



## Importing Personal Property into

# QATAR

### IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

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

- The household goods/ personal effects must be used and have no commercial value.
- All used personal and household goods are exempt from the 5% CIF duty, provided that the shipper has a valid Qatar residence visa or letter from their company verifying they are in the process of receiving one.

#### **Notes:**

- Prohibited items may be destroyed by customs.
- All shipments are subject to full inspection by customs.
- New furniture will incur a duty of 5% of CIF value.
- Computer equipment requires a separate clearance procedure through Qatar customs. If a computer is to be included in the shipment, specifications should be sent to the destination agent prior to arrival so the relevant documentation can be processed in advance of the shipment's arrival.
- Qatar electrical main service is 240 V/ 50 Hertz plus/minus 5% within the system.
- Shipments arriving at the port of Umm-Said or other Qatari ports may incur delays or extra charges.

#### **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:**

- ✓ Copy of Passport
- ✓ 2 legible copies of the detailed inventory
- ✓ Letter from shipper authorizing destination agent to clear his/her shipment.

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

- ✓ The consignee's company must provide a letter to Customs mentioning the contract length, position and certifying that the goods are for personal use and not for resale.
- ✓ Visa/Residence Permit
- ✓ Original bill of lading/airway bill
- ✓ A Certificate of Origin or invoices are required for new furniture.

#### **PROHIBITED ITEMS:**

- Weapons, firearms and ammunition, including decorative swords and daggers.
- Alcoholic beverages (fine wines included)
- All narcotics & drugs. Dried poppy flower arrangements can lead to severe legal action & long prison sentences.
- Medicines are only allowed in reasonable quantities and are subject to analysis by the Ministry of Public Health.
- Wireless transmitters and communication equipment
- Satellite receivers & dishes
- Pornographic or political materials including literature, videos, films, pictures, etc.
- Any items made of ivory.
- Israeli goods and other commodities which are blacklisted
- Children's kites that are electronically guided.
- Gambling machines
- Advertisement literature promoting cigarettes, lighters, office tools, etc.
- Military uniforms or any clothing that is similar to them.
- Political or religious literature deemed as offensive to the Qatari government or the Islamic faith

## **RESTRICTED ITEMS, DIPLOMATIC REMOVAL; IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES AND PETS:**

### **RESTRICTED ITEMS:**

- All printed matter, records, films, books, pictures, tapes, slides, movies, videos, CDs, DVDs, computer software, etc. are subject to censorship by the Ministry of Information. This process normally takes one working week. **These items must be clearly marked on the inventory and packed separately for easy access.**
- There are severe penalties and possible jail terms for persons caught with any of the above-mentioned items that have not been approved by Customs.

### **DIPLOMATIC REMOVAL:**

- Leader of protocol from the relevant embassy must be processed with the Qatar Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Once the protocol letter is received, the shipment is normally allowed inspection and duty-free clearance into Qatar, but this remains at the discretion of the Customs Director.
- The destination agent should be notified in advance that a diplomatic shipment is coming, so that they can coordinate the letter of protocol with the relevant embassy administrators, in advance of the shipment's arrival.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

- Gulf Agency Company, 2003

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

- Vehicles older than 1 year require a pre-alert because import approval is required prior to importation.
- Vehicles over 10 years old are prohibited.
- Duty is assessed at 4% of CIF value.
- The owner of the vehicle must have a residence permit to register the vehicle in his/her name.
- It is possible to import more than 1 vehicle.

### **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:**

- ✓ Proof of ownership at origin
- ✓ Original Import Manifest
- ✓ Registration certificate
- ✓ Insurance policy
- ✓ Invoice

### **IMPORTATION OF DOGS AND CATS:**

- The importation of pets is permitted if a Health Certificate accompanies the pet.

### **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:**

- ✓ Health Certificate issued by a government approved veterinarian clinic at origin, confirming the animal is in good health and the vaccinations are current.
  - ✓ The Health Certificate must be dated at least 2 weeks prior to the pet's arrival in Qatar.

**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.**