



Importing Personal Property Into Kazakhstan

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

All shipments are subject to inspection. The client should be present during the clearance with a valid visa and able to show proof of employment at a registered Kazakh company. Used household goods and personal effects are subject to payment of import Customs duties and VAT of approximately 40-45% of the valued inventory on CIF.

Note: Valued Inventory is for customs purposes only; the value does not have to be the same as used for insurance purposes. It is recommended to under declare the value of goods to avoid unnecessary problems with local customs authorities at times of import and again at export.

Do not attach the "Valued Inventory List" used for insurance with the other shipping documents.

Ports & terminals: Aktau (Shevchenko), Atyrau (Gur'yev), Oskemen (Ust-Kamenogorsk), Pavlodar, Semey (Semipalatinsk)

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - copy including photo page & entry stamp
- ✓ Visa – copy
- ✓ Work Permit – obtained in Kazakhstan
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill
- ✓ Valued Inventory - in English or Russian
- ✓ Packing List
- ✓ Power of Attorney document – issued by a Kazakh notary authorizing Destination Agent to clear shipment (agent can supply text for the POA)
- ✓ Confirmation of employment in Kazakhstan

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 copy
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory List - in English or Russian

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Books, CD's, DVD's, audio & video must include title, author/artist, year of publication and topic of each item individually on the inventory list.
- ✓ A separate list w/values of high tech equipment, works of art, silver, & musical instruments should be included to avoid problems when re-exporting
- ✓ Food products - must meet veterinary & Phytosanitary regulations.
- ✓ Tobacco - 1000 cigarettes or 1000 grams of tobacco products allowed duty-free

- ✓ Works of Art, Antiques, Rugs etc: must be registered with the Ministry of Culture upon arrival and a document from the Ministry recording the items must be obtained. This will assist with exportation of these items after the work contract expires. It is suggested to have photographs of each piece. Items of a similar nature purchased in Kazakhstan will need to be presented to the Ministry of Culture to determine if an item is valuable to Kazakh culture. Antiques are defined on a case by case basis.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Alcohol
- ✓ Pornography and any subversive materials against Kazakhstan
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and weapons of all kinds

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Cats, dogs and birds except pigeons are allowed entry. Pets may enter as checked baggage in the cabin or as cargo. Quarantine is not required at this time. Generally pets are not permitted into hotels.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated less than 30 days prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - dated no more than 10 days prior to arrival, bearing seal of Board of Health

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles must be under 5 years old to be allowed importation. Duties, taxes and Customs fees are calculated based on make model, year of production and engine size plus 12% VAT. The engine volume must not exceed 3 litres. Sale of the vehicle is prohibited. Contact the Destination Agent for current rates as they must be paid prior to importation.

Required Documents:

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

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: Most visa categories cannot be extended in Kazakhstan. Exceptions to this rule are student visas, visas for medical treatment, visas for permanent residents of Kazakhstan, and work visas, which can be extended in Kazakhstan up to the expiration date of the holder's work permit, a separate document issued only in Kazakhstan. Business visas can be extended domestically if the traveler is in Kazakhstan at the invitation of the Government of Kazakhstan, a diplomatic mission, or international organization in Kazakhstan.

Registration of U.S. passports is conducted at the same time as the issuance of the visa. At airports and border posts, Kazakhstani immigration officers present travelers with a white registration card valid for 3 months. US citizens must retain this card throughout their stay in Kazakhstan. Two stamps on the card indicate that the traveler is registered. If the card contains only one stamp, the traveler must register with the Migration Police. Extensions are done through the Migration Police.

New visa rules went into effect March 1, 2010, regarding missionaries and faith based non-governmental organizations. Visitors to Kazakhstan engaging in missionary work or other religious activities must register with the Department of Justice office in the region (Akimat) where the activities will take place. This applies even if the religious activities are not the primary purpose of the visit. Attendance at a religious service does not itself require registration, however participation in the delivery of the service

may. U.S. citizens have been fined and deported from Kazakhstan for addressing a congregation, leading prayers, and performing religious music without proper religious worker registration. Some HIV/AIDS restrictions exist for visitors to and foreign residents of Kazakhstan. Visitors applying for a work or residency permit, required for U.S. citizens who wish to spend more than 6 months in Kazakhstan, must submit negative HIV test results with their application to the Migration Police in the city where they intend to work or reside. The results must be less than three months old.

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.

Islamic extremist groups are active in the region thus US citizens should exercise caution and be mindful of surroundings. Identification checks by the police are common practice. U.S. visitors must produce either a passport or an Embassy-certified copy thereof upon request. Police are not required to demonstrate probable cause or reasonable suspicion to initiate ID checks. Given concerns with crime, the U.S. Embassy has an agreement with the Kazakhstani government to allow U.S. citizens to carry a certified copy of their passport and visa rather than the original.

Health: Tuberculosis vaccine is advised. US citizen residents requiring prescription medications or specific brand-name medicines should bring sufficient supplies of medications and not rely on local availability. Basic medical supplies, including disposable needles, anesthetics, and antibiotics can be in short supply. Elderly travelers and those with pre-existing health problems may be at risk due to inadequate medical facilities. Most resident U.S. citizens travel to Western Europe for serious medical treatment.

Currency: Kazakhstan remains largely a cash economy. Traveler's checks and credit cards are not widely accepted, except at large hotels and restaurants catering to the international community. U.S. dollars can easily be exchanged for the local currency (Tenge) authorized currency exchanges. All denominations of U.S. currency except \$1 bills must be new series (large portraits) and must have been issued after 2000 and be in good condition (not worn or torn and without any writing or marks).

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: As of this posting Kazakhstan does not require the ISPM15 standard for wood packaging material (WPM).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Embassy of Kazakhstan: <http://www.kazakhembus.com/>

Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1150.html

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

Interdean Central Asia

www.aphis.usda.gov

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.