



Importing Personal Property Into

ISRAEL

IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

FOR "OLEH HADASH" (NEW IMMIGRANT) OR TEMPORARY RESIDENT A/1:

- Unlimited duty-free entry of furniture, personal effects, clothes, dishes etc. (must be "within reason" for home furnishing purposes)
- Duty-free entry of electrical appliances (Max. 1 of each type). A maximum of 2 fans, 2 heaters and 2 air conditioners are allowed duty free.
- Fax machines and telephones are NOT exempt from duty and are subject to import restriction
- Electrical appliances and some furniture purchased in Israel from an authorized manufacturer are exempt from the purchase tax and VAT (value added tax).
- May import three times within a period of three years
- The shipper must be in Israel at the time of Customs clearance.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ✓ Passports and visas of shipper and spouse, if applicable.
- ✓ Duly stamped contract for the lease or purchase of an apartment or house. The lease must be for at least one year.
- ✓ Invoices of new appliances and any electrical items purchased prior to shipment's departure. Originals are preferred
- ✓ Inventory
- ✓ Bill of lading in the shipper's name

FOR "KATIN HOZER" (RETURNING CHILD)

- ✓ If the shipper was born in Israel and left before 14 years old and is returning after the age 17, then he/she has same rights as an "oleh hadash."
- ✓ Shipper needs to open a file for "Katin Hozer" at the nearest customs office.

FOR "TOSHAV HOZER" (RETURNING CITIZEN)

- Must have spent at least 2 years abroad
- Shipper is allowed 2 imports within a period of 9 months
- Unlimited duty-free entry of furniture, personal effects etc, "within reason"
- Duty-free entry on most electrical appliances (max. 1 of each kind), excluding VCR's, DVD players, clothing dryers, carpets and air conditioners.
- Upon arrival shipper must appear at the Ministry of the Interior to request a list of all his/her departures and arrivals in Israel during the previous 2 years. This list must be presented to the Customs Authorities nearest to new residence, along with the following documents:
 - ✓ All passports, including those of spouse if applicable
 - ✓ Proof of Residence
 - ✓ List of departures and arrivals to and from Israel
 - ✓ Bill of lading
 - ✓ Packing List
 - ✓ Invoices for new appliances (originals are preferred)
 - ✓ Certificate of origin or EUR-1 (not required, but advisable so shipper can receive tax discounts on appliances when applicable)

FOR FOREIGN RESIDENTS

- ✓ Copy of passport
- ✓ Copy of visa (A/2, A/3 or B/1) in the passport and permit for permanent residency allowing stay in Israel.
- ✓ Bill of lading
- ✓ Packing list
- ✓ Invoices for new appliances and EUR-1 or certificate of origin
- ✓ Proof of residence

DUTY-FREE FOR OLEH/ FOREIGN RESIDENTS; RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS; PROHIBITED ITEMS

FOR DIPLOMATS

- ✓ Bill of lading and packing list

DUTY-FREE ITEMS FOR AN OLEH OR A FOREIGN RESIDENT, EXCLUDING THOSE HOLDING A/2 VISAS

The following items may be purchased by an oleh or foreign resident in Israel and be exempt from purchase tax and VAT, if the items are not imported from abroad. The items must be purchased from an authorized manufacturer.

- Air conditioner
- Air filter
- Carpet, no more than 25% of the area of the residence in Israel.
- Convection heater
- Deep freezer
- De-humidifier and odor absorber
- Dishwasher
- Electric coffee percolator
- Electric juicer
- Fax
- Food mixer
- Furniture
- Grill
- Hair dryer
- Heater
- Piano
- Radiator heater
- Refrigerator
- Stove for cooking and baking
- Television
- Vacuum cleaner
- Washing machine

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- The following items require a permit for importation:
 - Raw material (Ministry of Trade & Industry)
 - Arms (Ministry of Interior)
 - Broadcasting equipment (Ministry of Communications)
 - Pharmaceuticals (Ministry of Health)
 - Plants and plant parts
- Only one electrical/electronic appliance (such as a refrigerator, television, etc.) of each kind is allowed duty-free importation.

- Computer, answering machine, car radio
- Electric powered lawn mower
- Shipper is only allowed to import EITHER a refrigerator or a freezer duty free.
- Alcohol and tobacco
- Curtains, linoleum, wallpaper and fabrics
- Tools
- 15 kilograms of food are allowed per person.
- Cordless telephones and facsimile machines are subject to duty and require a permit from the Ministry of Telecommunications.
- Safety car seat
- Windsurfing equipment
- Building accessories
- Compact disc and turntable when imported together.
- Gifts
- Musical instruments
- Camping and sporting equipment

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Forged or counterfeit coins and documents
- Gambling machines and games
- Firearms, weapons, ammunition, tear gas, explosives and dangerous chemicals.
- Large quantities of any item
- Seeds, live plants and saplings
- Pornographic publications
- Cordless telephones of 900 MHz.
- Narcotics and illegal drugs

IMPORTATION OF PETS

- Pet cats, dogs, birds, rabbits and rodents (up to two of each type) are allowed entry without quarantine if they meet the following requirements:
 - They have been in the possession of the owner abroad for at least 90 days prior to entry.
 - Their owner accompanies them to Israel.
- Unaccompanied pets require a **Veterinary Import Permit** and will be quarantined in an official quarantine facility for approximately 8 days, or as deemed necessary by the Director.

IMPORTING PETS AND MOTOR VEHICLES

- Dogs and cats under three month of age will not be admitted.

Important note:

Animals arriving in Israel without required documents will be returned to the country of origin at the owner's expense or destroyed as stated by law.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

For accompanied pets:

- ✓ **Veterinary Certificate** attesting that the pet was examined within one month of export and found to be in good health, including vaccination against rabies for dogs and cats less than one year or more than one month from entry into Israel.
- ✓ **International Certificate of Vaccination**

For unaccompanied pets:

- ✓ **Veterinary Import Permit** issued by the Director of Veterinary Services. The pet's owner, living in Israel, must complete an application for an import permit at least 10 days prior to the pet's departure.

IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

- One vehicle may be imported within three years of entry for personal use only.
- When an oleh imports an automobile, the purchase tax is exempted, but reduced duties and VAT will be applicable. Duties and taxes will be assessed according to

the type, engine size and weight of the vehicle.

- The vehicle must be on the government's list of approved models.
- It is recommended that vehicles manufactured in the U.S. not be imported due to a difference in gasoline.
- It is recommended to import only new vehicles.
- Vehicles will not be calculated within the framework of the three shipments allowed for importation.
- All vehicles **MUST** be equipped with air-conditioning
- Once imported, the vehicle may only be driven by the shipper or by another person only when the shipper is in the vehicle.
- Returning Israelis will be taxed at app. 128% & 150% of the Israeli market-price

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ✓ Passport
- ✓ Teudat Oleh
- ✓ Purchase invoice or registration in the shipper's name
- ✓ Keys
- ✓ Insurance certificate valid in Israel
- ✓ Valid driver's license from country of origin and Israeli driver's license
- ✓ Import License from Ministry of Transport

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

- State of Israel, Israeli Department of Customs and VAT, <http://www.mof.gov.il/customs/eng/mainpage.htm>, 2005.
- Household Goods Forwarders Association of America, 2005.
- Sonigo International Ltd., 2002 Customs Regulations
- 4moversww.com, January 2000.
- Gamma Shipping Israel, Inc. 2000.

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.