Kenya Customs Cost SFP Optical Module 40G



Overview

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Key Takeaways

Importing a 40G SFP optical module into Kenya typically incurs customs duty, VAT, and an import declaration fee, with total costs ranging from 16% to 30% of the CIF value.

Customs Duty and Taxes

Customs Duty: Most ICT equipment, including SFP modules, falls under the Kenya Harmonized System (HS) code 8517. 62 for optical fiber transmission equipment. The standard customs duty rate is 0% to 25%, depending on whether the product qualifies for exemptions under ICT incentives or trade agreements.

Many SF

P modules imported for enterprise or data center use may attract 0% duty if sourced from countries under the East African Community (EAC) or under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreements. Value Added Tax (VAT): Kenya imposes 16% VAT on the CIF (Cost, Insurance, and Freight) value plus customs duty. This is mandatory for all imported goods, including SFP modules.

Import Declaration Fee (IDF): The IDF is 2% of the CIF value, capped at KSh 5,000 for most imports. This fee is collected by the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) to process import documentation. Railway Development Levy (RDL): A 1.

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5% levy on CIF value may also apply for imports transported via sea or air.

Example Calculation

Assuming a 40G SFP module CIF value of USD 500: Customs Duty (0–25%): USD 0–125VAT (16% on CIF + Duty): USD 80–100IDF (2% of CIF): USD 10RDL (1. 5% of CIF): USD 7. 50 Estimated total import cost: USD 97.

50–242. 50, depending on duty exemptions.

Additional Considerations

Supplier Pricing in Kenya: Local distributors such as Instant Device Solutions, DataWorld, Rapidtech, TDK Tech Store, and HubTech offer 40G SFP modules with competitive prices and delivery options within Kenya. Purchasing locally may reduce customs paperwork and additional import fees.

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A Compliance: Ensure the module is MSA-compliant and compatible with your network equipment to avoid additional costs from returns or incompatibility. Documentation: Importers must provide a commercial invoice, packing list, and airway bill or bill of lading for customs clearance.

Recommendation

For accurate budgeting, check the KRA tariff lookup tool or consult a licensed clearing agent in Kenya. If the module qualifies under ICT exemptions or EAC/AfCFTA agreements, customs duty may be waived, leaving only VAT, IDF, and RDL as applicable.

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