



Importing Personal Property Into Israel

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Client **MUST** be in Israel at time of Customs clearance. Used household goods and personal effects must have been owned and used by the customer for a minimum of twelve (12) months. Regulations vary according to the client's immigration status. It is advisable to contact the Origin and Destination Agents to ensure all requirements have been met regarding visa status and current regulations for Air and Ocean shipments as they differ and are subject to change.

New immigrants or temporary residents; may be allowed three (3) duty-free shipments within three (3) years (excluding automobiles and professional tools) tax free importation of personal effects and household goods. Must present the Teudat Oleh and original passport at the time of clearance. New immigrants or temporary residents **MUST** have resided a minimum of one year in the last country of residence.

Returning Israelis; must have lived abroad over 2 years to be eligible for "Returning Israeli" status. These returning citizens can import household goods and personal effects tax free. Returning citizens who have lived abroad less than 2 years will be charged duties, VAT and Sales tax. Acceptation may be made if consignee did a formal export via a certified International Mover of Freight Forwarder and the Original Export documents are found in that company's archives and export packing list matches the import list.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passports - of client and all family members
- ✓ B-1 Visa – stamped in Passport & 3rd Party Guaranty from Employer
- ✓ A-3 Visa - individuals with religious status, (priests, theological students, ministers etc.)
 - A-3 Visa holders must pay a bank deposit which will returned upon end of service/mission when goods are exported
- ✓ Residence Visa
- ✓ Proof of Residence – (legally stamped) Lease/rental contract – one year minimum, contract must specify if residence is furnished including appliances as Customs will not allow duplicate items to be duty-free
- ✓ New Immigrant Booklet "Teudat Oleh"
- ✓ Israeli Identity card – divorce papers or death certificates if applicable
- ✓ OBL/AWB - original
- ✓ Packing List – in English without values from Origin Agent
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – in Hebrew, state make, model, serial number, manufacturer's name for appliances/electronics. State sizes for rugs & drapes, itemize cutlery & dinnerware
- ✓ Power of Attorney – prepared & signed for Customs at Destination Agent office
- ✓ Authorization Letter– giving authority for Destination Agent to clear shipment
- ✓ Letter from Employer - or proof of employment/work contract
- ✓ Customs Bond & Customs Declaration Forms
- ✓ Insurance Certificate
- ✓ Bank Deposit/3rd party guaranty –applies to foreign workers/B-1 Visa holders; typically deposited by the client's employer in the amount of the duties that would have been levied. Renewed

annually and can be revoked when the goods are exported out of Israel. Other port charges such as NVOCC handling charges, cargo terminal charges and wharfage are not covered

Returning Citizens: additional documents

- ✓ Students must have Passport stamped by Customs
- ✓ Customs Broker Authorization - obtained from Destination Agent
- ✓ Customs Declaration – obtained from Destination Agent
- ✓ Proof of Residence - in Israel

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted tax-free entry of their personal effects and household item. The exemption does not cover other port charges.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Diplomatic ID – obtained from the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ✓ Diplomatic Passport - copies
- ✓ Tax Exemption Franchise – obtained by the organization or embassy diplomat is serving
- ✓ Letter of Authorization – from governing diplomatic body to Destination Agent
- ✓ BL/AWB/Express BL
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory – without values
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

NOTE: All printed materials, books, pictures, records, Cd's, DVD's, films, tapes, slides, software, etc are subject to censorship and confiscation. They must be packed separately and clearly noted on the inventory list. Do not mix these items with other personal effects and household goods.

- ✓ Inheritance – requires a Customs inspection and the below documentation
 - Original Will & Testament naming recipient as beneficiary
 - Death Certificate & Reduced taxes to be paid
- ✓ Firearms – small arms caliber allowed, require permission from Israeli Police & Ministry of Interior
- ✓ Foodstuffs – 15kgs per person duty-free, in excess is subject to duties
- ✓ Electrical appliances – one of each allowed
- ✓ Carpets, curtains, wallpapers, fabrics – state size & price per item
- ✓ Sporting equipment & outdoor furniture & musical instruments
- ✓ New items – requires invoices/receipts
- ✓ Cordless phones and fax machines – require permit Ministry of Telecommunications
- ✓ Computers, answering machines, car radios, infant seats, electric lawn mowers, CD players or turntables (only if both are imported)
- ✓ Alcohol
- ✓ Tobacco – 250 cigarettes or 250 grams of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind & dangerous chemicals
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and weapons of any kind including tear gas
- ✓ Seeds, saplings and any live plant matter
- ✓ BBQ grills, electric bicycles/scooters, outdoor furniture

- ✓ Sporting equipment

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Pets transported as accompanied baggage must have been in the owners' possession for a minimum of 90 days prior to import. Cats and dogs must be over 4 months or 3 months if arriving from Great Britain, Japan or Cyprus. Some breeds of dogs are prohibited such as Rottweilers, pit bulls and other known aggressive breeds. Consult the Destination Agent for more details in needed.

Healthy pets with accompanying documentation will not be quarantined.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – rabies must be within a year but no less than 30 days prior to arrival, a copy must be sent to Director of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development at least 2 days prior to import
- ✓ Health Certificate
- ✓ Proof of Microchip in conformance with Israeli standards for cats & dogs
- ✓ Import License – issued within 10 days of arrival by the Director of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- ✓ Declaration of Possession

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Returning Israelis with Euro 1 or Certificate of Origin incur duties up to 128.15%. Without those documents the duties are up to 144.12% of the value.

New immigrants are subject to reduced duties of 46-76% based on cc's. All vehicles imported must comply with the Israeli Institute of Standards.

Right-hand drive vehicles are prohibited. Diesel vehicles are prohibited.

Certain automobiles are prohibited entry; contact the Consulate for details prior to consigning any vehicle.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport & Teuat Oleh
- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓ Israeli Driver's License & Insurance Policy
- ✓ Import License from Ministry of Transport

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements - U.S. citizens are advised that all persons applying for entry to Israel, the West Bank, or Gaza are subject to security and police record checks by the Government of Israel, and may be denied entry or exit without explanation. U.S. citizen visitors have been subjected to prolonged questioning and thorough searches by Israeli authorities upon entry or departure. U.S. citizens whom Israeli authorities suspect of being of Arab, Middle Eastern, or Muslim origin; those who have been involved in missionary or activist activity; and those who ask that Israeli stamps not be entered into their passport may face additional, often time-consuming, and probing questioning by immigration and border authorities, or may even be denied entry into Israel, the West Bank, or Gaza.

Safety & Security – Demonstrations, civil unrest and terrorism is prevalent. US citizens are advised to keep themselves apprised of constant changing relations in Israel, Gaza, West Bank and Palestine. Members of religious groups should be extra cautious in their travels as they are often monitored, arrested and deported for proselytizing and other offenses. In some cases, Israeli authorities have denied American citizens' access to U.S. consular officers, lawyers, and even family members during temporary detention. Some cities, and many religious monuments, buildings and areas deemed the Holy Land by Jews,

Christians and Muslims are sensitive areas. US citizens must dress modestly and exercise extreme caution when visiting these areas and should avoid them completely during religious holidays.

Health: Some HIV/AIDS entry restrictions exist for visitors to and foreign residents of Israel. The Ministry of Health 'reserves the right' to deny entry to visitors who declare their status. Please verify this information with the [Embassy of Israel](#).

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: Israel implemented ISPM15 standards for wood packaging material (WPM) in June 2009. Enforcement of these regulations have been in effect since October 2009

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

FIDI Global Alliance

Embassy of Israel: <http://www.israelemb.org/>
www.ISPM15.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.