



Importing Personal Property into

FRANCE

IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS: RESTRICTED/ PROHIBITED ITEMS

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

- The shipper has resided outside of the European Community for at least 12 months before arriving in France.
- All items have been used for at least six months.
- Items must stay in shipper's possession for at least 12 months post-clearance.
- Each article is itemized (in English and French) in a comprehensive list along with its value in euros.
- The shipper shows proof of residency in France (e.g. bill, rental contract)

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- New items are subject to duties and taxes. They must be specified on the valued inventory. The shipper should expect to pay a value added tax (VAT) of 19.6% plus Duties (about 10%).
- Subsequent shipments must be reported and inventoried with the shipper's first importation. Duty-free entry may be possible for importations within one year of the initial importation.
- If motor vehicles are part of a household goods and personal effects shipment, they must be listed on the valued inventory.
- All customs duties must be paid in French francs, or with bank or postal checks.
- Customs clearance will take 3-4 days. Shipper need not be present during process.

- Wedding Trousseaux, Gifts and Inheritance items must be inventoried and include proper documentation.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR HOUSEHOLD GOODS:

- ✓ Passports (and visa if applicable) of all family members, or photocopy of all pages of the passports.
- ✓ **One** of the following:
 - Original declaration of change of residence ("certificat de changement de residence") obtained from a French consulate in the country of origin. For civil servants, a "service transfer order" is sufficient.
 - Employer's declaration of transfer (on letterhead) stating that the shipper has been working for the company for at least the last 12 months and is being transferred to France.
 - Proof of residence for at least the last 12 months in the origin country (e.g. electricity or phone bill, or certificate of study).
- ✓ French Residence Card ("Carte de séjour") or letter from employer in France.
- ✓ Detailed, valued inventory (in duplicate), signed and dated by the shipper. Values should be in euros (€).
- ✓ Declaration of non resale ("Certificat de Non Cession")
- ✓ Proof of residence in France, such as an electricity or phone bill, or a rental agreement.

RESTRICTED/PROHIBITED ITEMS; IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS (CONTINUED):

- ✓ Delivery address in France detailing the:
 - Parking access
 - Floor
 - Access entry code

RESTRICTED/PROHIBITED ITEMS:

- Drugs/Narcotics
- Gold (other than jewelry), gold bars and gold coins.
- Products or by-products of endangered species (e.g. ivory, animal skins).
- Firearms/weapons or associated equipment are restricted. All proofs of ownership must be provided.
- Endangered fauna and flora species
- Prescription medications are restricted.
- Tobacco or tobacco products are subject to duties.
- Separate inventory of alcoholic beverages is required. "Reasonable amounts" are allowed duty-free.
- Raw materials and semi-finished products are subject to duties.
- Articles that infringe upon rights in patents, utility-models, designs, trade marks, or copyrights or neighboring rights.

IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES:

Motor vehicles and motorcycles may be imported free of duty and VAT if the following conditions are met:

- Shipper is moving 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. Be sure to include its value, make, model and serial number.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Once the vehicle has cleared customs, the following documents will be issued: a copy of the list endorsed by Customs and a customs entry certificate ("certificat de dédouanement") #846 A.
- The vehicle can not 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.
- Before 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.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Signed and dated comprehensive inventory, in duplicate, listing all goods imported into France, including details of the vehicle.
- ✓ Proof of being a permanent resident of a non-EU country for the last 12 months and proof of establishing residency in France.
- ✓ Original certificates of registration.
- ✓ Original purchase invoice showing taxes paid, dated at least 6 months prior to the shipping date.
- ✓ Original title in the shipper's name.
- ✓ Engine number, chassis number and engine power.
- ✓ Plate numbers.

IMPORTING PETS; FIREARMS; GOLD ITEMS; PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE; WORKS OF ART; INHERITANCE; STUDENT IMPORTATIONS

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS (CONTINUED):

- ✓ Signed “Non-Resale” form.

IMPORTATION OF DOGS AND CATS:

Advanced planning of at least 4 months is required to meet the stringent requirements.

