



# *Importing Personal Property Into Israel*

## **HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS**

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

#### **Customs Regulations:**

Customer **MUST** be in Israel at time of Customs clearance. Used household goods and personal effects must have been owned and used by the customer for a minimum of twelve (12) months.

**New immigrants or temporary residents;** may be allowed three (3) duty-free shipments within three (3) years (automobiles and professional tools are not included). New immigrants or temporary residents **MUST** have resided a minimum of one year in the last country of residence.

**Returning Israelis;** are allowed one (1) duty-free shipment and the shipment **MUST** arrive with nine (9) months of the return to Israel. Israeli citizens who have lived abroad 2-6 years with the sum of visits each year not exceeding 4 months may be eligible for "Returning Citizen" status in limited form. Appliances will be taxed according to the Israeli Tariff. Some items such as alcohol may not be exempted. Returning citizens who have lived abroad less than 2 year generally are not granted exemption and will be charged duties, VAT and Sales tax. Acceptation may be made if consignee did a formal export via a certified International Mover of Freight Forwarder and the Original Export documents are found in that company's archives and export packing list matches the import list.

Regulations vary according to the customer's immigration status. It is advisable to contact your local Consulate for the most current requirements

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Passports - of customer and all family members
- ✓ Visa – B-1 visa stamped in Passport & 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Guaranty from Employer
- ✓ Residence Visa
- ✓ Certificate of Residence – (legally stamped) Lease/rental contract – for one year minimum, contract must specify if residence is furnished including appliances as Customs will not allow duplicate items to be duty-free
- ✓ Packing List – in English without values fro, Origin Agent
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – in Hebrew, state make, model, serial number, manufacturer's name for appliances/electronics. State sizes for rugs & drapes, itemize cutlery & dinnerware
- ✓ Power of Attorney – prepared & signed for Customs at Destination Agent office
- ✓ Authorization Letter– giving authority for Destination Agent to clear shipment
- ✓ Letter from Employer - or proof of employment/work contract
- ✓ New Immigrant Booklet "Teudat Oleh" – date of arrival is the date of 1<sup>st</sup> entry into Israel as marked in the Teudat Oleh issued upon arrival
- ✓ Customs Bond
- ✓ Insurance Certificate

#### **Returning Citizens: additional documents**

- ✓ Students must have Passport stamped by Customs
- ✓ Customs Broker Authorization - obtained from Destination Agent
- ✓ Customs Declaration – obtained from Destination Agent
- ✓ Proof of Residence - in Israel (if returning Israeli has lived abroad over 2 years

**Diplomat Status:**

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted tax-free entry of their personal effects and household items. The exemption does not cover other port charges.

**Required Documents:**

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise - original
- ✓ Diplomatic ID & Diplomatic Passport - copies
- ✓ Letter of Authorization – from governing diplomatic body to Destination Agent
- ✓ BL/AWB/Express BL
- ✓ Visa – (for religious personnel) A-3 stamped in Passport & 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Guaranty
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory – without values
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

**RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS**

**NOTE:** All printed materials, books, pictures, records, Cd's, DVD's, films, tapes, slides, software, etc are subject to censorship and confiscation. They must be packed separately and clearly noted on the inventory list. Do NOT mix these items with other personal effects and household goods.

- ✓ Inheritance – requires a Customs inspection and the below documentation
  - Original Will
  - Testament naming recipient as beneficiary
  - Death Certificate
  - Reduced taxes to be paid
- ✓ Firearms – only small arms caliber allowed, require permission from Israeli Police & Ministry of Interior
- ✓ Foodstuffs – 15kgs per person duty-free, in excess is subject to duties
- ✓ Electrical appliances – one of each allowed
- ✓ Carpets, curtains, wallpapers, fabrics – state size & price
- ✓ Sporting equipment & outdoor furniture & Musical instruments
- ✓ New items – requires invoices/receipts
- ✓ Cordless phones and fax machines – require permit Ministry of Telecommunications
- ✓ Computers, answering machines, car radios, infant seats, electric lawn mowers, CD players or turntables (only if both are imported)
- ✓ Alcohol – wine; 2 litres per person, spirits; 1 litre per person
- ✓ Tobacco – 200 cigarettes or 250 grams of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty,

**PROHIBITED ITEMS**

- ✓ No items brought for other people are allowed; i.e. gifts, souvenirs
- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind & dangerous chemicals
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and weapons of any kind including tear gas
- ✓ Seeds, saplings and any live plant

**IMPORTATION OF PETS****Required Documents:**

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies,
- ✓ Health Certificate

## IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Returning Israelis importing a vehicle are subject to full duties. New immigrants are subject to reduced duties of 46-76%. Vehicles more than 4 years old may be imported with approval by the Israeli Standards Institute. Right-hand drive vehicles are prohibited. Diesel vehicles are prohibited. Certain automobiles are prohibited entry; contact the Consulate for details prior to consigning any vehicle.

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport & Teuat Oleh
- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓ Israeli Driver's License & Insurance Policy
- ✓ Import License from Ministry of Transport

### NOTES:

**Entry & Exit Requirements** - U.S. citizens are advised that all persons applying for entry to Israel, the West Bank, or Gaza are subject to security and police record checks by the Government of Israel, and may be denied entry or exit without explanation. U.S. citizen visitors have been subjected to prolonged questioning and thorough searches by Israeli authorities upon entry or departure. U.S. citizens whom Israeli authorities suspect of being of Arab, Middle Eastern, or Muslim origin; those who have been involved in missionary or activist activity; and those who ask that Israeli stamps not be entered into their passport may face additional, often time-consuming, and probing questioning by immigration and border authorities, or may even be denied entry into Israel, the West Bank, or Gaza.

**Safety & Security** – Demonstrations, civil unrest and terrorism is prevalent. US citizens are advised to keep themselves apprised of constant changing relations in Israel, Gaza, West Bank and Palestine. Members of religious groups should be extra cautious in their travels as they are often monitored, arrested and deported for proselytizing and other offenses. In some cases, Israeli authorities have denied American citizens access to U.S. consular officers, lawyers, and even family members during temporary detention. Some cities, and many religious monuments, buildings and areas deemed the Holy Land by Jews, Christians and Muslims are sensitive areas. US citizens must dress modestly and exercise extreme caution when visiting these areas and should avoid them completely during religious holidays.

**Health:** Some HIV/AIDS entry restrictions exist for visitors to and foreign residents of Israel. The Ministry of Health 'reserves the right' to deny entry to visitors who declare their status. Please verify this information with the [Embassy of Israel](http://www.israeemb.org/).

**Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:** Israel implemented ISPM15 standards for wood packaging material (WPM) in June 2009. Enforcement of these regulations have been in effect since October 2009

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

FIDI Global Alliance

Embassy of Israel: <http://www.israeemb.org/>

[www.ISPM15.com](http://www.ISPM15.com)

IATA Travel Centre

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.