



Importing Personal Property Into The United Kingdom

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

All shipments are subject to inspection. The client or the client's Destination Agent allowed to clear the shipment on their behalf should be present during the clearance process. Used household goods and personal effects are tax and duty free including clothing, cosmetics, furniture, portable tools of trade, pets and other household goods and personal effects provided:

The client is moving or returning to the EC (European Community) after having lived outside the EC for at least 12 continuous months. The goods have been in the client's possession and use outside of the EC for at least 6 months prior to importation. The items may be imported up to 6 months in advance of the transfer of residence and no later than 12 months after the client's arrival.

The effects were not obtained under a duty/tax-free scheme, except for the following: diplomats, members of officially recognized international organizations, members of NATO or UK forces and the civilian staff accompanying them, or spouses of any of the aforementioned organizations.

The items must be kept for personal use and not be sold, lent, hired out or otherwise disposed of in the EC within 12 months of importation.

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 - including photo page
- ✓ Completed and signed H.M. Customs Form C3 must have original, signed in ink for ocean shipments. Fax copies are acceptable for air shipments
- ✓ Import Declaration – original must be presented to Customs
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill
- ✓ Comprehensive packing list & valued inventory – two copies, signed & dated
- ✓ Work Permit
- ✓ Keys to any locked items

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.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise

- ✓ Completed and signed H.M. Customs Form C426 must have original, signed in ink for ocean shipments. Fax copies are acceptable for air shipments
- ✓ Passport copy
- ✓ Keys to any locked items
- ✓ Import Declaration – original must be presented to Customs
- ✓ Comprehensive packing list & valued inventory – two copies, signed & dated
- ✓ It is necessary to know the following information: the marks and numbers of the packages in which the goods are traveling, the ship's name, the date of arrival, and port of arrival.

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Radio transmitters (walkie-talkies, CB radios and cordless phones) that have not been approved for use in the United Kingdom
- ✓ Endangered species, including birds and plants, whether alive or dead, and the goods made from them. Fur, ivory, and leather that have been taken from endangered species.
- ✓ Certain plants and their produce including trees, shrubs, potatoes, certain fruit, bulbs and seeds.
- ✓ Alcohol, tobacco & perfume must be declared on Customs Declaration, presence of these items in household goods can result in full inspection of entire shipment
- ✓ Wedding Gifts (up to a value of £800 per item) are eligible for duty-free importation if the items are intended for the shipper and given by someone living outside the EC. (Does not apply to alcohol or tobacco.) Gifts can arrive 2 months prior to the wedding and 4 months afterward. A marriage certificate is required.
- ✓ Inheritance Goods require a copy of the will, which may require certification. Sometimes a letter from an attorney and a copy of the death certificate is accepted by customs.
- ✓ Art & Antiques are duty free if the below requirements are met:
 - Articles are part of a bona fide household removal or are over 100 years old.
 - Articles have been in the use and possession of the owner for a minimum of one year.
 - Articles are not for sale or other disposal in the United Kingdom.
 - Owner must declare the age and value of the goods in advance of the importation. Date of manufacture *must* be produced.
 - Certificate of Antiquity should be supplied.
 - Precious metal objects may enter duty-free. Silverware is considered as household goods.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Customs Form C88. Enter the appropriate Customs Procedure Code in Box 37.
- ✓ An Age Declaration. This should be a written statement made by the shipper to read: "I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the articles in the form as imported were wholly manufactured or produced more than 100 years before the date of importation."
- ✓ Evidence of Age as proven by a certificate of age provided by the seller or by an independent expert in the country where the antique/work of art was acquired.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Offensive weapons such as flick-knives, swordsticks, knuckle-dusters, blowpipes, butterfly knives, death stars, spring-operated telescopic truncheons and some martial arts equipment
- ✓ Weapons that are designed or adapted to discharge any noxious substance are prohibited, including stun guns, electric shock batons and self-defense sprays.
- ✓ Obscene materials depicting extreme violence, including horror comics
- ✓ Narcotics such as heroin, morphine, cocaine, cannabis, amphetamines, barbiturates and LSD
- ✓ Pornographic materials, Indecent and obscene materials featuring children
- ✓ Counterfeit and pirated goods

- ✓ Goods that infringe upon patents
- ✓ Meat, milk and other animal products

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Dogs and cats traveling under the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) from the Mainland U.S. may enter the U.K. without quarantine. The following procedures, in the order listed, must be carried out to qualify for PETS: Pets must be vaccinated against rabies, and receive a blood test; the owner must obtain an EU passport or official veterinary certificate for the pet; and the pet must be treated for ticks and tapeworms. A six month waiting period is required once the blood sample is drawn.

NOTE: Dogs and cats not qualifying for PETS may be quarantined for up to six months and require an import license prior to traveling to the UK. Birds require 30 days in quarantine and a health import license. The maximum number of allowable pets for importation is five.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated less than 30 days prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - dated less than 30 days prior to arrival
- ✓ Proof of microchip
- ✓ Import Permit if applicable
- ✓ Customs Form C5 for each pet, with the pet's purchase price or the cost of buying another pet of the same breed, age and condition.

For up-to-date, detailed information refer to the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs' website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/index.htm>.

Refer to Fact Sheet 4, which covers the rules and regulations in depth and provides a handy checklist: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/factsheet/factsheet.htm>.

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Customer may be required to be present during the clearance of the vehicle. Duty-Free entry is permitted if the following requirements are met: The shipper has owned and used the vehicle for more than 6 months. The vehicle must not be sold or otherwise disposed of for at least one year after the date of importation. Before importing a motor vehicle you should check with the nearest Consulate to the United Kingdom to verify whether or not the vehicle complies with specific safety and environmental protection standards.

NOTE: Vehicles being shipped into any port in the UK require a C104A, certificate of title, bill of lading, copy of passport, proof of insurance (if shipper is collecting vehicle from port themselves) and proof of US residency for previous 12 months.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Customs Form – please use applicable form:
 - C104A – relocation of main residence or C104F - relocation for 6-12 months
 - C384 Declaration if the vehicle is less than 6 months old
 - C179B
- ✓ Proof you have owned and used vehicle outside the EC for at least 6 months.
For example: Foreign registration papers, Police certificate of registration, or insurance policy.
- ✓ Community Transit document – T2, obtained from origin Customs office
- ✓ Original purchase invoice, Foreign vehicle registration & Certificate of Title
- ✓ Declaration to HM Customs – owner must specify make, model, year of manufacture, serial, engine & chassis numbers, cc engine capacity, fuel type, odometer reading, number of cylinders, left or right drive, transmission type, price and defects that may bring value down

NOTES:

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: The United Kingdom requires ISPM15 for wood packaging material (WPM).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Fox Moving & Storage, 2010

DEFRA (Department for Environment and Rural Affairs), Bringing Pets to the UK

HM Customs & Revenue: <http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk>

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.