



# *Importing Personal Property Into Albania*

## **HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS**

### **CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

#### **Customs Regulations:**

The client must be in the country at the time of Customs clearance with the proper visa and residence card. Used household goods and personal effects can be duty free with proper authorization letter. Items must have been owned and used by the customer for a minimum of six months and customer has lived abroad for at least one year. 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.

Consult the Destination Agent for assistance in translating documents into Albanian. Customs Laws and their interpretation are changing continuously, consulting with your Destination Agent prior to departure is advised.

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Passport - copy
- ✓ Armenian Visa
- ✓ Residence Permit – can be obtained prior or at a police station where you will be residing
- ✓ Work Permit – obtained from employer
- ✓ NIPT ( Identification Number of Taxable Person) – copy, obtained from Albanian employer
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, Express Release not allowed
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – in Albanian, list items by categories, dated & signed by owner
- ✓ Pack list
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Letter from Employer – addressed to Customs Committee attesting to client’s employment contract (organization must be registered with the Ministry of Justice)
- ✓ Pro-Forma Invoice
- ✓ Letter of Authorization – to apply for duty free status; approved by General Director of Customs, Albania; Destination Agent can assist with preparing the letter

#### **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 Franchise/Protocol
- ✓ Passport (Diplomatic) - copy
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – in Albanian, list items by categories, dated & signed by owner
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Request for “Duty Free Entry” –stamped by Embassy

### **RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS**

- ✓ Appliances/Electronics – must have receipts; state make, model & serial number

- ✓ Prescription medications – require a health certificate
- ✓ Firearms & ammunition- requires a permit from local Albanian police Department
- ✓ New items – (less than 6 months) must have invoices/receipts
- ✓ Tobacco – 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars; in excess of these amounts incurs duty
- ✓ Alcohol 1 litre of spirits & 2 litres of wine

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and all other weapons unless otherwise approved
- ✓ Radioactive and toxic materials & products

## IMPORTATION OF PETS

### Required Documents:

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

## IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles must meet European Technical Standard Requirements.

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓ Drivers License - copy
- ✓ OBL - state chassis & engine numbers, cubic capacity, year of manufacture, brand and model

## NOTES:

**Entry & Exit Requirements:** In Albania, you may be taken in for questioning if you are not carrying your passport. U.S. citizens are encouraged to carry a copy of their U.S. passport with them at all times to show proof of identity and U.S. citizenship if questioned by local officials.

**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. The overall security situation in Albania has improved in recent years, though organized criminal activity continues to operate in all regions, and corruption is pervasive. U.S. Government employees need permission to travel to the southern town of Lazarat, with such travel restricted to secure vehicles with escort.

**Crime:** Armed crime continues to be more common in northern and northwestern Albania than in the rest of the country. Street crime does occur in Albania, particularly at night. Criminals do not seem to target U.S. citizens or other foreigners deliberately, but do seek targets of opportunity, selecting those who appear to have anything of value. Vehicle theft is still one of the biggest problems in Albania. Pick-pocketing is also widespread; U.S. citizens have reported the theft of their passports and portable electronic devices by pick-pockets

**Currency:** Albania is a cash economy. Credit cards are generally accepted only at major hotels in Tirana, large department/grocery stores and upscale restaurants. ATMs are widely available in Tirana and in larger towns.

**Health:** Immunization against polio and typhoid is often recommended. Typhoid is more common in summer and autumn. The last major outbreak of poliomyelitis was in 1996. Immunization against hepatitis A and B and tetanus is recommended. Long-term visitors should consider immunization against diphtheria and check their BCG status. Rabies is present. Albania has a particularly large number of stray dogs. For those at high risk, vaccination against rabies before arrival should be considered.

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

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

AGS Worldwide Movers: Tirana, Albania

Embassy of Albania: <http://tirana.usembassy.gov/>

Department of State: <http://travel.state.gov/>

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

USDA: [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)

IATA Travel Centre

Visa HQ.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.**