



Importing Personal Property Into Latvia

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Client's presence during Customs clearance is not required but advised. Shipments are physically inspected. The importation of used household goods and personal effects is duty free with no value restrictions provided goods have been owned and used by the customer for a minimum of six months. If 2 shipments are being sent the second shipment must arrive no later than six months after the initial shipment. All import Customs documents should be kept for presentation when goods are re-exported, as this will avoid export duty and taxes.

NOTE: As of 19 August 2010 an EORI (Economic Operators Registration and Identification) number is required for all imports and exports to clear Customs in the European Union.

The requirement was introduced by the European Commission in July 2009 to enhance security. The EORI number must be used in all electronic communications with Customs Offices and other government agencies and departments. This number is valid in all EU member states and replaces ALL Customs identification numbers including the TIN (Traders Identification Number). All business operators and private individuals not established in the EU must obtain the EORI number from the authorities in the respective EU member state wherein the client intends to operate or reside. Please consult with your Destination Agent for further details and assistance.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - copy
- ✓ Residence/Work Visa or Permit – original, if not available a letter from client's employer attesting the permit has been applied for
- ✓ Lease/rental contract –
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – weight per box & individual values of items
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Letter from Employer – on company letterhead; attesting to customer's length of stay and position

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.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise
- ✓ Passport - copy
- ✓ Letter from Embassy attesting to Diplomat status of client and that the shipment is personal effects
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Firearms - require a permit from Latvian Police Department
- ✓ New items & foodstuffs
- ✓ Alcohol – per person over 17; wine; 2 litres, spirits; 1 litre over 22%

- ✓ Tobacco – per person over 17; 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250g of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and weapons of any kind with out proper permissions

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Cats and dogs are subject to special regulations (EC) No. 998/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council. For more information contact the nearest embassy of Latvia. Pets may enter as passenger's checked baggage, in the cabin or as cargo.

Prohibited: the import of all birds, including pet birds and poultry, arriving from countries infected with Avian influenza. Certain aggressive dog breeds are also prohibited. Please consult your service agent for the latest requirements.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, at least 30 days prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate – in English & Lithuanian at least 14 days prior to
- ✓ Microchip

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Diplomatic vehicles are registered through the Foreign Ministry only.

All other clients: temporary importation is subject to 2% deposit at the Customs office in Riga, Latvia together with application for temporary import of the vehicle. Vehicles are allowed temporary import of one (1) year only.

Vehicles under 7 years - 1600cc petrol or 1800cc diesel incurs 10% duty and 10 % VAT

Vehicles over 7 years - 1600cc petrol or 1800cc diesel incurs VAT only of 18%

Customs applies book value as the minimum if declared value drops below the Customs book valuation.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓ Drivers License & International Driving Permit

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: When applying for temporary residence, one of the requirements for the temporary residence application is a criminal record check from the United States, which can be [requested through the FBI](#). You must have a valid insurance policy, covering medical expenses while in Latvia. Repatriation costs, including funeral and disposition of remains costs, also have to be covered by the policy. U.S. citizens are advised to carry passports when traveling to neighboring Baltic countries from Latvia – even on day trips -- as random passport checks are possible. In addition, upon entering or exiting the country, you must declare cash in excess of 10,000 EUR to Latvian customs. Within Latvia, contact the [Ministry of Interior's Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs](#).

Ciekurkalna 1st line, building 3, Riga, LV-1026. Tel. (371)67588675, e-mail.pmlp@pmlp.gov.lv
If you are going to Russia, even just in transit, you are well advised to obtain a visa prior to entry into Latvia. The process of obtaining a visa at the Russian Embassy in Riga can be lengthy, and may involve surrender of the passport for an undetermined period of time. Visit the [Embassy of Latvia website](#) for the most current visa information.

Health: The U.S. Department of State is unaware of any HIV/AIDS-related entry restrictions for visitors to or foreign residents in Latvia. Tick-borne encephalitis and Lyme disease are widespread throughout the country. Those intending to visit parks or forested areas in Latvia are urged to speak with their health care practitioners. Tick-borne encephalitis vaccinations are given as a series of three doses, and are not available in the U.S. There are no vaccines against Lyme disease. Hepatitis A is a significant problem and Tuberculosis is an increasingly serious health concern in Latvia.

Safety & Security: There are recent reports of racially motivated verbal and physical harassment of foreigners of non-Caucasian ethnicity in Riga and major cities. Non-Caucasian foreigners have been subjected to extra scrutiny by security guards in shops and malls in Riga. In addition, homosexuals have experienced verbal and sometimes physical harassment.

Crime: Internet crime is a growing concern in Latvia. Common fraudulent schemes involve both Internet auction sites and Internet job-search sites. Another scheme involves identity theft through false job offers. In this scheme, a company claiming to be located in Latvia, but which has a non-existent address, offers you employment as a U.S.-based agent or freight forwarder. When you respond to the job offer, commonly posted on one of several popular Internet job sites, you are asked for a Social Security Number and other identifying information needed for the identity theft is required under the guise of conducting a background check. Do not leave your valuables in plain sight in parked vehicles and keep your car doors locked at all times. Riga has one of the highest rates of car theft in the world.

Traffic Laws: U.S. citizens resident in Latvia for more than six months are required to apply for a Latvian driver's license. Upon receipt of a Latvian driver's license, U.S. citizens are required to surrender their U.S. driver's license to the Latvian authorities. The licenses are then returned to their respective states of issuance.

Latvia's rate of automobile accidents and fatalities is one of the highest in Europe. Thus, caution and defensive driving is a must. Driving while intoxicated is a very serious offense and carries heavy penalties. Local authorities use roadblocks and breathalyzer tests as enforcement tools. Be alert to the possibility of drunk drivers and drunken pedestrians wandering on the road.

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: As a member of the EU Lithuania enforces ISPM15 regulations for wood packaging material (WPM). In addition to the implementation of treatment and marking requirements described in ISPM 15, the new EC import requirements provide that the WPM instead of being produced from debarked round wood from 1 January 2009 onward will need to be free from bark with exception for the presence of any number of individual pieces of bark. These should be either less than 3 cm in width (regardless of the length) or, if greater than 3 cm in width, of not more than 50 cm² in area. This latter free-from-bark requirement will be applicable from 1 July 2009 onward.

Customs: Latvian customs authorities may enforce strict regulations concerning temporary importation into or export from Latvia of items such as firearms, religious materials, antiquities, medications, business equipment, drugs, etc. It is advisable to contact the [Embassy of Latvia](#) in Washington or one of the [Latvian consulates](#) in the United States for specific information regarding customs requirements

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Embassy of Latvia: <http://www.latvia-usa.org/>

Department of State

ISPM15.com: www.ispm15.com

IATA Travel Centre

International Moving and Logistics

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.