

CARNET NETWORK CIRCULAR 81

TO: All UK Carnet Issuing Chambers and Branches

SUBJECT: Hand Carried Musical Instruments for EU and Switzerland

DATE: 17 May 2023

Dear Colleague,

Please note that EU and Switzerland have waived the requirement for ATA Carnet for musicians hand-carrying their own instruments for the purposes of performing at an event or concert. In case of the EU, this dispensation also extends to accessories such as amplifier or microphone, provided such accessories are carried by the traveller together with the musical instrument. The traveller should use the green “nothing to declare” channel on arrival.

Musicians may refer to the following regulations if encountering problems at the border:

[European Union](#)

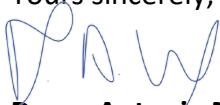
[Switzerland](#)

Note the following:

- The above dispensation **does not** apply to portable musical instruments, which are going to be used for other purposes, for example for servicing or tuning, repairs, valuation or possible sale
- When travelling, musicians are advised to carry copies of engagement contracts, proof of ownership of instruments, CITES Certificate (if applicable) and to ensure they accompany their own instruments at all border crossing points

Music instruments shipped by a freight forwarder / haulier or under transport contract will require customs declarations, therefore, the use of ATA Carnet is recommended.

Yours sincerely,



Davor Antonic-Mckinley
Head of ATA Carnet Procedures and Compliance