



# *Importing Personal Property Into Estonia*

## **HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS**

### **CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

#### **Customs Regulations:**

The client must be in Estonia to clear the shipment. Used household goods and personal effects are duty free provided goods have been owned and used by the client for a minimum of six months and client has lived abroad for at least one year. Returning nationals must have lived abroad for 2 years to be granted duty-free status. The goods must be imported within one year. Items can not be sold lent or otherwise disposed of. It is advised to seek the advice of the Destination Agent regarding items on the Restricted and Prohibited Lists and regarding importation of vehicles and pets as these areas are subject to frequent changes.

**NOTE: As of 19 August 2010 an EORI (Economic Operators Registration and Identification) number is required for all imports and exports to clear Customs in the European Union.**

The requirement was introduced by the European Commission in July 2009 to enhance security. The EORI number must be used in all electronic communications with Customs Offices and other government agencies and departments. This number is valid in all EU member states and replaces ALL Customs identification numbers including the TIN (Traders Identification Number). All business operators and private individuals not established in the EU must obtain the EORI number from the authorities in the respective EU member state wherein the client intends to operate or reside. Please consult with your Destination Agent for further details and assistance.

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Passport - copy
- ✓ Residence Visa/Work Permit or Business Visa – issued by Estonian Authorities
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – in English
- ✓ Customs Declaration
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Letter from Employer – on company letterhead; attesting to client's employment in Estonia
- ✓ Confirmation to return items such as works of art, electronics, appliances etc

#### **Returning Citizens: additional documents**

- ✓ Letter attesting returning national has been employed abroad more than two years

#### **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 Franchise
- ✓ Passport – Diplomatic, copy
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory – in English
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance, must be completed by Diplomat's Embassy

## RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Works of Art, Paintings & Antiques –valued and authenticated buy a professional; documents or their copies must be kept as evidence of their importation for the purpose of re-exportation
- ✓ Firearms - require a
- ✓ Plants – require Phytosanitary certificates from origin and destination
- ✓ New items & foodstuffs
- ✓ Tobacco – 200 cigarettes or 250 grams of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty,

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Alcohol – not allowed in household goods shipment; must be sent separately
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and weapons

## IMPORTATION OF PETS

Cats and dogs are subject to special regulations (EC) No. 998/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council. For pets moving to either Tallinn or Tartu, Estonia they will need to be registered in those cities after arrival. For more information: <http://www.tallinn.ee/pets/Registration-of-pets-2>

Pets may enter as passenger's checked baggage, in the cabin or as cargo.

**Prohibited:** the import of all birds, including pet birds and poultry, arriving from countries infected with Avian influenza. Certain aggressive dog breeds are also prohibited. Please consult your service agent for the latest requirements.

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated 30 days prior to arrival
- ✓ International Veterinary Certificate - issued at origin, by a licensed veterinarian
- ✓ Microchip

## IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles are duty-free if importer has resided outside of Estonia for at least 1 year.

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓ Drivers License & International Driving Permit
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Letter from Employer – on company letterhead; attesting to client's employment in Estonia
- ✓ Passport & Residence Permit copies

## NOTES:

**Entry & Exit Requirements:** U. S. citizens are advised to carry passports when traveling to neighboring Baltic countries from Estonia as each country has the right to conduct passport checks. Other countries in the region, such as Russia and Ukraine, are not parties to the Schengen Agreement, so there is mandatory immigration control for persons entering or exiting Estonia by land or air to/from those countries. Residency permits, visa extensions, and other rules applicable to foreigners visiting Estonia (such as students, temporary workers, etc.) are processed by the Estonian Citizenship and Migration Department, part of the Estonian Police & Border Guard Board.

**Safety & Security:** Estonian authorities are vigilant in combating terrorism and other threats to security. There have been no incidents of terrorism directed toward U.S. citizens in Estonia. Furthermore, civil unrest generally is not a problem in Estonia, Nevertheless, large public gatherings and demonstrations may occur on occasion in response to political issues, but these (with a few exceptions) have proceeded without incident in the past

Estonian law requires pedestrians to wear small reflectors, which people generally pin to their coats or handbags. Violators of this law may be subject to a fine of around US\$50.00 or a higher fine up to US\$500.00 if the pedestrian is under the influence of alcohol. Reflectors are inexpensive and you should be able to find them at many supermarkets, kiosks, and other shops.

**Health:** Hepatitis A occurs. Cases of diphtheria have been reported. Vaccination against tick-borne encephalitis is advisable if visiting forested areas. Precautions should be taken against tuberculosis, as cases of this disease have increased. HIV testing is required for foreigners requesting work permits or residency. There are no restrictions in Estonia to visitors or residents with HIV/AIDS.

**Special Circumstances:** Estonia is scheduled to replace its currency, the kroon, with the euro beginning January 1, 2011 at the fixed rate of 1 euro = 15.6466 kroons. During the first two weeks of 2011, shops will accept both kroons and euros, but only euros will be accepted thereafter. From December 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, persons holding cash kroons will be able to exchange their bills and coins into euros at the official rate, without incurring any exchange fees, at all bank branches.

**Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:** As a member of the EU Lithuania enforces ISPM15 regulations for wood packaging material (WPM). In addition to the implementation of treatment and marking requirements described in ISPM 15, the new EC import requirements provide that the WPM instead of being produced from debarked round wood from 1 January 2009 onward will need to be free from bark with exception for the presence of any number of individual pieces of bark. These should be either less than 3 cm in width (regardless of the length) or, if greater than 3 cm in width, of not more than 50 cm<sup>2</sup> in area. This latter free-from-bark requirement will be applicable from 1 July 2009 onward.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Estonian Police & Border Guard: <http://www.politsei.ee/en/>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Estonia: <http://www.vm.ee/?q=en/node/53>

Department of State

FIDI Global Alliance

Transworld Moving

ISPM15.com

IATA Travel Centre

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.