



Importing Personal Property Into BAHRAIN

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

Duty-free Entry is Permitted if the Following Requirements are Met:

- The owner has used the goods for at least 1 year in a foreign country.
- The shipper has a 2-year Residence Permit endorsed on his/her passport.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Residence permit valid for 2 years, endorsed on the passport.
- ✓ Original bill of lading/ air waybill, stating “used household goods & personal effects”
- ✓ Inventory in English – no Packed by Owner
- ✓ Waybill with handling/billing instruction
- ✓ Copy of Passport for air shipments
- ✓ Original Passport with 2 year residence permit for all sea shipments
- ✓ Copy of insurance policy (if available)
- ✓ Declaration signed by customer

Notes:

- Duty is applicable for all new items
- Video cassettes and DVDs will require a screening fee.
- All shipments are subject to complete search at the port/airport prior to delivery.
- Customs clearance takes about 3 to 4 days and the shipper’s presence is required for clearance.
- If residence permit is not ready in time shipment can be cleared by payment of refundable deposit to customs authorities or non-refundable payment of customs duty of 10% on full shipment.

Diplomatic Removals:

- Duty-free entry for foreign diplomats.
- Clearance takes 3 to 4 days and the shipper’s presence is not required.
- Customs authorities are authorized to make a survey at domicile

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate from the Embassy or the Consulate.

Note: Bahrain diplomats returning to Bahrain are not eligible for special status.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Explosives
- Firearms and weapons, even ornamental or antiques
- All pornographic materials, videos, films, literature
- Wireless transmitters, communications equipment, satellite dishes/receivers
- Products of Israeli origin or items related to Israel
- Political or religious literature offensive to Islam and/or the Bahrain government
- Narcotic and psychotropic drugs
- Commemorative articles or military uniforms
- Cultured pearls
- Remote control airplanes
- Articles made from ivory

Note:

- All prohibited items are subject to confiscation and attempted import can result in prosecution

RESTRICTED ITEMS

The Following items are dutiable even with a valid Residence Permit:

- **All new items – 5% of assessed value**
- New and used personal computers - 5% of assessed value
- Wine/Alcohol - approx. 125%
- Piano/Musical Instruments – approx. 5%
- Fax Machines/Copiers – approx. 5%
- DVD/LCD/VCD's – approx. 5%
- Automobiles – approx. 5%
- Excess Food Items – approx. 5%
- Motorcycles – approx. 5%

Notes:

- Cordless telephones will be inspected by the Ministry of Labour.
- Foodstuffs require a health inspection
- All printed matter, films, books, pictures, records, tapes, slides, movies, videos, compact discs, computer software, etc. are subject to censorship and confiscation and therefore must be packed separately for easy access.
- Medicines require an inspection by the Ministry of Health.
- Remote-controlled toy cars require a certificate from the Ministry of the Interior.
- **Alcoholic beverages & Tobacco:** Customer must pay full duties and taxes. Clearance will take 3-4 working days and requires the customer's presence.
- **New Furniture:** Customer must pay customs duties and import tax. Clearance will take 3-4 working days and requires the customer's presence.

MOTOR VEHICLES

- The shipper must pay a duty of 5% duty on either a new or used vehicle.
- Customs authorities reserve the right on the valuation assessed by them.
- Clearance will take 2 to 4 days
- Vehicle must have new insurance coverage and temporary plates before leaving seaport or airport.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of registration
- ✓ Valid passport
- ✓ Car papers
- ✓ Export certificate or ownership title from point of origin
- ✓ Original bill of lading with complete details of the vehicle
- ✓ Original, valid insurance

DOGS AND CATS

- Importation admitted provided no symptoms or suspicions of infectious illnesses are apparent.
- No case of rabies has been reported within a radius of 20 kilometers from the place of origin of the animal during the previous 3 months.
- All pets go into quarantine for a period of 1 month.
- Clearance takes 3 days; the owner's presence is not required for clearance.
- Avoid scheduling your pet's arrival for Thursdays and Fridays, as these are weekend days.

Required Documents:

- Import license obtained prior to air freighting the pet into Bahrain.
- Health Certificate issued by licensed veterinary surgeon at the place of origin abroad, stating that the bird or animal is free from any infectious or contagious diseases. This certificate must be in English and be valid for 20 days for animals coming from non-European countries.
- Dogs require a valid certificate of vaccination against rabies and distemper. This certificate must be valid for 6 months from date of issue.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- East West Express Bahrain, 2007
- Government of Bahrain, Department of Customs, 2005
- Gulf Agency Company, 2002

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.