



# Importing Personal Property Into *Bahrain*

## IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

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

- The owner has used the goods for at least 1 year in a foreign country.
- The shipper has obtained a 2-year Residence Permit endorsed on his/her passport.

### **Notes:**

- Duty is applicable for all new items
- Video cassettes will require a screening fee of \$0.55 per tape.
- All shipments are subject to complete search at the port/airport prior to delivery.
- Customs clearance takes about 3 to 4 days and the shipper's presence is required for clearance.
- If Residence Permit is not ready in time shipment can be cleared by payment of refundable deposit to customs authorities or non-refundable payment of customs duty of 10% on full shipment.

### **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:**

- ✓ Residence Permit valid for 2 years, endorsed on the passport.
- ✓ Original Bill of Lading/Airway Bill
- ✓ Legible Packing List
- ✓ Waybill with handling/billing instruction
- ✓ Copy of Passport for air shipments
- ✓ Original Passport with 2 year Residence permit for all sea shipments
- ✓ Copy of insurance policy (if available)

### **DIPLOMATIC REMOVALS:**

- Duty-free entry for foreign diplomats.
- Clearance takes 3 to 4 days and the shipper's presence is not required.
- Customs authorities are authorized to make a survey at domicile

### **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:**

- ✓ Certificate from the Embassy or the Consulate.

### **PROHIBITED ITEMS:**

- All pornographic materials, videos, films, literature
- Wireless transmitters, communications equipment, satellite dishes/receivers
- Products of Israeli origin or items related to Israel
- Political or religious literature offensive to Islam and/or the Bahrain government
- Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs
- Commemorative articles or military uniforms

### **Notes:**

- All prohibited items are subject to confiscation and attempted import can result in prosecution



## RESRICTED ITEMS; IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES AND PETS

### DUTIABLE/ RESTRICTED ITEMS:

#### The Following items are dutiable even with a valid Residence Permit:

- Personal Computers - 5%
- Wine/Alcohol - 125%
- Piano/Musical Instruments - 5%
- Fax Machines/Copiers - 5%
- DVD/LCD/VCD's - 5%
- Automobiles - 5%
- Excess Food Items - 5%
- Motorcycles - 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.

#### IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES:

- The shipper must pay a duty of 20% 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 upon arrival at 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.

#### IMPORTATION OF DOGS AND CATS:

- Importation admitted provided no symptoms or suspicions of infectious illnesses are apparent.
- No case of rabies has been notified within a radius of 20 Km. From the place of origin of the animal during the previous 3 months.
- All pets go into quarantine for a period of 1 month.
- Clearance takes 3 days and the customer's presence is not required for clearance.

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Import License obtained prior to airfreighting the pet into Bahrain.
- ✓ Health Certificate issued by competent veterinary surgeon, at the place of origin abroad, stating that the bird or animal is free from any infectious or contagious diseases. This certificate must be in English and is valid for 1 month after date of issue.
- ✓ Dogs require a valid Certificate of Vaccination against rabies and distemper. This certificate is valid for 6 months from date of issue.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

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Embassy of the State of Bahrain, Domestic Pets, <http://www.bahrainembassy.org/pets.html>.

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.