



# *Importing Personal Property Into Oman*

## **HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS**

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

#### **Customs Regulations:**

Clients must be present during Customs clearance with a valid Oman Visa and Residence Permit in hand. Used household goods and personal effects are duty-free provided goods have been owned and used by the customer for a minimum of 6 months and client has lived abroad for at least one year.

There is a 100% inspection carried out on all shipments. Personal effects shipments are subject to open inspection by Customs Authority. Clearance takes 3-9 working days; expect longer times during Ramadan. Customs is closed Thursday and Friday. Customs and Port Authorities will allow 5 days of free storage for full container load shipments and shipments arriving by air and 15 days for LCL container loads. Customs Authority allows multiple entries regardless of mode of entry.

**Effective Immediately:** Customs Clearance will be done on line. The shipper/consignee must obtain a login ID and password from DG Customs office in Muscat, Oman. A valid passport with a visa stamp and Oman ID are required. Select “Individual User” for personal effects shipments when registering at the DG Customs office. Once you have the login ID you can log into the customs website [www.customs.gov.om](http://www.customs.gov.om), select a clearing agent. Example: Meزون Int’l Travels (Code: C00002970).

Air shipments: all shipping, clearance companies, customs clearance staff and other relevant persons must register with Bayan through either [www.customs.gov.om](http://www.customs.gov.om), or technical support centers at the different Customs posts.

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Passport - copy, with a visa stamp
- ✓ Residence Permit – 2 copies
- ✓ Oman ID
- ✓ Work Permit
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – originals or a copy of BL in the event of an Express Release
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory – 2 copies, in English, terms “PBO”, “Misc.” not allowed
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Insurance Policy

#### **Diplomat Status:**

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are free of local and national duty. Port police may inspect diplomatic cargo.

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Letter from Ministry of Foreign Affairs for exemption of duty and Customs inspection
- ✓ Diplomatic Passport - original and 2 copies
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory – 2 copies, in English, terms “PBO”, “Misc.” not allowed
- ✓ Insurance Policy
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

### **RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS**

**Importers are having significant problems clearing items on the “Restricted List” through Customs. Significant damages and loss are being reported.**

All books, printed literature, audio/visual materials and computer software are detained by Customs officials for screening and will be released to the client after approval from the Ministry of Heritage and Culture. Materials deemed inappropriate will be confiscated and destroyed. The screening process takes up to four (4) weeks. These items must be packed separately for easy access. The client is liable to pay fines for any unsuitable item.

- ✓ Prescriptions, over the counter medicines – reasonable quantities, subject to inspection/analysis
- ✓ Works of Art, Paintings & Antiques
- ✓ Plants
- ✓ New items – under 1 year, subject to 5% duty
- ✓ Tobacco – 200 cigarettes or 250 grams of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty,

**PROHIBITED ITEMS**

**All prohibited articles detained by Customs may be destroyed without the consignee’s consent.**

- ✓ Alcohol & tobacco products
- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography of all kinds, fashion magazines that portray partial nudity including bathing suits
- ✓ Political and religious materials require prior permission from Ministry of Information
- ✓ Products of Israeli origin or manufacture, or any items on the Israeli blacklist
- ✓ Firearms, explosives, ammunitions and weapons of any kind such as knives, daggers, spears etc. Even toy guns and those decorative in nature are subject to confiscation if found
- ✓ Wireless technology and communication devices such as walkie- talkies and cordless phones
- ✓ Animal skins & furs, objects made of ivory or any endangered animal
- ✓ Airplanes & helicopters

**IMPORTATION OF PETS**

Quarantine of up to 180 days is required depending on country of origin. The Import Permit requires a local sponsor in Oman. copies of the Vaccination & Health Certificates must be submitted included with the Import permit application.

If traveling via air, pets must be manifested as cargo on the AWB.

