



## *Importing Personal Property Into Kuwait*

### **HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS**

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

##### **Customs Regulations:**

Client's presence is required during the clearance process and must have original passport to present. All shipments are subject to 100% open inspection at port/airport of arrival. Personal effects such as clothing and books are duty free provided they arrive as an air shipment. Household goods either new or used are subject to duty of 5% of CIF value on all items as assessed by Kuwait Customs Authority. Shipments must be consigned directly in the client's name (identical to name on Passport) on ALL documents.

Ocean shipments must have documents emailed to Destination Agent at least 1 week prior to arrival of vessel. Air shipment documents must arrive 48 hours in advance of shipment.

**NOTE:** Clients are presently having difficulty clearing items on the "Restricted" list through Customs without incurring significant loss and/or damage. Customs Authority is closed Fridays and Saturdays. Await approval from Destination Agent prior to forwarding any shipments

**Consignment Instructions:** To be added to all Master B/L's and MAWB's

Consignee's full name as on Passport, Kuwait address & contact number.

For Air shipments add: c/o the Destination Agent with address and contact number under clients contact information

**Notify:** Destination Agent with address and contact number

**Commodity:** Used Personal Effects – for Air shipments / Used Household Goods for Ocean shipments

##### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Passport - 2 copies, biographical data page, entry stamp page and Residence Permit page
- ✓ Residence Permit (Kiama)
- ✓ Temporary Work Visa– issued by host company on A4 paper
- ✓ Temporary Import License – copy, acquired prior to arrival of shipment from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Kuwait City, must present in person the BL, Kuwait visa or civil ID
- ✓ Civil ID (Kuwait ID card) – copy of front and back
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill
- ✓ "No Objection Certificate" – obtained from the Ministry of the Interior
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory – state make, model & brand of ALL items
- ✓ Inventory – in Arabic, showing gross weight & number of boxes
- ✓ Power of Attorney – in Arabic on A4 paper, giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance, signed by client
- ✓ Letter from Employer –in Arabic on company letterhead, addressed to Customs Authority attesting to sponsorship, purpose of stay & naming Destination Agent responsible for shipment clearance; must be signed by company signatory and stamped
- ✓ Declaration of Employer – on company letterhead confirming employment

##### **Required Documents of clients Employer/Sponsor**

- ✓ Ikar Letter (company information) – form letter provided by Destination Agent
- ✓ Loading Letter – addressed to Customs from sponsor company/employer giving Destination Agent authority clear to clear shipment; on company letterhead, signed, including company stamp

- ✓ Itmad Tokia – copy, this is a list of the authorized person or persons who are registered by the sponsor company with the Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce
- ✓ Civil ID card – copy, of the signatory who signed the Loading Letter and other company letters on behalf of the client
- ✓ Import License – copy, of the sponsor company

### **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. All documents must clearly state that it is a Diplomatic shipment.

### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Exemption Certificate – obtained from Ministry or Foreign Affairs in Kuwait
- ✓ Diplomatic Passport or Identity Card - copy, front and back
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory – in Arabic
- ✓ Bill of Lading or AWB

## RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

**NOTE:** All printed materials, books, pictures, records, Cd's, DVD's, films, tapes, slides, software, etc are subject to censorship. Items manufactured by companies on the Israeli Boycott List such as CBS, RCA & Columbia will be confiscated. These items **MUST** be packed separately for easy access. After inspection of the items by the Ministry of Information, they will be delivered to the client's residence. The ministry can confiscate and destroy these items if anything prohibited is found in the shipment.

Electronics in the shipment will cause delays through Customs and are subject to approval by the Ministry of Commercial Industry.

- ✓ Medication & foodstuffs – subject to special approval and inspection by the Ministry of Health
- ✓ New HHGs, Furniture & PC's – requires the below documentation, in addition the Certificate of Origin and the invoices are to be notarized by both the Arab Chamber of Commerce and Kuwait Embassy or consulate at origin – or in Kuwait within 2-3 hours for about \$140.00USD per set
  - "Certificate of Origin" (bearing manufacture's name & address) & invoices
  - Import License
  - Pack list of these items
  - PC's also require a permit & approval by the Ministry of Telecommunications
- ✓ Personal computers – require permission from Ministry of Communications, invoice & origin of manufacture
- ✓ Radio transmitters, wireless phones and similar items - require a permit & approval by the Ministry of Telecommunications
- ✓ Electronics & appliances
- ✓ Tobacco – 500 cigarettes or 2lbs of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty,

