



Importing Personal Property Into Russia

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

All non-diplomatic shipments of household goods and personal effects are subject to duty of 30% of the stated value plus a 5% Customs fee. Client must pay these fees from his/her bank account in Russia.

All shipments are subject to inspection. The client should be present at the destination during the clearance process in the event client needs to appear. Client **MUST** be present if importing/exporting works of art.

Goods not re-exported from Russia after the established period shall be charged Customs duties and taxes in accordance with the Regulation № 718 of the Government of the Russian Federation dated 29.11.03.

All in-bound and out-bound shipments are subject issuance of Customs declaration for each Harmonized System code. Cost of Customs declarations will be advised during the Customs clearance process.

Returning Russian nationals living abroad for 1 year or more and able to provide documentation from the local Russian Consulate attesting as such can import goods duty-free so long as the value does not exceed 5000 euro. Otherwise, subject to tax and duties of household goods and personal effects.

Important: Russian Federal Customs Service document #01-11/53787 states that customs brokers in Russia are no longer authorized to advance import customs duties for household goods on behalf of their clients. The client must pay import duties in advance for household goods

All necessary documents are to be written in Russian.

Customs regulations change frequently in Russia without notice. It is strongly recommended to contact your Destination Agent before forwarding your shipment for the most current information.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport & Visa – 2 copies, of identity page & last entry stamp into Russia, stamped by Russian employer
- ✓ Work Permit – 2 copies, stamped by Russian employer
- ✓ Moscow Residence Registration – 2 copies, stamped by Russian employer
- ✓ Power of Attorney – 2 copies, notarized by a Russian Notary
- ✓ Letter of Sponsorship - from Russian employer, university or other organization
- ✓ Application – addresses to Customs Authority
- ✓ Letter from Employer to Customs Authority – attesting to client's work contract, including bank account details
- ✓ Power of Attorney – 2 originals, prepared by a Russian notary
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill
- ✓ Pack List - without values for Customs purposes
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory List - with values, descriptions and photos of works of art
- ✓ Customs Declaration (T-6 Form) - stamped and signed by Customs at the airport upon arrival
- ✓ Re-Export Control List – include all items to be exported

Returning Russian Citizens:

- ✓ Work Contract – original & a copy & notarized; stating length of employment, duties & salary
- ✓ Russian passport- copy, including photo page
- ✓ Power of Attorney – 2 originals, prepared by a Russian notary

- ✓ Customs Declaration (T-6 Form) - stamped and signed by Customs at the airport upon arrival
- ✓ Application – addressed to Customs Authority
- ✓ Residence Registration (Moscow) – copy

Documents that are copies can be sent electronically to the Destination Agent. All original documents must be mailed; express courier is advised.

Accredited Individuals: require all of the above documentation and:

- ✓ Accreditation Card – 2 copies, from university or other organization such as for a journalist
- ✓ Letter from Employer - addressed to Customs Authority on company/organization letterhead
- ✓ Application – addressed to Customs Authority

Diplomat Status:

Diplomats with Diplomat Status are granted tax and duty free entry of their personal effects and household items either new or used.

*** Diplomats without Diplomatic Status are given the same status as Accredited Individuals**

Required Documents:

- ✓ Diplomatic Identity Card, Passport & Visa – 2 copies each, stamped with the Embassy seal
- ✓ Letter from Embassy or Consulate - 2 copies, stamped with the Embassy seal
- ✓ Power of Attorney – issued by the embassy/consulate, signed by the diplomat; 2 stamped copies
- ✓ Pack List - without values for Customs purposes
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory List with values, descriptions and photos of works of art

