



Importing Personal Property Into Malta

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

The client does not have to be present at the time of clearance; however the agent clearing the shipment must be to present all relevant documentation in person to Customs Authority. Owner of the goods will have up to 6 months to take up residence and appear before Customs to finalize. All goods must be used to avoid tax and duties.

All shipments are physically inspected. Shipment must arrive within six (6) months of the client.

Relief of Import Duty is obtained by referring to Regulation No. 918/83. This regulation must be referred to when processing all documentation. Items not mentioned will not be accepted as personal belongings or household goods.

Used household goods and personal effects are duty free provided goods have been owned and used by the customer for a minimum of six months and either of the following:

Returning citizens must have lived abroad for 18 continuous months. Must register with Inland Revenue Department, Tax Payer Services, prior to Customs procedures.

Foreigners with a valid Work Permit or Temporary Residence Permit must supply a refundable cash guarantee to Customs Authority. Clients from non EU countries must have all Customs documents processed from the Customs Dept. Customer Services Section. Must register with Inland Revenue Department, Ex-Patriots section, prior to Customs procedures.

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 EORI number must be used in all electronic communications with Customs Offices and other government agencies and departments. This number replaces ALL Customs identification numbers including the TIN (Traders Identification Number).

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - original; dual citizens must present both passports
- ✓ Residence Visa or Work Permit
- ✓ Customs Declaration – imported items have been owned and used by the owner; signed with a witness of signing; duty & tax relief is applicable within the guidelines of the Declaration. Declaration is approved upon payment of a deposit
- ✓ Deposit – calculated at 5.3% of C&F Value declared to cover any duties due & 18% VAT; Refund of the deposit applies after a minimum of 12 months residing in Malta
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – signed & dated by owner
- ✓ Proof of Residency Abroad – provided by an attorney, employer, embassy or accountant; attesting to residing outside of the European Union for at least 12 months, providing exact dates
- ✓ Letter from Employer – on company letterhead; attesting to client's length of stay & position in the company
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Notice of Arrival – provided by Destination Agent

- ✓ National Statistics Form
- ✓ Certificate of Registration – obtained from Inland Revenue Department

Returning Citizens: additional documents

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 – all high-tech equipment, computers, electronics, stereos etc must state make model & serial number
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ New items – incur 15% duty
- ✓ Furniture is subject to VAT
- ✓ TVs – subject to a Wireless & Telegraphy license at 40€
- ✓ Alcohol - 6 bottles are allowed duty free; in excess of that incurs duty & VAT based on alcohol % & volume of each bottle; a separate declaration per bottle must be sent w/the pack list
- ✓ Tobacco – incurs 15% duty; 200 cigarettes or 250 grams of loose tobacco

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Dish antennas, air band receivers, transmitters etc
- ✓ Firearms, other weapons such as knives & swords, explosive and other ammunitions
- ✓ All animal products and by-products, meats, and dairy products
- ✓ Food goods

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Cats and dogs may be subject to quarantine at Luqa Airport. Birds and exotic pets are subject to quarantine. Owners are required to advise, in advance, of their arrival, to ensure that BIP officers are available to release their pets without delays. Cats, dogs, & ferrets must present proof of being treated with praziquantel for tapeworm and fiprinol for ticks 24-28 hours before departure to Malta. Please consult www.veterinary.gov.mt for up-to-date information and requirements.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated less 30 days to 11 months prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - dated no more than 5 days prior to arrival, endorsed by a Veterinarian
- ✓ Import License – obtained from Director of Veterinary Services
- ✓ Pet Passport – obtained from competent veterinary authority of origin country
- ✓ Microchip – tattoos are not acceptable

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Returning citizens or permanent residents are allowed to import one vehicle. Temporary residents can import one used vehicle which has been in their possession for at least six months; however it is dutiable. Vehicles must be registered in owner's name for at least six months regardless of status.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓ Import License – obtained from Department of Trade
- ✓ Export Certificate or Log Book
- ✓ MOT or Test Certificate to show road worthiness
- ✓ Drivers License & International Insurance Policy (green card)

NOTES:

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. Malta is used as a logistical transit point for terrorists entering EU countries illegally or as a refuge for terrorists attempting to evade detection. US citizens should be vigilant of their surroundings and exercise caution while in the country.

Crime: Violent crime is low, but petty crime has risen in recent years such as pick pocketing. Theft of unattended property and vehicle stereos is common. Penalties for possessing, using or trafficking illegal drugs are severe. Judicial proceedings typically last 5-7 years with lengthy and unpredictable delays between hearings. Foreign nationals can expect to be denied bail while a court case is ongoing, which can result in lengthy periods of pre-trial detention ranging from several months to several years.

Currency: Malta customs authorities may enforce strict regulations concerning currency restrictions.

Health: Medical care in Malta is excellent; however in many places doctors and hospitals still expect payment in cash at the time of service.

Very few public or private spaces in Malta are wheelchair accessible. Many apartments lack elevators. Public transportation and most sidewalks or footpaths, including road crossings, are not accessible for those with mobility challenges.

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: Malta has ISPM15 for wood packaging material (WPM) requirements in place.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Express Group: Luqa, Malta

Thomas Smith & Co. Ltd: Valleta, Malta

Embassy of Malta <http://www.foreign.gov.mt/default.aspx?MDIS=504>

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

USDA: 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.