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

**Importation of ANY prohibited items below will not only be confiscated and or destroyed; the client may be detained pending legal action and liable to sever prosecution.**

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Medicines will be detained and sent to the Ministry of Health for inspection
- ✓ Pornographic materials, publications, statues, figurines, and fashion magazines where undergarments or swimsuits are depicted

- ✓ Political, military & religious materials/ literature & icons contrary to the Kuwaiti government, Islam, and/or Arab beliefs and morality
- ✓ All products and materials connected with or manufactured by Israel
- ✓ All alcohol and alcohol making kits are strictly prohibited
- ✓ Radio transmitter/communication equipment, walkie-talkie's, short wave, VHF, marine, police band equipment, CBs, binoculars, telescopes, etc.
- ✓ Pork and pork products are strictly prohibited
- ✓ Items made of ivory
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and weapons of ANY kind including antique & ornamental
- ✓ Gambling equipment, games of chance, poker, playing cards etc

**\* Please check with your Destination Agent for any changes or additions to either the “Restricted List” or “Prohibited List” to avoid delays, storage fees, penalties or confiscation.**

### IMPORTATION OF PETS

Pets may be brought into Kuwait either as hold baggage or as cargo, providing passenger obtained prior approval of General Directorate for Agricultural and Sea Wealth and is carrying Veterinarian Good Health Certificate issued at point of origin. All imported pets into/through Kuwait International Airport are subject to quarantine (located at the Air Cargo Terminal area). 4 % of the value of pets in Bill of Lading should be collected as Customs Tax.

**\*\*Importation of pets is discouraged due to the severe climate.**

#### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated 30 days to 11 months prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - dated no more than 5 days prior to arrival
- ✓ Bill of Lading/AWB – stating value of pet
- ✓ Declaration – provide each pets physical description, name, age, sex color & markings

### IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Individuals or expatriates cannot import a vehicle under their name. The company employing the individual must import and register the vehicle. Vehicles are subject to a duty of 5% on value estimated by Kuwait Customs. Vehicles more than 5 years old are prohibited. Diplomats (embassy or UN members) can import a vehicle duty free with the Duty Exemption Letter and approval by the Director of Customs. Please consult with your Destination agent prior to consigning any vehicles for the latest requirements and regulations.

#### Required Documents:

- ✓ Temporary Import Permit (valid 30 days) issued by Kuwait Ministry of Commerce
- ✓ Residence Permit
- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice

## NOTES:

**Entry & Exit Requirements:** Kuwaiti officials are extremely sensitive about travel to Iraq. There have been instances in which Americans, especially those of Iraqi descent, have been detained for questioning at ports of entry/exit. Americans seeking to travel to Iraq through Kuwait have been turned around and/or detained. The border between Iraq and Kuwait closes without notice, stranding Americans on either side of the border.

Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis, including Americans, who have been charged with criminal offenses, placed under investigation, or involved in unresolved financial disputes with local business partners are subject to travel bans. These bans, which are rigidly enforced, prevent the individual from leaving Kuwait for any reason until the matter is resolved. Expatriates have been detained in Kuwait for cases with seemingly little or no evidence or legal merit. In the case of financial disputes, it may be possible to depart the country if a local sponsor pledges funds equal to the amount in dispute. Once such legal orders are in place, the U.S. Embassy can assist American citizens in obtaining legal representation, but cannot overcome the ban on exit from the country until the matter is resolved.

**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.

Americans in Kuwait should exercise a high level of security awareness. U.S. citizens should exercise caution, maintain a low profile, and avoid areas where Westerners are known to congregate such as hotels and residential complexes. Terrorists in the past have specifically targeted hotel chains perceived as Western along with a variety of Western housing facilities. Military members, as well as civilians and contractors related to military interests, are also potential targets.

**Crime:** Physical and verbal harassment of women are continuing problems. The Kuwaiti police accept crime reports at the police station with jurisdiction where the crime occurred. It is advisable that an American citizen be accompanied by a person who speaks Arabic or a local attorney. The Embassy's List of Attorneys is available on the Embassy web site at <http://kuwait.usembassy.gov/attorneys.html>.

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

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

ISS Worldwide Movers

Kuwait Maritime & Mercantile Co. K.S.C: Safat, Kuwait

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

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

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

IATA Travel Centre

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.