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Radio & satellite receivers, transmitters, satellite antennae & color printers – may require an import permit obtained from the Federal Security Board (FSB)
- ✓ GPS devices – subject to special rules & regulations
- ✓ Electronics/Appliances - on a separate inventory list: state make, model, manufacturer, serial number & condition (new or used)
- ✓ Precious metals & jewelry, stones, currency and medication can be imported as accompanied baggage only and must be declared upon arrival.
- ✓ Foreign and Russian currency, Securities & Traveler’s cheques must be declared up arrival
- ✓ Gifts – limited to 1000.00USD max and not weigh more than 50kg
- ✓ Toys & sports equipment
- ✓ Alcohol – 2 litres per person of wine or spirits and up to 5 litres of beer
- ✓ Tobacco - cigars up to 50; cigarillos up to 100; cigarettes up to 200; loose tobacco 0.25 kg.
- ✓ Plants – require Phytosanitary certificates at origin, photographs of each plant; local Sanitary certificates from the Sanitary Control Department will be processed after arrival. Importing plants is discouraged as it is costly and time consuming as storage fees are accrued while going through the process.

**Laptops in air shipments should be without the battery

ITEMS OF CULTURAL & HISTORICAL VALUE

Russia has strict rules and regulations designed to protect the country’s cultural and historical heritage. The registration of items upon import to Russia provides proof that items were bought outside Russia. In the absence of the registration of items upon re-export Russian Customs will treat the items as being acquired in Russia. This will result in the items not being allowed to be exported if over 50 years old and others are subject to very high export duties.

NOTE: This process applies whether the items are of Russian origin or not and regardless of age. Thus include modern cultural/artistic items as well.

Process: Send a complete list of cultural items and a list of historical items per the “Cultural Items Supplemental Form” along with three sets of photos of each item to your Destination Agent. Only digital photos or images printed on photo paper are allowed, thus e-mailing the lists and pictures is acceptable. Failure to provide these documents prior to arrival of shipment into Russia will increase the risk of physical inspections being performed on entire shipment. Such inspection will delay clearance and delivery of shipment and could result in extra charges.

- **Destination Agents do charge a fee for registering of the items**
- **Re-export of these items and export of cultural items purchased during stay is 2 separate clearance processes/2 CMR's and counted by Customs as 2 shipments accruing separate charges**

Items considered to be considered of cultural value:

- ✓ Paintings, drawing, sketches etc
- ✓ Sculptures & engravings
- ✓ Artistic compositions and montages
- ✓ Work of traditional folk art or handicrafts i.e. Matryoshka
- ✓ Icons and other religious articles

Items considered to be considered of historical value

- ✓ Objects from archeological excavation sites
- ✓ Antiques
- ✓ Fragments of architectural or artistic monuments
- ✓ Rare manuscripts and documents

Other

- ✓ Collections and collectables
- ✓ Sheet music & musical instruments (except keyboards & electrical guitars)
- ✓ Anything made precious or semi-precious metals such as ashtrays, cutlery, dishes etc
- ✓ Items made of natural materials such as wood, bone, ivory, antler, tusk, hide etc

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind, psychotropic substances & poisonous/powerful medicines
- ✓ Pornography and any subversive material against the Russian Federation
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and weapons of any kind
- ✓ Radio devices, transmitters/receivers, cable TV systems and navigation devises operating at frequencies higher than 9 kHz
- ✓ Toxic and radioactive materials including aerosols of any kind & detergents
- ✓ Taxidermy, skins, tusks, furs etc
- ✓ Food including coffee & tea

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Quarantine is not required; pets will be examined by Russian veterinary control officials upon arrival. For all other pets except cats and dogs special import permission from the Veterinary Dept of the Ministry of Agriculture is required. Birds must show proof of being free of Avian flu. Pets are subject to duties.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated at least 30 days prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - dated less than 10 days prior to arrival

- ✓ International Pet Passport & Pedigree (if available)

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

All Non Diplomatic vehicles are subject to duties. A deposit is required to be paid in advance to the Customs Authority in Moscow. Amount to be paid depends on year, cubic centimeters of the engine. Duties are very high; consult with your Destination Agent prior to consigning a vehicle. Client may be asked to be present during the clearance process.

