



Importing Personal Property Into Turkmenistan

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

The client should be present at the destination with a valid visa. The client should be employed with a registered company in Turkmenistan. Used household goods and personal effects can only be imported on a temporary basis to be duty free. Non Diplomat client must pay \$5.00USD per hour for Customs clearance process. All new items will be levied a tax. The goods must be imported within six months of arrival. Items can not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of during stay.

Valued Inventory lists are for Customs purposes only; items do not need to be the same as the Valued Inventory lists used for insurance purposes. Do not send the inventory lists used for insurance purposes with the shipping documents. A pre-alert with copies of all documents should be sent to the Destination Agent 10 days prior to the arrival of the shipment to avoid costly import duties.

Returning nationals are not eligible to import household goods and personal effect on a temporary basis and therefore are subject to full tax and duties.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport & Visa - copies
- ✓ Pro-forma Invoice
- ✓ Customs Declaration – blank, to be completed at Customs
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, Express Release not allowed
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – in English or Russian, dated & signed by owner: Description should include quantity of each item, gross & net weights & value
- ✓ Pack list
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent, issued by clients organization at the destination
- ✓ Letter from Employer –attesting to client's employment contract

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted tax and duty free entry of their personal effects and household goods. All documents must arrive to the Destination Agent 15 days prior to arrival to obtain free entry from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Diplomatic Card & Pasport
- ✓ Letter from Embassy – addressed to Customs Committee
- ✓ Diplomatic Letter from origin organization – approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory – dated & signed by owner
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Appliances/Electronics – must have invoices/receipts and serial numbers
- ✓ Prescription medications – require a health certificate

- ✓ New items – (less than 6 months) must have invoices/receipts
- ✓ Tobacco – 200 cigarettes or 250 grams of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty
- ✓ Plants – require permission obtained from the Ministry of Nature and Environment

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Weapons, explosives, ammunitions, knives
- ✓ Alcohol – must be sent separately
- ✓ Toxic & radioactive materials
- ✓ Exportation items deemed to be of Turkmen cultural/historical value – antiques, carpets, books, icons, paintings or any other such items

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Required Documents:

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

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles must obtain permission from the Customs Office Operation Department and Trans-inspection office in Ashgabad. Subject to duties of \$25.00USD and \$5.00USD per hour for clearance process. Right hand vehicles are prohibited. Sale of temporary imported vehicle/motorcycle is prohibited. Must be exported at the end of client's tenure.

The OBL must show chassis & engine numbers, cubic capacity, year of manufacture, brand and model.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Permission of Operation Department of Ashgabad Customs Office
- ✓ Insurance documentation & Driving manual for the vehicle
- ✓ OBL / AWB
- ✓ Inspection & Receipt of plates - State Vehicle Inspection
- ✓ Temporary / Permanent Import Declaration
- ✓ Permission from Transinspection (Diplomats and foreigners)
- ✓ Certificate of Standard of State (Diplomats and foreigners)
- ✓ Temporary Import Declaration (Diplomats and foreigners)

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: A letter of invitation approved by the government of Turkmenistan is required before one can apply for a visa. These letters must come from an individual or organization in Turkmenistan and submitted to the State Migration Service along with a copy of the information page of the visitor's passport. Passports must have at least 6 months of validity when applying for the letter of invitation. Upon arrival to Turkmenistan you will be issued an immigration card. Keep this card with you at all times during the stay. You must also register with the State Migration Service based on the city of the sponsoring organization: Ashgabat, Dashoguz, Mary, Turkmenabat or Turkmenbashi. Inform the SMS

in advance if you plan to travel outside the city in which you are registered. Failure to do so may result in fines and deportation. Return to the SMS to register your departure from the country one day in advance. Both registration and de-registration must be done at the same SMS office. Failure to do will result in a fine, arrest and or deportation. If deported one cannot return for a period of 5 years.

Upon conclusion of stay return the card to authorities at airport of departure.

Safety & Security: many areas throughout the country as “restricted zones,” particularly the border areas next to Iran, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan. Those wishing to enter restricted zones must apply for a permit from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Uniformed and plainclothes officials frequently ask to see passports, visas, migration cards, and SMS registrations. Ask to see identification if you are not certain that the person requesting the information is an official. Documentation checks, and residence and vehicle searches, are common. Security personnel maintain checkpoints on major roads 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.

Crime: U.S. citizens, present an attractive target for criminals. Do not walk about after dark particularly if you are female. Pick pocketing is common. Violent crime is on the rise particularly against foreigners.

Currency: U.S. dollars are widely accepted and are required as payment for certain goods and services. Travelers may wish to bring sufficient U.S. currency to exchange into manat to cover expenses not payable in U.S. dollars. Old U.S. dollar bills (issued before 1990) and/or those in poor condition (with tears, writing or stamps) are not acceptable forms of currency in Turkmenistan.

Health: Medical care is limited and below Western standards. Medical evacuation insurance is highly recommended. Resident U.S. citizens travel to Western Europe or North America for treatment of any serious medical condition, and for many routine procedures. One should bring enough prescription medications and supplies and appropriate documentation for Customs Authority.

Those with disabilities or mobility issues will encounter accessibility issues.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Gosselin Moving: Antwerp, Belgium

Embassy of Turkmenistan: <http://turkmenistanembassy.org/visa-requirements>

Department of State: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country/turkmenistan.html>

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

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

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The information presented herein is based on customs data available at the time of publishing 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.