



## IMPORTING PERSONAL EFFECTS IN FRANCE

### HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS:

*All shipments are subject to inspection. The client does not need to be present during clearance.*

Client must have resided at origin residence for a minimum of one (1) year before relocating to France. Client must also intend to reside in France for more than one year. There is not a limit in the amount of air or ocean shipments within 12 months of the client's transfer to France.

Used household goods and personal effects are duty free if owned abroad for at least six months, if the owner is moving his principle residence the items must arrive within the year. Goods must remain in the client's possession for a minimum of one (1) year from the date of importation. If goods come in separate consignments they MUST all be shown on the first inventory.

#### **Diplomatic Status:**

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted tax and duty free entry of their personal effects and household items once Diplomatic Franchise is in place. Diplomatic clearance is required by the local embassy in France with French Customs authorities.

Effective Immediately: Documents for diplomatic shipments must be presented to Customs Authority.

This new requirement will add 1-2 days to the clearance process.

### DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

#### Documents required for Household goods/personal effects Customs Clearance:

- ✓ Passport including photo page
- ✓ Visa
- ✓ Declaration of Duty Exemption/Entry of Personal Effects "Cerfa N 10070\*01" - 2 originals (3 in the event of transit) obtained from French Customs offices or website
- ✓ Residence Card - "Competences et Talents"
- ✓ Work Permit (requirements vary according to nationality)
- ✓ Certificate of Change of Residence - obtained from French Consulate with customer's signature including dates of arrival, date of change of residence
- ✓ Proof of Residence in France - lease contract, utility bills etc
- ✓ Attestation de non-cession - Declaration that owner has lived abroad for at least one year, that items have been in owner's possession at least six months and will not be sold for 12 months
- ✓ Letter of Transfer - on employer's letterhead, stating date of employment at origin, date of transfer
- ✓ Bill of Lading/ Air Waybill
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory - 3 copies, in French, valued in EURO, dated & signed by customer
  - Inventory must list contents of each carton
  - List electrical items separately with brand name & serial number
  - Purchase invoices required
- ✓ Proof of employment from a registered company
- ✓ Delivery Address in France with access information, floor, entry code if any



#### Documents required for Diplomatic Shipment:

- ✓ A letter from the local Embassy in France stating diplomatic status of shipper and asking for duty free importation of the shipment.
- ✓ Xerox copy of shipper's passport.

#### RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS:

- ✓ Firearms - require Import Permit issued by Directorate General of Customs in Paris; registration certificates and licenses MUST be obtained prior to arrival. Cannot be shipped in household goods container. Client may need to be present during clearance of firearms. Consult with service agent for current requirements and French Defense Ministry
- ✓ Medication - Authorization from the Ministry of Health
- ✓ Alcoholic beverages - Must be inventoried separately with brand name, type, number of bottles and value. 50 bottles, of which no more than 15 can be over 22% (44% US proof) is considered a reasonable limit to be imported duty free and considered "restants de cave" (remainder of cellar)
- ✓ Tobacco is allowed but subject to duty and tax
- ✓ Furniture & new items (less than six months old) - need sales invoices identifying price, date and place of purchase. Are subject to VAT if coming from EEC countries and VAT plus duties if coming from other countries
- ✓ Wedding Presents - Requires marriage certificate and French resident permit. Must be shipped within a month of the wedding
- ✓ Works of Art - Require Certificate of Authenticity
- ✓ Video tapes, fax & telex machines, and books will be held temporarily by customs until necessary authorization is obtained for each item

#### PROHIBITED ITEMS:

- ✓ Drugs and narcotics
- ✓ Endangered species of animals and plants, as well as any by-products made from their fur, skin, bone, etc. are prohibited; this generally includes all ivory and ivory products. Importation of such items is allowable only if a CITES Import Permit is obtained from the French Department of the Environment. For additional information, contact the US Department of the Interior-Fish and Wildlife Service-Division of Law Enforcement.
- ✓ Firearms and weapons are prohibited, as is ammunition, unless specific conditions are met.
- ✓ Raw materials and semi-finished products are subject to duties.
- ✓ Articles that infringe upon rights in patents, utility-models, designs, trademarks, or copyrights or neighboring rights.
- ✓ Meat, meat products, milk and milk products.

#### IMPORTING VEHICLES:

***Motor vehicles and motorcycles may be imported free of duty and VAT as condition stated below:***

Shipper moves to France on a permanent basis and has resided outside of France for the last 12 months. The vehicle is not considered commercial or industrial. The owner has had possession of the vehicle for at least six months. The



owner paid all applicable internal taxes at time of purchase. The vehicle must comply with French safety and environmental standards. The vehicle is listed on the signed and dated household goods and personal effects inventory. Shipper must include its value, make, model and serial number.

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration card- must be originals
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓ Insurance certificate – French insurer
- ✓ Vehicle Plate numbers

#### **Notes:**

- *The vehicle cannot be sold, rented or disposed of for 12 months after importation.*
- *Application for registration of a French domestic plate at the local prefecture must occur within four months of importation.*
- *Vehicles are subject to duties, if they were purchased abroad without payment of a value added tax (VAT); or if they were purchased abroad with the VAT included and have been operated by the shipper less than six months.*
- *Prior to being declared road-worthy, vehicles must be inspected, and if needed, undergo modifications in France. It is suggested to determine whether modifications are necessary before importing vehicles.*

#### **IMPORTING PETS:**

Client's presence during pet's Customs clearance process is required. Animals can be subject to quarantine. Endangered and exotic pets are prohibited. Dogs on the dangerous breeds list are prohibited without a registered pedigree. Birds: 2 parrots are allowed or up to 10 smaller birds. If arriving from the US a family is allowed 5 pets total and all must be over 3 months old unless with its mother. It is recommended to consult with the Destination Agent prior to importation for the latest requirements ***WARNING: animals without the necessary certificates will be returned to place of origin or destroyed.***

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated less than 10 days prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - dated less than 10 days prior to arrival, endorsed by a Veterinary Service

***Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: As of 19 March 2010 Methyl Bromide is no longer permitted as an acceptable treatment for WPM. Certificates of treatment after this date may not be acceptable to certain destinations. New European Community import requirements provide that the WPM instead of being produced from debarked round wood will need to be free from bark with exception for the presence of any number of individual pieces of bark. These should be either less than 3 cm in width (regardless of the length) or, if greater than 3 cm in width, of not more than 50 cm<sup>2</sup> in area.***

\*\*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 French Customs. Servile Relocations Pvt. Ltd. assumes no liability for the changes in the law.

#

Website: [www.servilerelocations.com](http://www.servilerelocations.com)

Email: [info@servilerelocations.com](mailto:info@servilerelocations.com)