Returning Russian citizens must pay 100% of duty charges.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration – should be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – preferable the cost of the vehicle should not exceed \$10,000USD
- ✓ Technical/conformity certificate – obtained at origin
- ✓ Certificate of Matriculation – obtained at origin
- ✓ License plate
- ✓ Passport, visa & client's registration in Russia - copies
- ✓ Waybill and original Customs declaration – necessary for registration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

NOTES:

Entry and Exit Requirements: The Russian government maintains a restrictive and complicated visa regime for foreigners who visit, transit, or reside in the Russian Federation. A U.S. citizen who does not comply with Russian visa laws can be subject to arrest, fines, and/or deportation. **Russian authorities will not allow a U.S. citizen with an expired visa to depart the country until a new visa is approved, which may take up to 20 days.** The Government of Russia does not recognize the standing of the U.S. diplomatic mission to intervene in visa matters, including situations in which an American is stranded because of an expired visa. U.S. citizens should also be aware that Russian immigration and visa laws change regularly, and the implementation of new regulations has not always been transparent or predictable. A Russian visa is only valid for those exact dates and cannot be extended after the traveler has arrived in the country, except in the case of a medical emergency.

HIV/AIDS Entry Restrictions: Some HIV/AIDS entry restrictions exist for visitors to, and foreign residents of, Russia. Short-term visitors (under three months) are not required to undergo an HIV/AIDS test, but applicants for longer term visas or residence permits may be asked to undergo tests not only for HIV/AIDS, but also for tuberculosis and leprosy. Travelers who believe they may be subject to the requirement should verify this information with the Russian Embassy

Limitations on Length of Stay: As of 2007, most foreigners may remain in the Russian Federation for only 90 days in a 180-day period. These provisions apply to business, tourist, humanitarian, and cultural visas, among other categories. U.S. citizens and other foreigners whose visas permit employment or study are not normally subject to this rule. **Any person requiring a stay in Russia of more than 90 days should consult with his or her visa sponsor to ensure that remaining in the country will not result in a violation of visa regulations.**

If the U.S. passports and Russian visas are lost by accident or theft one must immediately replace their passports at the U.S. Embassy or one of the Consulates General. One must then enlist the visa sponsor to obtain a new visa in order to depart the country. As noted above, the U.S. Embassy and Consulates General are not able to intercede in cases in which visas must be replaced. It is helpful to make a photocopy of your visa in the event of loss, but a copy is not sufficient to permit departure. **Identity Documents:** U.S. citizens should be aware that Russian police officers have the authority to stop people and request their identity and travel documents at any time, and without cause. Due to the possibility of

random document checks by police, travelers should carry their original passports, migration cards, and visas with them at all times.

Safety and 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.

Due to continued civil and political unrest throughout much of the Caucasus region of Russia, the Department of State continues to warn U.S. citizens against travel to Chechnya and all areas of the North Caucasus, including North Ossetia, Ingushetia, Dagestan, Stavropol, Karachayev-Cherkessiya, and Kabardino-Balkariya. The U.S. Government's ability to assist Americans who travel to the Caucasus region of Russia is extremely limited. Acts of terrorism, including bombings and hostage takings, have continued to occur in Russia, particularly in the Caucasus region. There is no indication that American institutions or citizens have been targets, but there is a general risk of American citizens being victims of indiscriminate terrorist attacks.

Restricted Areas: There are several closed cities and regions in Russia. Travelers who attempt to enter these areas without prior authorization are subject to arrest, fines, and/or deportation.

Health: All water should be considered a potential health risk, thus only sterilized water should be used. Dysentery is common throughout the country. Diphtheria and meningitis outbreaks are widespread as well as tick-borne typhus, encephalitis and Lyme disease. Hepatitis A also occurs. Seek the advise of your physician for vaccination requirements.

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: As of this posting the Russian Federation has begun to impose ISPM15 regulations for wood packaging material (WPM).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Corstjens Worldwide Movers Group: Moscow, Russia

Sante Fe Group

Embassy of the Russian Federation: http://www.russianembassy.org/Embassy_eng/Embassy/index.html

US Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1006.html

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

ISPM15.com

International Association of Movers

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.