



# Importing Personal Property Into *The United Arab Emirates*

## IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

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

- The items in the shipment are the used personal effects and household goods of the shipper, and are not for resale.
- Shipper has a valid UAE residence visa

### **Important Notes:**

- All personal effects and household goods are subject to open inspection by Customs authorities
- Shipper must be present for clearance
- Customs duty is currently 4% of the value estimated by Customs on all new furniture and autos
- Normal customs clearance takes 3 to 5 days for sea shipments and 2 days for air shipment

### **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:**

- ✓ Original Passport of shipper
- ✓ Two copies of the shipper's passport page with visa, the United Arab Emirates entry stamps and letter from the UAE employer.
- ✓ The shipper must provide his/her forename and surname as well as a private contact address in the United Arab Emirates, including a telephone number.
- ✓ Original Bill of Lading and Airway Bill
- ✓ Insurance certificates
- ✓ Two legible copies of the detailed packing list

### **RESTRICTED/PROHIBITED ITEMS:**

- Any goods and currency of Israeli origin or any items on the Israeli blacklist
- All narcotics and drugs (including dried poppy flower arrangements.) Attempted importation can lead to severe legal action/and or prison.

- Firearms, ammunition, explosives and any weapons (including decorative items such as swords and daggers)
- Alcoholic beverages (including fine wines)
- All pornographic literature, videos, films and pictures (including simple nudity of any kind)
- Political and religious literature or articles that may be offensive to the UAE government or the Islamic faith.
- Books, other published material, video and sound cassettes, CD's, computer software and records will be detailed for inspection by the Censors Department of the Ministry of Information. Items deemed as acceptable will be returned to the shipper in 2-3 weeks. Items that are banned will be destroyed or re-exported to the country of origin at the shipper's expense. It is helpful if such items are loaded at the door of the shipments for easy access.
- Polished, whitened, artificial or imitation pearls are prohibited as well as genuine unstrung pearls.
- Any items made of or containing ivory
- Wireless transmitters and receivers
- Butane gas lighters and their refills are prohibited, as are aerosol products.
- All pork products
- Radioactive materials of any kind
- Cameras and reasonable amounts of tobacco (200 cigarettes), perfume, and gift items are permitted
- Medicines and medical drugs are allowed in reasonable quantities but are subject to analysis

## PROHIBITED ITEMS; IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES AND PETS

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### IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES:

- Customs duty on both new and used motor vehicles/ boats is 4% on value assessed by customs.
- Component parts on some models may be banned, depending on their origin.
- Imported cars must be equipped with air conditioning and otherwise conform to specifications for use in the UAE.

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Invoice and Vehicle Clearance Certificate issued in the United States by the U.S. – Arab Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce charges for this service and supplies two photocopies, one of which must be submitted to the United Arab Emirates Embassy.
- ✓ Import Permit
- ✓ Insurance policy certificate.
- ✓ Copy of last registration with complete details of the vehicle

### IMPORTATION OF DOGS AND CATS:

- Pets can be imported. However, neither the climate nor the Arab attitudes favor pets and their importation is not recommended.
- An Import Permit must be obtained prior to importation of an animal. An Inoculation certificate/ vaccination certificate certified by the appropriate governmental authorities in the country of origin is required for an Import Permit.

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Pets must be accompanied by a veterinarian's good-health certificate that is issued at the point of origin.
- ✓ Import Permit

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

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- Gulf Agency Company (Dubai) LLC, 2002
- Leader Freight Forwarders, 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.