



Importing Personal Property Into Tunisia

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Client should be in Tunisia 2-3 weeks prior to arrival of the shipment to be accredited by the Tunisian government and must be present at Customs clearance. All non-diplomat shipments are subject to inspection. Used household goods and personal effects are duty free provided goods have been owned and used by the customer for a minimum of six months and client has lived abroad for at least one year. The goods must be imported within three months of the client's arrival into Tunisia. Typically only one shipment is allowed. A second shipment may be allowed if arrival is not later than six months after issuance of the Residence Permit. All goods must be re-exported upon departure from Tunisia.

Note: Customs clearance will not occur without the original Work Permit, and client will incur port storage and container demurrage charges. If the Residence Permit is not provided at POA a bank deposit may be established to allow temporary importation for a period of 1 year. The bank deposit will be cancelled upon presentation of the Residence Permit & Work Permit.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - original
- ✓ Residence Permit – original, approved by Ministry of the Interior, Tunisia
- ✓ Work Permit - issued by Ministry of Employment
- ✓ Bank Guarantee & Customs Bond – in lieu of Residence & Work Permits, otherwise not required
- ✓ Application for Fiscal Privilege
- ✓ Pack List – fax a copy to Destination Agent in advance of the shipment
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory – in French, not valued, signed by owner
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Letter from Employer – attestation of employment on company letterhead
- ✓ Certificate of Change of Residence
- ✓ OBL - original, or Express Release allowed, fax a copy in advance to the Destination Agent

Second Residence Status: additional documents

- ✓ Authorization allowing additional residence – obtained from Ministry of Tourism
- ✓ Proof of Purchase of second residence – obtained from appropriate government office
- ✓ Sales Contract of Second Residence

Returning Citizens: additional documents

- ✓ Must have a Tunisian passport
- ✓ National Tunisian Identity Card – client and spouse , if married

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. The Diplomat should arrive into Tunis 2-3 weeks prior to arrival of the shipment to allow time to be accredited, complete the Diplomatic Franchise Application and have it approved by both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Customs Authority. The Diplomatic Franchise takes 15-20 days to be approved.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise – approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Customs Administration
- ✓ Passport - original
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory – in French, signed by diplomat
- ✓ Letter of Accreditation
- ✓ OBL – advance copy sent to Destination Agent, stating name exactly as on passport
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

All DVD's, films and video tapes, books, printed materials, walkie-talkies, fax machines, telephones and any GPS or satellite receivers will be held at Customs until screened by Customs Authority for foreigners on an employment contract. Subject to automatic confiscation for returning Tunisians.

Fees incurred for this process are billed to the client.

- ✓ Appliances/Electronics/Computers – one each allowed, must state make, model & serial numbers on a separate inventory, do not list value
- ✓ Books, telephones & fax machines – require a permit
- ✓ New items – incur duty
- ✓ Cigarettes (200), 50 cigars, 400g loose tobacco duty free; in excess of these amounts incurs duty
- ✓ Alcohol – 1 bottle duty free; in excess of these amounts incurs duty
- ✓ Perfume – reasonable quantity for personal use
- ✓ Valuable Objects – requires authorization from the Services of Fine Arts and Antiques; this includes antiques, paintings, sculptures, fine jewelry and collections
- ✓ Plants – Phytosanitary certificate

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind including pharmaceuticals
- ✓ Alcohol & tobacco
- ✓ Pornography, obscene and subversive material
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and weapons
- ✓ Tunisian currency

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Quarantine is not required at this time. Animals are examined upon arrival. If a pet looks ill or unhealthy upon examination it will be kenneled in a government facility.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated 30 days to 6 months prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - issued by a licensed Veterinarian

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles are inspected to verify serial numbers and owner is required to be present during clearance process. Vehicles are duty free but subject import tax. Consult the Customs Authority at port of entry for the amount to be paid. Vehicles being imported for longer than 3 months must acquire Tunisian registration plates Vehicle details will be stamped into owner's passport.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport, Driver's License & International Insurance Policy (green card)
- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ OBL – list chassis & engine serial numbers

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: U.S. citizens born in the Middle East or with Arabic names have experienced delays in clearing immigration upon arrival. U.S. citizens of Tunisian origin are expected to enter and exit Tunisia on their Tunisian passports. If a Tunisian-American succeeds in entering using a U.S. passport, he or she will still have to present a Tunisian passport to exit the country.

US citizens are encouraged to always carry a copy of their passport as proof of nationality and identity. US citizens are encouraged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) so as to receive warning, travel and other critical alerts from the Embassy.

Safety & Security: Political and social unrest has been on the rise since 2010. These events degenerated on several occasions into violent clashes between police and protesters, resulting in multiple deaths and injuries. These disturbances have not been directed toward Westerners, US citizens or interests. The U.S. Department of State strongly urges U.S. citizens to avoid all demonstrations, as even peaceful ones can quickly become unruly and a foreigner could become a target of harassment or worse. Tunisia has open borders with Algeria, and (as of this writing) Libya. Citizens should use extreme caution when traveling near these borders. Security personnel, including plainclothes officials, may at times place foreign visitors under surveillance.

Crime: Harassment of unaccompanied females occurs rarely in hotels, but it occurs more frequently elsewhere. Dressing in a conservative manner can diminish potential harassment, especially for young women. It is always wise to travel in groups of two or more people. Women are advised against walking alone in isolated areas. US citizens are advised avoid buses and commuter rail when possible, and to never enter a taxi if another passenger is present.

U.S. citizens resident in Tunisia are also advised to refrain from leaving items of value unattended in the yards of their homes, as there have been reports of theft of items such as tools and bicycles.

Health: Typhoid vaccination is recommended. Cholera occurs and vaccination should be considered though not required. Hepatitis A is present and Hepatitis E is endemic in some areas. Mediterranean spotted fever, Lassa fever and tungiasis have been reported.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

AGS Frasers - Carthago Moving & Storage: Tunis - Carthage

FIDI Global Alliance

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1045.html

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

US Embassy of Tunisia: <http://tunisia.usembassy.gov/service.html>

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.