



Importing Personal Property Into Turkey

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Client must be in Turkey with all required documents during the clearance of household goods and effects through Customs. Clearance usually takes an average of 4-5 days. Used household goods and personal effects are tax and duty free provided goods have been owned and used by the customer for a minimum of six months and customer has lived abroad for at least one year. All new items will be levied a tax. The goods must be imported two months in advance or within six months of arrival into Turkey. For foreign shipments arriving by air, the residence permit or rental contract must be notarized in Turkey with a 2 year minimum validity. Items can not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of during stay. Given different criteria for air and ocean shipments one should contact the service agent for current requirements.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - original, with last entry stamp into Turkey & Tax ID number (TIN)
- ✓ Work Permit
- ✓ Residence Permit, rental contract for a 24 month period or property title/deed
- ✓ Lease/rental contract – minimum validity of 24 months
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, Express Release not allowed: name must be identical to Passport,
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – dated & signed by owner; PBO, Misc. not allowed
- ✓ Pack list
- ✓ Power of Attorney – notarized, giving authority for Destination Agent to clear customs
- ✓ Letter from Employer –attesting to client’s employment contract
- ✓ Financial Guaranty Letter – utilized for Customs tax, calculated by the value of goods according to Turkish tariff and import schedule set by Customs Authority

Returning Nationals:

- ✓ Change of Residence Certificate “Ikametgah Nakil Belgesi” – obtained from Turkish Consulate at origin; must have resided abroad for a 24 month period to be eligible for duty/tax free status
- ✓ List of entries and departures in/out of Turkey during the 2 year period residing abroad; obtained from Police Headquarters in Turkey
- ✓ Spouse Passport – if married
- ✓ ID Certificate – obtained from Registry Office; required for single males

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted tax and duty free entry of their personal effects and household goods. Diplomat’s Embassy must have an approval letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Diplomat does not need to be present during clearance process.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise & Visa
- ✓ Passport - original
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory –dated & signed by owner

- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Letter of Assignment – provided by the Embassy, consulate or government office

Returning Turkish Diplomats & Government Officials

- ✓ ID Certificate – obtained from Registry Office
- ✓ Passport of spouse – if married, original
- ✓ Assignment Letter – obtained from appropriate government agency

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Appliances/Electronics – must have invoices/receipts, state brand & serial numbers on Inventory; subject to import tax
- ✓ Prescription medications – requires a health certificate
- ✓ New items – (less than 6 months) must have invoices/receipts
- ✓ Tobacco – 10 cartons of cigarettes or 1 kg of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty
- ✓ Alcohol – obtain current requirements from the Destination Agent
- ✓ Plants – limited to 3

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Firearms, explosives, ammunitions and all other weapons unless otherwise approved
- ✓ Meat based products
- ✓ Gambling machines and paraphernalia

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Pets may enter as passenger's accompanied baggage in the cabin or as cargo. Pets will take 2 days to be processed through Customs.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, less than 6 months prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - by a Veterinarian at origin

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Effective January 2016: All foreign nationals with Work Permits for over a year must get a Turkish Driver's license within 6 months of arrival into Turkey. Turkish license obtained from Turkish Security Vehicles can be imported tax free with an irrevocable Bank Guaranty. The amount of the guaranty is based on make, model, & weight. The deposit is returned by Customs upon the permanent re-exportation of the vehicle. Vehicles take a full week to process through Customs and the client must be present. The OBL must show chassis & engine numbers, cubic capacity, year of manufacture, brand and model.

Dual Nationals are not allowed to import a vehicle on a permanent basis.

Returning Nationals & Diplomats: must be returning permanently and the vehicle must not be more than 3 years old when purchased.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓ Insurance Policy & Drivers License – original

- ✓ Carnet de Passage Transit Book -
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Bank Guaranty – supplied by a local bank in Turkey
- ✓ OBL & Owners Manual w/ engine & chassis serial numbers

Documents needed for the Turkish Driver License

- ✓ Original Driver License w/translated & notarized copy – notarized in Turkey
- ✓ Passport, Work Permit copies, 2 identification photos,
- ✓ Blood type card & Health Report – obtained from a Turkish hospital

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: Everyone entering Turkey must have a visa including diplomats and those on official business. Refer to the Turkish Embassy’s website to apply for the appropriate one. One should get Turkish entry stamps on the passport page containing your visa at the first port of entry before transferring to domestic flights. Failure to obtain these stamps may cause serious difficulties when you leave Turkey. Due to a revision of Turkish residency requirements in 2008, you should not stay beyond the date permitted on your visa or residency permit. You run the risk of being deported, fined and denied entry to Turkey for three months to five years. The length of the ban is determined by the length of the "overstay". One should carry a copy of your passport and visa with you at all times in the event of questioning by authorities.

Dual Citizenship: Turkish-U.S. dual nationals may be subject to additional laws that impose special obligations on Turkish citizens. Male dual citizens over the age of 18 may be subject to Turkish conscription and compulsory military service. One is strongly advised to consult with officials at Turkish embassies or consulates before traveling. Turkish law does not allow for U.S. officials to visit or provide consular assistance to Turkish-U.S. dual nationals arrested in Turkey.

Safety & 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. There is a continuing threat of terrorist actions and violence against U.S. citizens and interests. U.S. government employees are subject to travel restrictions and require advance approval prior to official or unofficial travel to the provinces of Diyarbakir, Van, Siirt, Mardin, Batman, Bingöl, Tunceli, Hakkâri, Bitlis, and Elâzi. U.S. military and Department of Defense civilians have additional restrictions and should consult their local area commander to obtain the latest travel guidance. In addition to terrorist activities, there have been instances of violence targeting Christians and Jews in Turkey

Crime: As in other large metropolitan areas throughout the world, common street crimes include pick pocketing, purse snatching, and mugging. Often the crime is preceded by some sort of diversion such as an argument, a fight, or someone bumping you. Residential crime is an issue in major cities, with criminals targeting ground floor apartments for theft.

Health: As of January 1, 2012, a new General Health Insurance (GHI) law took effect in Turkey. If you live in Turkey and wish to enroll in and receive GHI coverage you may do so as long as you meet the administrative requirements described below.

- 1) Present a valid residence permit and show that you have resided in Turkey for one year.
- 2) Register within one month of completing one year of residency in Turkey.
- 3) Fill out and submit an application.
- 4) Pay the individual monthly premium: approximately 213 Turkish Lira (approximately \$117) and subject to change

The U.S. Department of State is unaware of any specific HIV/AIDS entry restrictions for visitors to or for foreign residents of Turkey; however, officials will generally deport foreigners once HIV-positive status is discovered.

The care provided in Turkish hospitals varies greatly. New private hospitals in Ankara, Antalya, Izmir, and Istanbul have modern facilities and equipment, numerous U.S.-trained specialists, and international accreditation. Those planning prolonged stays in Turkey should bring or secure a supply of necessary medications (e.g., heart medications, birth control pills). Certain medications are difficult to obtain. Tuberculosis is a health concern

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: Turkey has published requirements adopting ISPM15 for wood packaging material (WPM). Turkey also requires that WPM be debarked. The regulation became effective January 1, 2006.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Embassy of Turkey: <http://www.washington.emb.mfa.gov.tr/default.aspx>

Living in Turkey: http://turkey.usembassy.gov/living_in_turkey.html

Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1046.html

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

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

Istanbul Ekspres: Istanbul, Turkey

FIDI Global Alliance

The information presented herein is based on customs data available at the time of publishing 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.