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# Special Economic Recovery Zone (SERZ)

**Abaco & Grand Bahama Islands Exemption Guide**

**Revenue Department, Ministry of Finance**

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These guidelines will provide for Customs Duty and Value Added Tax-free importation applicable to any resident or prospective resident and business owner on the full range of materials they will need to build or renovate a house:

This exemption applies to local and international purchases of the following:

- Building Materials
- Plumbing Fixtures and Materials
- Electrical Fixtures and Materials
- Household Furniture, Furnishings & Appliances
- Hardware Supplies

Applicants are eligible to apply for Special Economic Recovery Zone exemption if they meet the following requirements:

### **Nationality**

Bahamians, residents, and prospective residents 18 years and older.

### **Location**

Business must operate or residents must reside in the qualifying locations (Qualifying islands include: The Abacos & Grand Bahama)

The applicant does not have to be a resident to apply but exempted items must be shipped to and remain in the islands specified or the approved zone.

### **Supporting Documents**

Individuals must provide the following supporting documents:

- Valid Passport or Voter's card or National Insurance Card
- Copy of Invoice(s) or Quote
- Evidence of residency or planned eligible activity on the Island.

They are subject to inspections and review.

Once approved, the applicant can then present the exemption document (certificate) to the Bahamas Customs Department.

## **Businesses**

Must provide the following supporting documents:

- Valid Government-issued ID (for sole proprietorships)
- Evidence of residency or planned eligible activity on the Island.
- Business Licence
- Certificate of Good Standing (for Incorporated entities)
- List of Beneficial Owners & Directors (for Incorporated entities)
- Tax Compliance Certificate (where appropriate)
- Invoices
- Site Plan (where appropriate)

## **Rejection**

If rejected the applicant is required to pay the normal duties stipulated by the Bahamas Customs Department.

## **Terms and Conditions**

They are subject to inspections and review.

Once approved, the applicant can then present the exemption document (certificate) to the Bahamas Customs Department and the Department of Inland Revenue.

Providing false or misleading information – or using exemptions for purposes other than applied for – will lead to prosecution and related fines and criminal penalties.