**Required Documents:**

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated 30 days to 6 months prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - issued by a health authorities at origin
- ✓ Import Permit – obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, Dept. of Animal Health
- ✓ Power of Attorney – allowing pet to be cleared on owner’s behalf

**IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES**

Prior permission to import a used auto must be obtained from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The No Objection Certificate, proof of insurance and authorization letter must be filed with Customs. After clearance Customs will issue a green form for the client to submit to the Royal Oman Police for registration of the vehicle. New cars must be manufactured to comply with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) specifications. Vehicles are subject to duties between 5-10% of value except for motor bikes. Vehicles 2 years and under coming from other GCC countries are duty free. Only left hand drive vehicles

are allowed. Vehicles must be over 1 year old. Vehicles over 10 years old are prohibited. Confiscation and/or penalties can result from non-compliance with any of the above requirements.

### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Certificate of Title, Registration & Purchase Invoice – from country of origin
- ✓ Passport - copy
- ✓ Drivers License & Insurance Policy – insurance must be obtained at least 24hrs prior to vehicle's arrival
- ✓ Authorization Letter – obtained from Ministry of Commerce
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ “No Objection Certificate” – obtained from employer
- ✓ Statistical Report – from country of origin required for cars registered after 2003

### **NOTES:**

**Entry Requirements:** The validity period of the applicant's passport should not be less than six months. Residence Permits must be arranged in advance through an Omani sponsor.

**Health:** Some HIV/AIDS entry restrictions exist for visitors to and foreign residents of Oman. Oman requires persons seeking work or residence visas to take an HIV/AIDS test after arriving in the country; U.S. HIV/AIDS tests are not accepted. Please verify the information with the [Embassy of Oman](#).

**Safety & Security:** U.S. citizens in Oman are urged to maintain a high level of security awareness. The State Department suggests that all U.S. citizens in Oman maintain an unpredictable schedule and vary travel routes and times whenever possible. U.S. citizens are also urged to treat mail or packages from unfamiliar sources with suspicion. Unusual mail or packages should be left unopened and reported to local authorities. U.S. citizens with security concerns are encouraged to contact local authorities and the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Muscat.

**Criminal Penalties:** Persons violating Oman's laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested, or imprisoned. Penalties for possessing, using, or trafficking in illegal drugs in Oman are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines.

Traffic laws in Oman are strictly enforced and the consequences for violating them are severe by U.S. standards. For example, running a red-light results in a mandatory detention period of 48 hours, followed by confiscation of one's driver's license, vehicle registration, and car registration plate until the Omani judicial process is concluded. Other common traffic violations that carry strict penalties, up to and including jail sentences, fines, and/or deportation, include: driving without a license, driving under the influence of alcohol, failure to wear a seat belt, talking on cellular telephones (other than using hands-free technology), speeding excessively, overtaking another vehicle, screeching a car's tires or failing to keep one's car clean. In the event of a traffic violation and fine, drivers should cooperate with police officers and should not attempt to pay or negotiate payment at the time of the traffic stop.

**Special Circumstances:** By Omani custom and law, expressing frustration either verbally or through otherwise innocuous hand gestures is considered insulting and abusive. Any individual, regardless of citizenship and residency status, may file a personal defamation charge, and accusation of wrongdoing is sufficient to initiate a legal process. While not commonplace, the incidence of U.S. citizens charged with personal defamation has been on the rise in recent years. These cases are normally resolved by a formal apology and a payment of damage to the aggrieved party.

Omani employers often ask that expatriate employees deposit their passports with the company as a condition of employment. While to an extent still customary, this practice is contrary to Omani law. The U.S. Embassy in Muscat advises U.S. citizens to exercise caution on the issue of permitting an employer to hold their passports, since this can operate as a restraint on travel and could give undue leverage to the employer in a dispute. U.S. passports are the property of the U.S. government.

Islamic ideals provide the conservative foundation of Oman's customs, laws, and practices. Foreign visitors/residents are expected to be sensitive to Islamic culture and not dress in a revealing or provocative

style, including the wearing of sleeveless shirts and blouses, halter-tops, and shorts. Athletic clothing is worn in public only when the wearer is obviously engaged in athletic activity.

**Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:** Oman enforces requirements for ISPM15 wood packaging material (WPM).

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

CEVA Logistics LLC: Muscat, Oman

Embassy of Oman: <http://omanembassy.net/>

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

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**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.**