



## *Importing Personal Property into*

# GREECE

### IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

#### **DUTY-FREE ENTRY IS PERMITTED IF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS ARE MET:**

- If the shipper is staying in Greece for at most one year, then the items may be temporarily imported if a guarantee is posted with Customs. Also, the goods must be exported at the end of the 1 year period or duties must be paid to Customs.
- Greeks repatriating, foreigners married to Greeks, Greek Military, and foreign EU members must have resided abroad for at least 2 years.
- Foreign EU members must apply to authorities for a 5 year Residence Permit and deposit to Customs an amount equivalent to duties. When the permit is obtained, then the deposit will be reimbursed.

#### **Notes:**

- The shipper must be present at the time of Customs clearance and have his or her passport for display to the Customs authorities.
- Extensions of duty-free status are solely at the discretion of Customs.
- Value Added Tax or VAT will be assessed on shipments owned by foreigners entering Greece on a Work Permit from a non-EEC country.

#### **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:**

- ✓ Valid passport for shipper and spouse and previous passport if the current one is less than 2 years old.

#### **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS (CONTINUED):**

- ✓ Law 1599 Form (Ipefthini di losi) stating you will keep the good in your possession for at least 1 year.
- ✓ Returning residents require a "Certificate of Repatriation" from the nearest Greek Consulate with detailed attached list of household goods.
- ✓ Foreigners coming to work in Greece require a "Certificate of Secondary Residence" from the nearest Consulate with list of household goods.
- ✓ Complete, detailed and consularized inventory; consularized by the Greek Consulate in country of origin and translated at destination. When inventorying electrical appliances include the model and serial number. If woven materials such as rugs and carpets are included in the shipment, detail the quality, quantity, square feet and color on the inventory.
- ✓ Current visa.
- ✓ Original bill of lading.
- ✓ Letter authorizing the Destination Agent to clear the shipment through Customs.
- ✓ Personal or bank guarantee for amount of duties.
- ✓ Housing contract.

## **DIPLOMATIC REMOVALS; RESTRICTED ITEMS; IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES, WORKS OF ART AND PETS:**

### **DIPLOMATIC REMOVALS**

- ✓ Exempted from taxation on both household goods and car on an embassy franchise basis.
- ✓ Electrical appliances are limited to one per kind.

### **RESTRICTED/DUTIBALE ITEMS:**

- Office equipment including facsimile machines, photocopiers and telephone systems will incur duties.

### **IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES:**

- Automobiles may be imported duty-free for 4 months for shippers planning a maximum stay of 2 years. Extensions past 4 months are granted at 8 months and 1 year.
- The vehicle must have been in the shipper's possession for at least 6 months.
- Vehicles imported duty-free cannot be disposed of for a minimum of 3 years or they will be subject to full duties and taxes.
- Vehicles with diesel engines are restricted.
- Duty is based on vehicle's make, model and length of ownership by the shipper.

### **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES:**

- ✓ Consular certificate from origin
- ✓ International Driver's License
- ✓ Proof of ownership
- ✓ Registration certificate
- ✓ The vehicle must be included on the household goods inventory and should detail the quality, quantity, square feet and color of any woven floor covering in the automobile.

### **IMPORTATION OF WORKS OF ART OR ANTIQUES:**

- Antiquities and works of art may be imported duty-free, but values should be declared to Customs.

### **IMPORTATION OF PETS:**

- Cats and dogs may be imported with proper documentation.
- Importation of birds of any type is not advised.

### **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:**

- ✓ Health Certificate stating that the pet is in good health and has had a rabies inoculation not more than 6 days before arrival.
- ✓ The animal should bear either a legible identification tattoo or a microchip.

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### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

- U.S. Embassy in Greece, [www.usembassy.gr](http://www.usembassy.gr), 2004.

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.