico will accept Carnets have yet to be finalized. The current status of Mexico can be found on the Roanoke Trade website, [www.roanoketrade.com](http://www.roanoketrade.com).

### ***News from the U.K.***

If you're shipping jewelry to the United Kingdom on a Carnet, the U.S. Council for International Business is recommending that you provide photographs with your Carnet and list carat weight for each item in Column 2 of the General List. The total weight, e.g. in grams, should appear in Column number 4.