

Importing Personal Property Into France

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

All shipments are subject to inspection. The client does not need to be present during clearance. Client must have resided at origin residence for a minimum of one (1) year before relocating to France. Client must also intend to reside in France for more than one year. There is not a limit in the amount of air or ocean shipments within 12 months of the client's transfer to France.

Used household goods and personal effects are duty free if owned abroad for at least six months, if the owner is moving his principle residence the items must arrive within the year. Goods must remain in the client's possession for a minimum of one (1) year from the date of importation. If goods come in separate consignments they **MUST** all be shown on the first inventory.

VAT Increase: VAT will increase from **19.68% to 20 %** beginning January 1st 2014. VAT will apply to storage and related work such as warehouse handling and cartage to/from storage facility.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport including photo page
- ✓ Visa
- ✓ Declaration of Duty Exemption/Entry of Personal Effects "Cerfa N 10070*01" – 2 originals (3 in the event of transit) obtained from French Customs offices or website
- ✓ Residence Card - "Competences et Talents"
- ✓ Work Permit (requirements vary according to nationality)
- ✓ Certificate of Change of Residence - obtained from French Consulate with customer's signature including dates of arrival, date of change of residence
- ✓ Proof of Residence in France - lease contract, utility bills etc
- ✓ Attestation de non-cession – Declaration that owner has lived abroad for at least one year, that items have been in owner's possession at least six months and will not be sold for 12 months
- ✓ Letter of Transfer - on employer's letterhead, stating date of employment at origin, date of transfer
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory – 3 copies, in French, valued in EURO, dated & signed by customer
 - Inventory must list contents of each carton
 - List electrical items separately with brand name & serial number
 - Purchase invoices required
- ✓ Proof of employment from a registered company
- ✓ Delivery Address in France with access information, floor, entry code if any

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted tax and duty free entry of their personal effects and household items once Diplomatic Franchise is in place.

Diplomatic clearance is required by the local embassy in France with French Customs authorities.

Effective Immediately: Documents for diplomatic shipments must be presented to Customs Authority. This new requirement will add 1-2 days to the clearance process.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise
- ✓ Passport copy
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory list in French – 3 copies, notarized, listing ALL electrical items

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Firearms - require Import Permit issued by Directorate General of Customs in Paris; registration certificates and licenses MUST be obtained prior to arrival. Can not be shipped in household goods container. Client may need to be present during clearance of firearms. Consult with service agent for current requirements and French Defense Ministry
- ✓ Medication – Authorization from the Ministry of Health
- ✓ Alcoholic beverages – Must be inventoried separately with brand name, type, number of bottles and value. 50 bottles, of which no more than 15 can be over 22% (44% US proof) is considered a reasonable limit to be imported duty free and considered “restants de cave” (remainder of cellar)
- ✓ Tobacco is allowed but subject to duty and tax
- ✓ Furniture & new items (less than six months old) – need sales invoices identifying price, date and place of purchase. Are subject to VAT if coming from EEC countries and VAT plus duties if coming from other countries
- ✓ Wedding Presents – Requires marriage certificate and French resident permit. Must be shipped within a month of the wedding
- ✓ Works of Art – Require Certificate of Authenticity
- ✓ Video tapes, fax & telex machines, and books will be held temporarily by customs until necessary authorization is obtained for each item

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and weapons without proper permits
- ✓ Ivory, all animal skins and live plants
- ✓ Paints, polishes and cleaning solvents

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Client's presence during pet's Customs clearance process is required. Animals can be subject to quarantine. Endangered and exotic pets are prohibited. Dogs on the dangerous breeds list are prohibited with out a registered pedigree. Birds: 2 parrots are allowed or up to 10 smaller birds. If arriving from the US a family is allowed 5 pets total and all must be over 3 months old unless with its mother. It is recommended to consult with the Destination Agent prior to importation for the latest requirements

WARNING: animals without the necessary certificates will be returned to place of origin or destroyed.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated less than 10 days prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - dated less than 10 days prior to arrival, endorsed by a Veterinary Service

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles may be imported duty-free as personal effects if customer intends to live in France for an extended period of time. Foreigners residing in France on business may import a vehicle duty free providing they have proof of living abroad for over one year, the car has been owned for six months prior

to import and is properly registered as a commercial vehicle. After vehicle is cleared, the client will be issued a 846A document which allows the client to drive the vehicle for four (4) months, providing the vehicle is insured while the registration process and securing a French title takes place. Vehicles are cleared through an organization called UTAC more detailed information regarding the tests can be found at: www.utac.com. The cost of the tests is approximately 1600.00EURO.

Vehicle MUST be listed on Inventory – include make, model, year, chassis and engine numbers, horse power and registration numbers. Vehicles must have Xenon lights with automatic cleaning system and weight detection system. Cost to convert to this system is about 3000.00EURO. Not all vehicles can be converted, please consult your destination Agent or the UTAC for requirements

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration card- must be originals
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓ Insurance certificate – French insurer
- ✓ Vehicle Plate numbers

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: the French visa must be obtained prior to arrival. It is nearly impossible to obtain or change visa status while in France.

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.

Competences et Talents: The new ‘Competences et Talents’ residency card is valid for three years and renewable. This new card allows one to exercise the activity of your choice in connection with your professional contract. In addition your spouse and children will receive residency permits allowing them to legally work in France as well.

Second Residence: Regulations for moving household goods to France for the purpose of setting up a second home have different requirements and regulations. Consult your service agents prior to consigning your household goods for complete instructions.

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: New European Community import requirements provide that the WPM instead of being produced from debarked round wood 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 cm² in area.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Neer Service France: www.neerservice.fr

Embassy of France: <http://www.ambafrance-us.org/>

Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1116.html

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

www.agriculture.gouv.fr

www.ISPM15.com

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.