



IMPORTING PERSONAL EFFECTS IN BAHRAIN

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS:

All shipments are subject to full inspection of goods. *The customer should be present during Customs clearance of ocean shipment.* If Customer is unable to attend a nomination can be arranged such as the Destination Agent to clear shipment on Customers behalf, upon approval from Customs Authorities.

Used household goods and personal effects over one year old are duty free subject to the owner obtaining a Residence Permit for a minimum of two (2) years. If a 2 year permit is unobtainable, shipment can be cleared upon payment of a Customs Deposit.

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. The censorship process can take up to four weeks. These items must be packed separately for easy access. If a carton is suspected of containing prohibited goods the entire carton is kept in Customs for further scrutiny. Medicines will be retained at Customs until approved by the Ministry of Health.

Prohibited items will be confiscated, destroyed or returned to origin at the owner's expense. Violators are subject to sever penalties, including possible jail terms. It is advised to inquire with your Destination Agent prior to shipping if there are questions about your belongings.

Note: Bahrain Customs offices are closed Thursday & Friday for the weekend

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted tax and duty free entry of their personal effects and household items. Diplomat's presence is not required during Customs clearance; however Customs Authorities are authorized to make a survey at the residence.

Note: Bahrain diplomats returning from their missions are not eligible for special status.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

Documents required for Household goods/personal effects Customs Clearance:

- ✓ Passport (original)
- ✓ Work Permit
- ✓ Residence Permit (valid for two years, endorsed on the Passport)
- ✓ Insurance Certificate
- ✓ Bank Guarantee
- ✓ Customs Bond
- ✓ Proof of Employment
- ✓ Inventory (a clear copy, detailed and in English) -- PBO "packed by owner" not acceptable
- ✓ Certificate from Arab Chamber of Commerce at origin

Documents required for Diplomatic Shipment:

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise/ Duty Exemption Certificate – obtained through Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ✓ Passport copy
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory list in English



RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEM:

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.

PROHIBITED ITEMS:

- ✓ All pornographic literature, videos, films and pictures (including simple nudity of all kinds)
- ✓ Parachutes/ fire crackers, if found can be confiscated
- ✓ Medicines and medical drugs (allowed in reasonable quantities , but subject to analysis)
- ✓ All narcotics and drugs. Importation of any weapons (including seemingly innocent dried poppy flower arrangements) can lead to very severe legal action and even long prison terms.
- ✓ Wireless transmitters / receivers / communication equipment.
- ✓ Firearms, ammunition, explosives and any weapons (including decorative items such as swords and daggers)
- ✓ Products of Israeli origin/ manufacture, or any items on the Israeli blacklist.
- ✓ Political and religious literature/articles which might be deemed as offensive to the UAE government or the Islamic faith.
- ✓ Any items made out of Ivory & Buddha statues.
- ✓ If any items are confiscated, a penalty fee of BHD 25.000 (USD 66/-) is levied by customs. Consignee/ Agent to reimburse GAC Bahrain at the time of delivery.



IMPORTING VEHICLE:

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

IMPORTING PET:

Importation admitted provided no symptoms or suspicions of infectious diseases are apparent and the import permit has been approved prior to arrival. Quarantine is required for all pets including birds for a period of one month. Owner must make own feeding arrangements during quarantine. Clearance takes 3 days; the owner's presence is not required. Avoid scheduling your pet's arrival for Thursday or Friday as these are weekend days.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies & distemper, must be in English and valid for 6 months from date of issue
- ✓ Health Certificate - must be in English, dated less than 10 days prior to arrival, issued by a licensed Veterinarian, must state no case of rabies has been reported within a radius of 20 kilometers from the place of origin during the previous 3 months and the pet is free of infectious or contagious diseases
- ✓ Import Permit – obtained from the Veterinary Quarantine in Bahrain prior to importation

**Customs requirements are established by the country of import and not by Servile Relocations Pvt. Ltd. The regulations, however, are subject to change without notice by the Bahrain Customs. Servile Relocations Pvt. Ltd. assumes no liability for the changes in the law.

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