- The cat or dog must be micro-chipped or have an identification tattoo.
- Certified certificates must accompany the animal stating the animal has been vaccinated against rabies. This certificate needs to be issued by a licensed veterinarian in the country of origin.
- Rabies vaccine must be administered at least 30 days before the pet undergoes blood testing or FAVN-OIE Rabies Serology Test. Entry into France is permitted 90 days after successful antibody testing.
- A health certificate issued 10 days or less prior to the pet’s arrival in France and signed by a USDA certified veterinarian is required for clearance. The certificate must verify the pet has received the necessary vaccines. For cats: feline leucopenia, or for dogs: canine distemper, viral hepatitis, leptospirosis and canine parvovirus.
- A limit of 5 animals per household is enforced.
- Animals must be at least 7 months old.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Certificates of health issued by a licensed veterinarian in the country of origin.
- ✓ French Certificate Sanitaire
- ✓ Certified Rabies Certificate

IMPORTATION OF FIREARMS:

- Firearms/ weapons or associated equipment require the following documents:
 - ✓ Certificate of Possession (“autorisation de detention”) from the local “Préfecture” in France
 - ✓ Import Permit (“autorisation d’importation de matériels de guerre”)

IMPORTATION OF GOLD ITEMS OTHER THAN JEWELRY:

- Gold, gold bars or gold coins require authorization from the Banque de France.

IMPORTATION OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE:

- Prescription medication requires authorization from the Ministry of Health in Paris.

IMPORTATION OF WORKS OF ART AND ANTIQUES:

- Articles of an artistic or antiquarian classification are allowed entry as part of a household goods and personal effects shipment.

IMPORTATION OF INHERITED ITEMS:

Inheritance must be imported within one year of the death. The following documents are required:

- ✓ Declaration from a Public Notary with inventory of goods, date of death, and relationship of deceased to shipper.
- ✓ French Residence Permit

IMPORTATIONS MADE BY STUDENTS; IMPORTING WEDDING PRESENTS AND ITEMS FOR A SECONDARY RESIDENCE

IMPORTATIONS MADE BY STUDENTS:

- Students must provide official proof of attendance at the French school or university. The student has 2 months from the date of registration to import their goods.

IMPORTATION FOR A SECONDARY RESIDENCE:

- If importing items for a secondary residence, the shipper must obtain preliminary authorization from the French Regional Head Customs office.

IMPORTATION OF WEDDING PRESENTS:

Wedding gifts must be imported within 1 month after the date of the marriage.

Required documents include:

- ✓ Marriage certificate
- ✓ French Residence Permit

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

- S.A. Mory & Co., 2003.
- Embassy of France, Information for Private Individuals, Settling in France, <http://www.info-france-usa.org/intheus/customs/1000.asp>, 2003.
- Air Animal, www.airanimal.com, 2003.
- IM France International Moving, French Customs, Required Documents, <http://www.imfrance.com/index.html>, 2003.

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.

DIRECTION REGIONALE DES DOUANES DE PARIS

Service des Franchises

ATTESTATION DE NON CESSION ET DE NON PRET

Je soussigné (Nom et adresse hors de la Communauté Economique Européenne de l'Intéressé)

déclare:

- a) que les objets repris à l'inventaire ci-joint sont ma propriété depuis plus de 6 mois et qu'ils sont destinés à mon usage personnel
- b) que je les fais venir en France pour l'installation d'une résidence principale (adresse):

- c) que je m'engage à payer les droits et taxes exigibles si avant un délai de 24 mois à partir de leur entrée en France, je voulais donner, prêter, vendre louer mes biens que je fais venir présentement pour meubler ma résidence principale et si je loue ou rements celle-ci en nantissement sans autorisation de la douane.

Je suis informé que ce délai de 24 mois est porté à 10 ans pour les effets mobiliers de grande valeur.

LIEU

DATE

SIGNATURE

REGIONAL CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION OF PARIS

Exemption Office

DECLARATION OF NON RESALE

The undersigned (name and address at origin)

declares:

- a) The items shown on the attached inventory have been his or her property for more than six months and are for his or her personal use.
- b) Said objects are being imported to furnish his or her primary residence (address at destination).
- c) All applicable duties and taxes will be paid if he or she decides to donate, lend or sell such goods he or she is importing to furnish his or her primary residence, within the first 24 months of his or her arrival in France. If he or she sells, rents out or uses his or her primary residence as collateral, without the authorization of French customs authorities during this period same duties and taxes will apply.

He or she is aware of the fact that this period is extended to ten years for high value objects (e.g., listed works of art).

LOCATION

DATE

SIGNATURE