



Importing Personal Property Into Iran

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

All shipments are subject to inspection by Customs Authority. Used household goods and personal effects are duty free provided the client is entering Iran for employment with a valid Work Permit and Residence Permit. Goods must have been owned and used by the client for a minimum of six months. Foreigners with Work and Residence Permits must be present during Customs clearance. Surface shipments must arrive to an Iranian port within 4 months after the owner's arrival. Air shipments must arrive within 3 months. Regardless of client status, port of entry or destination all household goods for non-diplomats are subject to a two phase process.

Stage 1: All goods are transferred in bond to **Tehran South Customs** – Transit from Airport = 1 day; from Tehran West Customs = 2 days; from Bandar Abbas = 5-10 days.

Stage 2: Final Clearance at Tehran South Customs, takes one day, than onto final destination

Surface shipments must arrive to an Iranian port not later than six months after client's arrival.

Air shipments must arrive to an Iranian airport not later than three months after client's arrival.

Note: Consult with your Destination Agent for the latest directives affecting Customs Regulations and Requirements prior to departure to Iran.

Returning Citizens: A person or family who has resided abroad for at least one year (the last 6 months continuously with out returning to Iran) can import a reasonable amount of used household and personal goods duty-free. Returning Iranians must be present during Customs clearance. The shipment must arrive within 2 months of the returning Iranian citizen.

After arrival, the domicile in the passport should be changed to Iran.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - original
- ✓ Residence Visa
- ✓ Work Visa & Work Permit- original
- ✓ Lease/rental contract
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – all electronics, computers etc must state make, model & serial numbers on the inventory, signed by owner, in
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

Returning Citizens: additional documents

- ✓ Iranian Passport
- ✓ Proof of living abroad for at least one year
- ✓ Pack list (goods must originate from place of residency)

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted duty free entry of their personal effects and used household items. Diplomatic goods must be carried in bond to Tehran West

Customs for final clearance. The Embassy in Tehran will obtain the exemption papers after the physical arrival of the shipment to Tehran West Customs. Presence is not required at Customs clearance.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Diplomatic Exemption – obtained from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iran
- ✓ Passport – original
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

The Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance censors and upon approval releases for Customs clearance all books, magazines, printed materials, audio and video materials.

- ✓ Books, magazines, DVD's CD'S should be packed separately from other HHG and stowed near the container door
- ✓ New items – subject to duty & high commercial taxes and potential re-exportation
- ✓ Plants
- ✓ Gifts

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Alcoholic beverages including beer and wine
- ✓ All pork products or by-products
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material in all formats
- ✓ Religious literature and any thing contradictory to Islam
- ✓ Arms, Explosives, ammunitions and any other weapons decorative or otherwise
- ✓ Short wave radios, playing cards and all gambling paraphernalia

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Pets may enter as accompanied baggage or cargo. Cats, dogs and birds are allowed with the below documents. Consult Destination Agent for current specific requirements.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies endorsed by a registered Veterinarian
- ✓ Health Certificate - endorsed by a registered Veterinarian

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Diplomats may import vehicles duty-free with Exemption from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran. All other clients must have prior approval from the Ministry of Commerce. The process is lengthy and must be initiated by the client directly. Vehicles over three years old are prohibited. Vehicles must be left hand drive. Diesel engines are prohibited.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓ Permit – obtained from the Ministry of Commerce
- ✓ OBL

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: U.S. citizens traveling to Iran are fingerprinted upon entry. Iranian authorities have prevented a number of U.S. academics, scientists and journalists who traveled to Iran for personal/cultural/business reasons from leaving the country and in some cases have detained, interrogated, and imprisoned them on unknown charges. U.S. citizens of Iranian origin should consider the risk of being targeted by authorities. Iranian authorities routinely deny dual nationals' access to the U.S. Interests Section of the Embassy of Switzerland in Tehran because they consider dual nationals to be solely Iranian citizens. It is advisable for U.S.-Iranian dual nationals to obtain the necessary visas for the countries they will transit upon their return to the United States in their Iranian passports, in the event their U.S. passports are confiscated, they may depart Iran with their Iranian passport. These individuals can then apply for a new U.S. passport in the country they are transiting.

You are advised to make a copy of your U.S. passport (biographical data page and the page with your Iranian visa) and to keep it separate from your original passport. It is advised to carry a copy of your Passport with you at all times in the event you are stopped for questioning.

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. U.S. citizens should stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times. U.S. passport holders who are arrested or detained by Iranian authorities should request assistance from the U.S. Interests Section at the Swiss Embassy in Tehran.

Crime: Foreigners occasionally become victims of petty street crime. There have been reports of robberies by police impersonators, usually in civilian clothing. Insist on seeing the officer's identity card and request the presence of a uniformed officer/marked patrol car.

Drinking, possession of alcoholic beverages and drugs, un-Islamic dress, as well as public displays of affection with a member of the opposite sex are considered to be crimes.

Currency: Most non-Iranian credit cards and bank cards cannot be used in Iran. You will not be able to access U.S. bank accounts using ATMs in Iran. It is easy to exchange U.S. dollars for rials, either at banks or with certified money changers. Traveler's checks can be difficult to exchange. Import and/or export of over U.S. \$5000 (or its equivalent in other foreign currencies) must be declared by submitting the relevant bank notice

Health: Immunization against Typhoid is advised. Hepatitis A and B occur. Trachoma is reported to be common. Cholera is a serious risk in this country and precautions are essential. Malaria risk exists. Very high pollution levels from cars, particularly in Tehran, can trigger respiratory problems. There are no laws in Iran to mandate access to transportation, communication, and public buildings for persons with disabilities. In general, it is not recommended for individuals with disabilities to travel to Iran. Basic medical care and medicines are available in the principal cities, but may not be available in rural areas.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Unipack SA: Tehran, Iran

Embassy of Switzerland, Tehran, Iran, US Interest Section:

US Virtual Embassy: <http://iran.usembassy.gov/>

Embassy of Pakistan, Iran Interest Section: <http://www.daftar.org/eng/default.asp>

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

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

IATA Travel Centre

International Association of Movers

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.