



Importing Personal Property Into Belarus

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Customs clearances for non-diplomats are unpredictable. Most shipments will be physically inspected. Client must be present during the Customs clearance process. Household goods imported on a temporary basis are tax and duty free, so long as all conditions are adhered to.

All items must be stated on the inventory and pro-forma invoice to avoid penalties and possible confiscation. Used household goods and personal effects with an estimated value between 1000-10,000EUR and weight between 35-200kgs are subject to a duties of 30% of total value. Those with an estimated value over 10,000EUR are subject to duties of 60% of total value. Shipments under 1000EUR will not incur duty. The goods must be imported within six months of arrival. Items can not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of (even if broken) during stay. All goods must be stated on a Re-Exportation Obligation Form upon departure.

All required documents must be in either English or Russian as specified.

Returning nationals must have worked abroad for at least 11 months for a government organization and obtained the temporary exportation documentation prior to departure to be eligible for duty free re-importation of household goods upon return to Belarus.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - copy of biographical page and visa, stamped by the embassy
- ✓ Residence Permit & Work Permit
- ✓ Letter from Employer –attesting to client’s employment contract & duration of stay; signed by employer & stamped by company official
- ✓ Housing lease/rental contract –
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, Express Release not allowed
- ✓ Pro Forma Invoice - advised to be sent to Destination Agent prior to shipment arrival
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – detailing contents of each carton, dated & signed by owner, stamped by embassy or other appropriate institute if client has diplomatic status
- ✓ Pack list
- ✓ Power of Attorney – Russian only, notarized in Belarus or at a Belarus embassy/consulate, giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange clearance
- ✓ Import Declaration Form (TD4 Customs Form) – signed by client

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted tax and duty free entry of their personal effects and household goods. Diplomats must be registered with either the Belarus Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus.

All documents must arrive to the Destination Agent 15 days prior to arrival to obtain free entry from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Returning Belarus Diplomats who are returning as citizens must obtain a letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs declaring the diplomat (now normal citizen) can import their belongings tax and duty free. Without this approval tax and duties are incurred. Client must be physically present during Customs clearance to sign documents.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport (Diplomatic) – copy, biographical page and visa, stamped by the embassy or diplomat's organization
- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise – copy of both sides
- ✓ Embassy Authorization- in Russian, from organization or mission, must state diplomat's position, stamped and signed by official sponsoring the diplomat
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory – dated & signed by owner, contents of each carton detailed
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Pro Forma Invoice - advised to be sent to Destination Agent prior to shipment arrival

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Appliances/Electronics – must state brand & serial number on the Inventory
- ✓ Prescription medications – require a health certificate
- ✓ New items – (less than 6 months) must have invoices/receipts
- ✓ Works of Art & Antiques, Carpets, Jewelry, Furniture & Books (prior to 1945) – list on a separate Inventory, 2 sets of photos of each item. This will avoid export permissions process at time of departure

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Firearms, explosives, ammunitions and weapons of any kind unless otherwise approved
- ✓ Radioactive materials, poisonous substances
- ✓ Alcohol & Tobacco
- ✓ Military Equipment

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, less than 6 months prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - by a Veterinarian at origin

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles can be subject to import taxes and duties. Amount to be paid depends on value, model, year, cubic centimeters and accessories. The OBL must show chassis and engine numbers, cubic capacity, year of manufacture, brand and model. Vehicles must be listed on a Re-Exportation Obligation Form upon departure and can not be sold while in Belarus.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓ Drivers License & Insurance Policy
- ✓ Garage/maintenance invoices
- ✓ OBL

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: All U.S. citizens visiting or residing in Belarus are required to register with the local office of the Citizenship and Migration Department of the Ministry of Interior (formerly OVIR) within 5 business days of arrival. Long-term residents (more than 90 days a year) or students must obtain an HIV/AIDS test in Belarus and submit the results to the Department of Citizenship and Migration when applying for an extension of stay or residency in Belarus.

Visas: Visa validity dates are strictly enforced; you should request a visa of sufficient length to allow for changes in arrival and departure plans. A valid exit visa is necessary to depart Belarus. Generally, the visa issued by a Belarusian Embassy or Consulate is valid for both entry and exit. If you overstay your visa's validity -- even by one day -- you will be prevented from leaving until you have been granted an extension by the Department of Citizenship and Migration. If you plan to travel through Belarus to other countries a transit visa is required. If your travel route to Belarus goes through Russia, you must possess a Russian transit visa in addition to your Belarusian visa. Russian embassies outside of the United States, including the Russian Embassy in Belarus, generally do not issue transit or tourist visas to U.S. citizens. Russian transit visas are not normally obtainable at Russian airports.

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.

Currency: All payments in Belarus are made in Belarusian rubles. Authorized currency exchange centers are widely available throughout major cities. Black market currency exchange or payment in U.S. dollars to firms or individuals without a special license is a criminal offense in Belarus. Only a few large firms (such as state-owned gas stations and large travel agencies) are licensed to accept U.S. dollars. ATMs are widely available and it has become easier to use credit cards and debit cards.

Health: Belarus requires all foreign nationals (other than accredited diplomats) entering the country to purchase medical insurance at the port-of-entry. Medical care in Belarus is neither modern nor easily accessible, especially for those who do not speak Russian. There are no hospitals in Belarus that provide a level of medical care equal to that of Western hospitals, and none accept U.S. health insurance plans for payment. Traumatic injuries are especially serious as the level of care and competence to deal with them are well below U.S. standards. The fastest way to secure Western-level care is medical evacuation to Western Europe. Tuberculosis a serious health concern and vaccination is strongly advised.

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: As of this posting Belarus does not impose ISPM15 regulations for wood packaging material (WPM).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Embassy of Belarus: <http://belarusembassy.org/>

Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1033.html

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

AGS Worldwide – Minsk, Belarus

Corstjens Worldwide Movers Group

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.