



Importing Personal Property Into Afghanistan

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

All shipments are subject to inspection. The client should be present at the destination when the shipment arrives. Used household goods and personal effects are duty free. All surface shipments will incur demurrage on average of 30 days. Surface shipments will also incur container detention. The average detention period is 60 days. Detention can be avoided by using a SOC shipper owned container. Upon arrival one must declare all foreign currency.

NOTE: All shipments transiting through Pakistan bound for Afghanistan are being held by the Pakistani government indefinitely. The Pakistani government has not commented on how long containers will be held nor who is liable for port storage costs and container rental fees being incurred. Until further notice air or sea shipments should be routed via Europe, Singapore or United Arab Emirates.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport including photo page
- ✓ Visa issued at Afghan Consulate at origin
- ✓ Work Permit – obtained from the Consulate Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by the Employer directly on the Customer's behalf. Extensions can go through the Ministry of the Interior
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – must be labeled “**In transit to Afghanistan via (insert origin country)**”
- ✓ Transit Permission – if applicable
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory including values of items.
- ✓ Resident Visa – issued by the Ministry of the Interior

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted tax and duty free entry of their personal effects and household items either new or used.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Diplomatic Visa – Obtained through the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ✓ Passport copy
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory list in English

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Large appliances must not exceed one of each item
- ✓ New items are subject to very high taxes and require original receipts
- ✓ Film cameras and their film require an Import Permit.

Upon exportation of goods, permits will be required for furs, carpets, antiques and camera film.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and weapons of any kind & body armor
- ✓ Liquor and wine – strictly prohibited and will be confiscated
- ✓ Any printed material, books, magazines etc
- ✓ Medications & medical equipment
- ✓ Pornographic material and statues
- ✓ Any subversive material, material contrary to the faith of Islam & anti-government literature
- ✓ Goods bearing words or inscriptions of religious connotation
- ✓ Videos tapes, DVD's, any other type of film/movies
- ✓ Parlor video games or parts thereof
- ✓ Food of Pork, pork products or by-products
- ✓ Goods in commercial quantities

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Client must be present at time of clearance. Quarantine is not required at this time. Dogs may enter as cargo only. The transport of some species of rare birds is prohibited. The Afghan Tourist Bureau can provide more information and relevant export certificate.

Please consult with your Destination Agent prior to consigning a pet for current requirements.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Owner's Passport
- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated less than 30 days prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - dated less than 30 days prior to arrival, endorsed by a Veterinary Service

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles require prior authorization from the Ministry of Commerce in Kabul, Afghanistan

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original

NOTES:

Travel Warning: The Department of State warns U.S. citizens against travel to Afghanistan. The security threat to all American citizens in Afghanistan remains critical. No part of Afghanistan should be considered immune from violence, and the potential exists throughout the country for hostile acts, either targeted or random, against American and other Western nationals at any time. Travel in all areas of Afghanistan is unsafe due to military operations.

Entry & Exit Requirements: U.S. citizens arriving in the country via military air usually have considerable difficulties if they choose to depart Afghanistan on commercial air, because their passports are not stamped to show that they entered the country legally. Immigration authorities in Afghanistan have also implemented a fingerprinting system for all foreign visitors upon entry to the country with the exception of diplomats and ISAF personnel traveling on official orders.

U.S. citizens who are also Afghan nationals do not require visas for entry into Afghanistan. The Embassy of Afghanistan issues a letter confirming your nationality for entry into Afghanistan. However, you may wish to obtain a visa as some Afghan-Americans have experienced difficulties at land border crossings because they do not have a visa in their passport.

You are advised to carry your passport with you at all times. US citizens have been arrested and detained for not being able to prove proper entry in to Afghanistan.

Safety & Security: US citizens are encouraged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, to stay current with the latest safety and security announcements dispersed by the Embassy in your area. Your enrollment can also help the Department of State reach your family and friends in case of emergency.

U.S. citizens should be aware that an Afghan government-controlled security force, the Afghan Public Protection Force (APPF), will assume authority over the provision of most commercial security services in Afghanistan from private security companies this year. All security guard Services being performed by private security companies, with the exception of diplomatic missions, will be transferred to the APPF. By March 20, 2012, security guard services for all development site and convoys will transition to the APPF. By March 20, 2013, security for all ISAF bases and military construction sites will transition to the APPF. Only embassies and other accredited diplomatic missions will be permitted to continue using private security companies after March 2013.

Criminal Penalties: Proselytizing may be viewed as contrary to the beliefs of Islam and considered harmful to society. Afghan law carries a maximum penalty of death for those charged with proselytizing, if convicted. Evidence may consist of possession of non-Islamic religious material, especially in local languages. Allegations of conversion of Afghan citizens are taken particularly seriously. The testimony of three individuals or a group is enough to convict someone of proselytizing. The same penalty exists in law for Afghan citizens who convert to another religion. All Afghan citizens are considered Muslim from birth. Converts are subject to arrest regardless of where the conversion took place, and Afghan-U.S. dual nationals are also subject to this law.

Special Circumstances: Islam provides the foundation of Afghanistan's customs, laws, and practices. Foreign visitors and residents are expected to remain sensitive to the Islamic culture and not dress in a revealing or provocative manner, including the wearing of sleeveless shirts and blouses, halter-tops, and shorts. Women in particular, will want to ensure that their tops have long sleeves and cover their collarbone and waistband, and that their pants/skirts cover their ankles. Almost all women in Afghanistan cover their hair in public; U.S. citizen women should carry scarves for this purpose.

Health Care: Medical Care is very limited, medicines are in short supply and most hospitals have been damaged or destroyed. Afghan public hospitals should be avoided. Individuals without government licenses or even medical degrees often operate private clinics; there is no public agency that monitors their operations. Doctors require immediate cash payment for services often in advance of the treatment. International aid groups operate in some cities and villages. If you have medevac insurance you should confirm with the insurance provider that it will be able to provide medevac assistance to this country and which clinics they recommend for evaluation.

Yellow Fever and Typhoid Fever occurs and vaccination is advised. Hepatitis A and E are present and B is endemic. All water should be viewed as contaminated. Milk is unpasteurized, so should be boiled before consumption. Meats and vegetables should be cooked, preferably served hot and fruit should be peeled.

Currency: Afghanistan's economy operates on a "cash-only" basis for most transactions, but the use of credit cards is becoming more common. International bank transfers are limited. ATM machines exist at Standard Chartered Bank and Afghan International Bank in the Wazir Akbar Khan neighborhood of Kabul

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: At this time Afghanistan does not require with ISPM15 for wood packaging material (WPM).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1056.html

Embassy of Afghanistan: <http://www.embassyofafghanistan.org/>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Afghanistan – www.mfa.gov.af

Paxton International

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

IATA Travel Centre

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The information presented herein is based on customs data available at the time of printing and is frequently subject to change without notice. It is the responsibility of the owner or importer of the household goods to comply with the current customs restrictions, regulations, and duties of the country to which the goods are imported. We strongly advise customers to contact the consulate or embassy of the destination country for the most current information on customs regulations, restrictions and duties for importing household goods, personal effects and vehicles.