



BAHRAIN



CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION FOR IMPORTS

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

Documents Required

- Passport copy
- Original or express release Bill of Lading (OBL) / Air Waybill (AWB) copy
- Packing list
- Authorization Letter from shipper to port authorities
- Declaration
- Residence Permit (non-Citizen)
- Duty Exemption Certificate from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Diplomat)
- Copy of diplomatic passport or ID (Diplomat)

Specific Information

- All used Household Goods (HHGs) may be imported duty free but are subject to the owner of the goods having a residence permit. In the absence of a two year residence permit, the shipment may be cleared with a guarantee letter from a company sponsor stating that the residence permit is being processed.
- Items contained in the shipment must be for personal use and cannot be used for commercial purposes.
- All shipments are subject to inspection.
- New items have a 5% duty.
- Consignee's presence is required on all sea and overland shipments.
- Diplomatic shipments may be imported duty free and are not subject to physical examination. They may, however, be scanned by Bahraini Customs Authorities.
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MOTOR VEHICLES

Documents Required

- Original or express release Bill of Lading (OBL)
- Commercial Invoice for new vehicle
- Proof of insurance
- Certificate of Ownership or Export Certificate from country of origin
- Car Condition Report
- No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Diplomat)
- Residence Permit for at least 18 months (Non-citizens)

Specific Information

- Valid insurance is required.
- The shipper must arrange to obtain the Central Population Registration (CPR) card through the employer's Human Resources department; once the CPR is obtained, the shipper may obtain a temporary license plate.
- Customs duties are approximately 5%.
- Vehicles should not be shipped with a full gasoline tank.
- The shipper should obtain vehicle insurance directly from an insurance company.
- An ocean freight shipment can be cleared without a Residence Permit with a deposit payable at clearance; the deposit amount will be refunded upon the Residence Permit is stamped, which takes approximately 2 weeks (non-citizens).



BAHRAIN



- Left hand drive vehicles only
- Consignee must be present for customs inspection.

PETS

Documents Required

- Vaccination Record
- Veterinary Health Certificate
- Import Permit
- Copy of Airway Bill

Specific Information

- Pets may only be transported as cargo; however, assistive animals may be able to travel in the aircraft cabin.
- The Import Permit must be obtained prior to travel from the Veterinary Quarantine Department in Bahrain.
- The Veterinary Health Certificate must state that the animal is free from disease and is fully vaccinated.
- Import license to be obtained prior to booking pets.
- After the pet has been cleared through customs, all pets are quantined for one month (consignee must provide feeding arrangements).

RESTRICTED / DUTIABLE ITEMS

- Firearms
 - An Import Permit and permission from the Ministry of the Interior and Civil Aviation Affairs of Bahrain is required.
- Videotapes are subject to inspection by Ministry officials. They will be released approximately 2-3 weeks after inspection. (non-citizens)
- CDs, DVDs, VCDs, books (only large quantities)
- Pianos / musical instruments / personal computers are subject to inspection by the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications prior to shipment arrival. Regardless if they are new or old, duty of 5% applies. (non-citizens)
- Foodstuffs
- Wines, Spirits and alcohol are subject to duty at customs discretion (diplomats)
- Medicines are subject to prescription by a doctor (in English or Arabic) (Diplomats)
- Alcoholic Beverages

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Narcotics and Drugs
- Flammable Items
- Ivory
- Pornographic materials (DVDs and magazines are subject to inspection by the Ministry of Interior)
- Swords
- Knives, daggers (ornamental, etc.)
- Wireless equipment
- Satellite, receivers, cordless telephones, walkie talkies
- Guns, arrows, darts
- Military Clothes



BAHRAIN



- Gambling Games

CONSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Recommended: Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air / sea shipments.

IAM Note: *Customs regulations can change at any time with or without notice. This document is provided as a guide and for information only. While IAM has exercised reasonable care in publishing this document, IAM makes no representation, either expressed or implied, as to its accuracy or applicability.*

Helpful Website(s):

<http://www.mofa.gov.bh/washington/Home.aspx>

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1001.html

<http://www.customs.gov.bh>