



Importing Personal Property Into The United Kingdom

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

All shipments are subject to inspection. Used household goods and personal effects are tax and duty free including clothing, cosmetics, furniture, portable tools of trade, pets and other household goods and personal effects provided:

The client is moving or returning to the EC (European Community) after having lived outside the EC for at least 12 continuous months. The goods have been in the client's possession and use outside of the EC for at least 6 months prior to importation. The items may be imported up to 6 months in advance of the transfer of residence and no later than 12 months after the client's arrival.

The effects were not obtained under a duty/tax-free scheme, except for the following: diplomats, members of officially recognized international organizations, members of NATO or UK forces and the civilian staff accompanying them, or spouses of any of the aforementioned organizations.

The items must be kept for personal use and not be sold, lent, hired out or otherwise disposed of in the EC within 12 months of importation.

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.

This number is valid in all EU member states and replaces ALL Customs identification numbers including the TIN (Traders Identification Number)

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - including photo page
- ✓ Customs Form C3 - original, signed in ink for ocean shipments. Fax copies are acceptable for air shipments
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill
- ✓ Comprehensive packing list & valued inventory – two copies, signed & dated
- ✓ Work Permit
- ✓ Keys to any locked items

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
- ✓ Customs Form C426 - original, signed in ink for ocean shipments. Fax copies are acceptable for air shipments
- ✓ Passport copy
- ✓ Keys to any locked items
- ✓ Comprehensive Packing List & Valued Inventory – two copies, signed & dated
- ✓ It is necessary to know the following information: the marks and numbers of the packages in which the goods are traveling, the ship's name, the date of arrival, and port of arrival.

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Firearms – hunting rifles & ammunitions require a license, contact Service Agent for details
- ✓ Radio transmitters (walkie-talkies, CB radios and cordless phones) that have not been approved for use in the United Kingdom
- ✓ Endangered species, including birds and plants, whether alive or dead, and the goods made from them. Fur, ivory, and leather that have been taken from endangered species.
- ✓ Plants and their produce - including trees, shrubs, bulbs and seeds etc
- ✓ Alcohol, tobacco & perfume – incurs duty & excise tax of 10-20% & VAT of 20%: must be declared on Customs C3 Form
- ✓ Wedding Gifts - are eligible for duty-free importation if the items are intended for the client and given by someone living outside the EC.

Client

- A marriage certificate is required.
- Value of £800 per item maximum
- Alcohol or tobacco gifts are excluded:
- Gifts can arrive 2 months prior to the wedding and 4 months afterward.
- ✓ Inheritance Goods - require a C1421 Form & a copy of the will naming client as beneficiary
- ✓ Art & Antiques are duty free if the below requirements are met:
 - Articles are part of a bona fide household removal or are over 100 years old.
 - Articles have been in the use and possession of the owner for a minimum of one year.
 - Articles are not for sale or other disposal in the United Kingdom.
 - Owner must declare the age and value of the goods in advance of the importation. Date of manufacture *must* be produced.
 - Certificate of Antiquity should be supplied.
 - Precious metal objects may enter duty-free. Silverware is considered as household goods.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Customs Form C88. Enter the appropriate Customs Procedure Code in Box 37.
- ✓ An Age Declaration. A written statement made by the shipper to read: “I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the articles on the form as imported were wholly manufactured or produced more than 100 years before the date of importation.”
- ✓ Evidence of Age as proven by a certificate of age provided by the seller or by an independent expert in the country where the antique/work of art was acquired.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Flick-knives, swordsticks, knuckle-dusters, blowpipes, butterfly knives, death stars, spring-operated telescopic truncheons and some martial arts equipment
- ✓ Weapons that are designed or adapted to discharge any noxious substance are prohibited, including stun guns, electric shock batons and self-defense sprays.
- ✓ Obscene materials depicting extreme violence, including horror comics
- ✓ Narcotics such as heroin, morphine, cocaine, cannabis, amphetamines, barbiturates and LSD
- ✓ Pornographic materials, indecent and obscene materials featuring children
- ✓ Counterfeit and pirated goods & Goods that infringe upon patents
- ✓ Food – including pet food; inclusion will incur high Customs fees & delay clearance

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Dogs, cats and ferrets traveling under the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) from the Mainland U.S. may enter the U.K. without quarantine. Pets arriving from non approved countries are subject to a 6 month quarantine period.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies & proof of tapeworm treatment: Blood draw sample taken 15-30 days after vaccination to verify vaccines have been effective
- ✓ Health Certificate - dated less than 30 days prior to arrival
- ✓ Proof of microchip –
- ✓ Import Permit - if arriving from non approved countries
- ✓ Customs Form C5 for each pet, with the pet's purchase price or the cost of buying another pet of the same breed, age and condition.

For up-to-date, detailed information refer to the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs' website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/>

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Client may be required to be present during clearance. Duty-Free entry is permitted if the following requirements are met: The client has owned and used the vehicle for more than 6 months. The vehicle must not be sold or otherwise disposed of for at least one year after date of importation. Consult your nearest Consulate to the United Kingdom to verify the vehicle complies with safety and environmental protection standards. Proof of US residency for previous 12 months.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport (copy) proof of ownership outside the EC for at least 12 months, proof of insurance
- ✓ Original purchase invoice, vehicle registration & Certificate of Title, bill of lading
- ✓ Customs Form – please use applicable form:
 - C104A – relocation of main residence or C104F - relocation for 6-12 months
 - C384 Declaration if the vehicle is less than 6 months old
 - C179B
- ✓ Community Transit document – T2; obtained from origin Customs office
- ✓ Declaration to HM Customs – specify make, model, year of manufacture, serial, engine & chassis numbers, cc engine capacity, fuel type, odometer reading, number of cylinders, left or right drive, transmission type, price and defects that may bring value down

NOTES:

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: The United Kingdom requires ISPM15 for wood packaging.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Fox Moving & Storage

DEFRA (Department for Environment and Rural Affairs), Bringing Pets to the UK

HM Customs & Revenue: <http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk>

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.