

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Used household goods and personal effects are subject to duty and taxes of 8-10% of declared value based on pro forma invoice. Goods must be imported within six months of arrival. Items can not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of during stay.

Documents must be received by the Destination Agent at least 15 days prior to arrival of the shipment. Consult Destination Agent prior to shipments departure to confirm documentation requirements and regulations have not changed which would impact clearance process. Customs clearance typically takes several weeks. Airfreight of household goods is not recommended.

Shipments bound to Erbil require an authorization letter from the Destination Agent.

Returning nationals are subject to duty and tax the same as foreigners.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport &
- ✓ Visa – obtained through Embassy of Iraq in Washington DC
- ✓ Residence Permit or Work Permit
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, Express Release not allowed
- ✓ Pro-Forma Invoice
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – dated & signed by owner,
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Letter from Employer – addressed to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Finance attesting to length of work contract, contract number and request to Customs Authority to allow import of household goods and personal effects
- ✓ Employment Contract – copy, length and dates of contract must match Employer Letter

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats are granted duty free entry of their personal effects and household goods if the country of importer has an embassy in Baghdad. 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 – endorsed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Finance prior to arrival of shipment. Process takes up to 30 days
- ✓ Passport (diplomatic) – copy
- ✓ Pack List – values in Euros (suggest to undervalue goods for Customs purpose)
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory – dated & signed by owner
- ✓ Power of Attorney – from respective Embassy giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Letter from Organization – addressed to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Finance attesting to length of work contract, contract number and request to Customs Authority to allow import of household goods and personal effects
- ✓ Mission Contract - copy, length and dates of contract must match Embassy/Organization Letter

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Appliances/Electronics – must have invoices/receipts
- ✓ Prescription medications – require a health certificate
- ✓ New items – (less than 6 months) must have invoices/receipts

*Consult Destination Agent prior to bringing paintings, artwork, antiques, music instruments and rugs

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Firearms, explosives, ammunitions any other weapons and tactical gear & camouflage clothing
- ✓ Any tactical gear or camouflage clothing and items
- ✓ Alcohol & Tobacco
- ✓ Taxidermy products

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Erbil International Airport is the preferred port of entry. Dogs going to Baghdad or Southern Iraq will be transported to the final destination with a security escort. Dogs arriving into Iraq as “Working Dogs” must have supporting credentials such as a copy of the clients “Work Contract” the dog will be working under or the dogs one credentials such as certification in bomb sniffing, therapy, search & rescue etc.

Pets should be treated for internal and external parasites prior to departure.

All document copies required for the Pet Permit must be translated into Arabic at the time of applying.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Pet Passport
- ✓ Owners Passport or Diplomatic Card & Work or Residence Permit - copies
- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, administered less than 12 months prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - by a government Veterinarian at country of origin
- ✓ “Fit to Travel” Certificate – obtained from veterinarian at origin
- ✓ Power of Attorney – allowing Destination Agent to clear pet
- ✓ Import Permit – obtained through Ministry of Health
- ✓ Microchip Certificate – microchip must be inserted at the same time as the last rabies vaccination or prior; noted on Pet Passport & Vaccination records

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles are subject to import taxes and duties of 8-10% based on declared Customs value indicated on the Pro-forma invoice. Diplomats may import a vehicle free of duty and taxes.

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

Vehicles over 2 years old are prohibited.

Export of vehicles can only be facilitated via a military airbase.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - copy
- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice
- ✓ Drivers License & International Insurance Policy (green card)
- ✓ OBL

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: U.S. citizens traveling to Iraq for the purpose of employment should check with their employers and with the Iraqi Embassy in Washington, D.C. for any special entry or exit requirements related to employment. Once admitted into the country, visitors must obtain an arrival sticker and submit a blood sample taken by the Iraq Ministry of Health within 10 days of entry.

One must also obtain a residency stamp upon arrival. Arrival stickers and residency stamps are available for all visitors at the main Residency Office near the National Theater, Baghdad. U.S. citizens must also obtain an exit stamp at a Residency Office before departing the country. Carry a copy of your Passport with you at all times in the event you are stopped for questioning.

Safety & Security: U.S. citizens in Iraq remain at risk for kidnapping. U.S. citizens should avoid areas near the Syrian, Turkish and Iranian borders in northern Iraq. Vehicle travel in Iraq can be extremely dangerous. There have been attacks on civilian vehicles as well as Iraqi military and security convoys on roads and highways throughout Iraq, both in and outside metropolitan areas. Attacks occur throughout the day, but travel at night is more dangerous and should be avoided. Resurgent activity is not limited to Baghdad, significant incidents have also occurred in outlying cities, indicating a high risk to travelers on roadways. Anyone traveling by vehicle through Iraq should consider the risk of IED attacks carefully and plan accordingly.

Crime: Petty theft is common in Iraq; this includes pick-pocketing in busy areas (e.g. markets), as well as the theft of money, jewelry, or other valuables from hotel rooms and private residences. Carjacking by armed thieves is common, even during daylight hours. Foreigners, especially dual American-Iraqi citizens are targets of kidnapping. Kidnappers often demand money but have also carried out kidnappings for political/religious reasons.

Currency: ATMs are extremely rare in most of Iraq, but the Trade Bank of Iraq (TBI) provides ATM services in dinars and USD at its main branch in central Baghdad.

Health: Iraq has imposed HIV/AIDS travel restrictions on all visitors. At this time, there is no waiver available for this ineligibility. Access for persons with disabilities to buildings and in educational and work settings remains inconsistent. Public and government buildings, as well as public bathrooms, may not be accessible. Societal discrimination in employment, occupation, and housing based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and unconventional appearance was common. Basic modern medical care and medicines are not widely available in Iraq. Facilities in operation do not meet U.S. standards, and the majority lack medicines, equipment, and supplies. Tuberculosis is an increasingly serious health concern.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Move One Relocations: Middle East Headquarters, Dubai, UAE

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

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

Embassy of Iraq: <http://www.iraqembassy.us/>

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

International Association of Movers

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.