



# Importing Personal Property Into **KUWAIT**

## **IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS**

### **ENTRY OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS:**

- All household goods imported into Kuwait are dutiable. For all household goods the current duty rate is 4% of the value, as determined by Kuwaiti customs authorities.
- Personal effects (wearing apparel and books) are not dutied, but are subject to open inspection by customs authorities
- Shipper's presence during customs clearance is required and the shipper must present his/her passport for customs authorities at this time.
- Normal customs clearance generally takes 3 to 4 working days.
- Books, literature, audio/video cassettes, records, and CD's will be held by customs for approval by the Ministry of Information.
- Prohibited items may be destroyed by customs without shipper's consent

### **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

- ✓ Two copies of shipper's valid passport, including information page and Residence Permit page.
- ✓ Itemized inventory of all video tapes, books, magazines, other printed matter, audio tapes, records, CDs, computer software, etc. The inventory must include the name or title; name of author or performer(s); and publisher or manufacturer. The inventory must be submitted to the Ministry of Information to be censored; all questionable items will be removed and possibly confiscated. The cartons containing these items must be clearly marked and loaded for easy access.
- ✓ The shipper must obtain the following from his/her employer in Kuwait:
  - ✓ Declaration of sponsorship
  - ✓ Letter stating that the shipper is moving to Kuwait in order to work for the company.

- ✓ Residence permit (Kiama)
- ✓ Work permits
- ✓ Temporary import license
- ✓ "No Objection Certificate" issued by the Ministry of Interior
- ✓ Original and two legible copies of the detailed inventory reflecting brand names, makes and/or models of appliances
- ✓ Inventory with gross weight and number of packages listed.
- ✓ Original ocean bill of lading (OBL) or air waybill (AWB)
- ✓ Insurance certificate

### **DIPLOMATIC SHIPMENTS**

- Kuwait customs has the right of inspection but no duties apply if the Ministry of Foreign Affairs grants valid diplomatic privileges. Consignee on OBL or AWB should be the embassy name only.

### **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR DIPLOMATS**

- All documents should be clearly marked as diplomatic to expedite obtaining the exemption from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- ✓ Diplomatic clearance form obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kuwait on applicable OBL or AWB.
  - ✓ Complete inventory in Arabic detailing all packages in shipment with brand name of electrical/electronic items.

### **RESTRICTED/DUTIBALE ITEMS**

- If new items and/or computers are included in the shipment, then invoices and certificates of origin are required with the manufacturers' name and address.
- New furniture is subject to 4% duty on CIF value.

## **RESTRICTED/ PROHIBITED ITEMS; IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES**

- Imported products which are locally manufactured incur higher rates of duty ranging from 10 to 25%.
- Special permission must be obtained from the Ministry of Telecommunications to import computers, fax machines, radio transmitters and wireless telephones.
- Electrical devices in shipments will delay customs clearance and may require the approval by the Ministry of Commercial Industry.
- Approval must be obtained from the Ministry of Health for medication and foodstuff.
- The Environmental Protection Agency must approve of any pesticides, insecticides, paints and/or chemicals included in shipments.

### **PROHIBITED ITEMS**

Prohibited items will be confiscated and may be destroyed. The shipper may also face heavy fines and/or legal penalties.

- Pork and pork products
- Alcohol in any form including beverages and products containing alcohol.
- Beer and wine-making kits
- Narcotics
- Tobacco
- Illicit drugs or associated paraphernalia and narcotics. (This can include dried poppy arrangements). Importing such items is a serious offense and punishable by long prison sentences.
- Books, drawings, carvings and any other articles that will injure public security (political or military content) or morals (pornography).
- Gambling devices
- Firearms, ammunition and explosives
- Weaponry or associated equipment, including decorative swords and daggers.

- Products related to the State of Israel, Zimbabwe or the Republic of South Africa.
- Materials or products of Israeli origin or items included on the Israeli blacklist.
- Religious articles affiliated with religions other than Islam.
- Any products made from ivory.
- Political and/or religious materials (objects, images, written materials, etc.) that may be considered offensive to the Kuwait government or Islamic faith.

### **IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

- **Only Kuwaiti nationals** may import private motor vehicles.
- Motor vehicles are subject to 4% duty charge on estimated customs value.
- Used vehicles must not be over 5 years old.
- Shipper's presence at customs clearance is required.

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

- ✓ Valid Kuwait residence permit
- ✓ Civil ID
- ✓ Registration certificate
- ✓ Insurance policy
- ✓ Invoice

### **IMPORTATION OF PETS**

- Please note that the importation of pets is discouraged due to the unfavorable climate conditions and the prevailing cultural attitude. Pets may be imported if accompanied by the required documents.

### **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

- ✓ Rabies Vaccination Certificate
- ✓ Valid Health Certificate

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

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- Household Goods Forwarders' Association of America, 2005.
- Gulf Agency (Kuwait), 2002.
- 4moversww.com, April 2000.
- OMNI, [http://www.omnimoving.com/frameset\\_about.html](http://www.omnimoving.com/frameset_about.html), October 1999.

**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.**