



# *Importing Personal Property Into Portugal & The Azores*

## **HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS**

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

#### **Customs Regulations:**

Customer must be present in Portugal prior to arrival of the shipment for Customs inspection. Shipment must arrive within 90 days of the customer and within 120 days of issue of the “Certificado de Bagagem”. All shipments are subject to inspection. Only ONE shipment is allowed without a special permit. When there is more than one shipment, detailed inventory must be submitted with the first shipment. If the additional shipment originates from a different location, separate inventory must be submitted for each. All shipments must be cleared through the same Customs office. Household goods must correspond in quantity to the social standing of the customer. Used household goods and personal effects over six months old are duty free. Household goods imported duty free can NOT be exported for at least one year.

#### **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 – original, including photo page or copy notarized by Portuguese Notary Public or any other Portuguese entity entitled to legalize documents
- ✓ “Certificado de Bagagem” – issued by Portuguese Consulate
- ✓ “Atestado de Residência – proof of entitlement to reside in Portugal issued by the Junta de Freguesia, exact date of entry into Portugal should be mentioned
- ✓ “Certificado de Residência – Issued by Portuguese Consulate attesting client has lived in origin country at least 1 year
- ✓ “Cartão de Contribuinte” (tax card or form with tax number) original or notarized copy
- ✓ Inventory – signed, dated & notarized by the Origin Consulate in Portuguese (2 copies). If importing a vehicle it must be included – do NOT show values
- ✓ Valued Inventory – for Customs purposes, all major appliances must state serial numbers
- ✓ Work Permit
- ✓ Residence Permit or Deed (Escritura) copy of property owned by the customer, notarized by a Portuguese Notary Public
- ✓ Declaration of Ownership of Goods – signed, dated & witnessed by a Notary Public: stating goods are the customers possessions & are not to be sold, given or lent

### **Diplomat Status:**

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted tax and duty free entry of their personal effects and household items. Diplomat must be in Portugal at least one week prior to importation of goods.

**Returning Portuguese diplomats** are not granted Diplomatic status from Customs upon return. All requirements are as a non-diplomatic citizen.

### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise obtained from local Embassy
- ✓ Passport copy
- ✓ Inventory list in Portuguese – submitted to the Embassy w/shipment details when applying for the Franchise

### **RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS**

- ✓ Appliances/electronics must state serial number, make & model of each item
- ✓ New items (less than six months) or items not showing any obvious signs of use. It is advised to not pack items in original manufacturer's cartons to not draw duty
- ✓ Tobacco & antiques
- ✓ Alcohol & wine in reasonable amounts i.e. contents of an average wine rack or cocktail cabinet
- ✓ Inheritance – provide a detailed list w/values to be duty free
- ✓ Works of Art – no duty or tax applied if imported under ATA Carnet, if ATA Carnet is not available duties must be guaranteed by a deposit or bank guarantee

All dutiable items must be loaded near the container doors for easy access by Customs Agents

### **PROHIBITED ITEMS**

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
  - ✓ Pornography and subversive material
  - ✓ Games of chance and any gambling paraphernalia
  - ✓ Gold bars & systems for counterfeiting Portuguese postage stamps
  - ✓ Perishable foodstuffs
  - ✓ Apes & monkeys any animal on the Endangered Species List
- \* Firearms and corresponding ammunition up to caliber 7.62mm is allowed with a permit  
**ALL other explosives, weapons, ammunitions and war instruments are strictly prohibited**

### **IMPORTATION OF PETS**

Quarantine is not required; however pets are subject to a medical examination prior to being cleared through Customs. It is recommended to pre-alert the arrival of any pets to avoid any long period of delay. Importation of horses is subject to Customs approval prior to export from origin.

### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated less than 30 days prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - dated no more than 30 days prior to arrival, issued by a licensed Veterinarian

### **Required Documents: Horses**

- ✓ Certificate of Foal Registration
- ✓ Veterinary Certificate
- ✓ Import License

## IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles must be in the possession of the owner for a minimum of six months. Taxes and duties are applied to all automobiles. The cost depends on value in Portugal assessed by Customs officials. Details such as make, model, year, cubic centimeters and accessories along with the Registration number must be submitted to Customs in advance. Motorcycles are tax and duty-free if in owner's possession for at least six months and listed on the Inventory attached to "Certificado de Bagagem".

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original

### NOTES:

**Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:** Portugal requires ISPM15 regulations for wood packaging material (WPM).

**Additional Pet Information:** For detailed information please contact DSCV - Direccao Geral Veterinaria: Largo da Academia Nacional de Belas Artes, 2 - 1249 -105 Lisboa, Portugal.

Tel: +351 21 323 9500. Email: [secretaradodscv@dgv.min-agricultura.pt](mailto:secretaradodscv@dgv.min-agricultura.pt) and [veterinaria@mail.telepac.pt](mailto:veterinaria@mail.telepac.pt).

Web: [www.dgv.min-agricultura.pt](http://www.dgv.min-agricultura.pt)

At Faro airport (FAO) pets cannot be cleared on Saturdays, Sundays and on official holidays.

Cats and dogs entering Madeira islands on direct flights from non-E.U. countries, are subject to obtaining prior authorisation from "Direccao Regional de Pecuaria de Madeira". Written authorisation to be requested at least 24 hours prior to arrival via fax +351-291-233156, stating name of the owner of the animal together with address, arrival flight number and date and type of animal. All pets must be accompanied by veterinarian good health certificates, issued at point of origin.

**Work Permits:** Obtaining a Work Permit requires a Passport plus 2 additional passport photos, Proof of Health Insurance, criminal back ground check and Notarized Letter from Employer stating expected length of employment. The length of employment determines the type of Residence Card. Work Permits are generally issued for 6 months, renewable at six-month intervals. If the contract period will exceed 1 year, the renewed Residence Card will be valid for 5 years. If the contract is extended past the initial 6 months but will be under a year, the employee is issued a Temporary Residence Card and their Work Permit will be extended only to the duration of the Employee Contract. Work Permits must be approved by the Portuguese Ministry of Labour.

NOTE: Professionals such as doctors, dentists, lawyers etc must validate their credentials with an authorized board of Portuguese professionals prior to setting up a practice.

**Automobile Plates:** The tax and duty rates for importing autos tends to be very high and assessed value by Portuguese standards may not be on par with US standards. Also one is required to obtain an auto plate from either your Customs Broker or with the A.C.P. The cost of the Portuguese license plate can cost up to 40% of the value of the car.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

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

IATA Travel Centre

FIDI Global Alliance

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.