



## *Importing Personal Property Into United Arab Emirates*

### **CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

#### **Customs Regulations:**

#### **CUSTOMER MUST BE PRESENT DURING CUSTOMS CLEARANCE.**

All shipments are subject to inspection directly by the Dubai Port Authority. ALL new household items are dutiable. "Packed by Owner" shipments should not be loaded into a container until checked and verified by our assigned Service Agent.

The Destination Agent must have the Residence Visa from the client to receive the shipment otherwise demurrage/detention costs will be incurred.

**Clearance time:** Port Authorities allow 7 days free storage from the date of arrival.

Ocean shipments take approximately 4-5 working days. Air shipments take 2 working days.

All printed materials, books, pictures, records, films, tapes, slides, movies, videos, CD's, DVD's, software, etc. are subject to censorship and/or confiscation

**These items must be packed separately for easy access and clearly marked on the inventory.**

**Prohibited items found in shipments are confiscated and may be destroyed without consent.**

**Restricted Items:** Currently customers are having trouble clearing items on the "Restricted List" without significant damage or loss. Please consult with your service agent prior to consigning the shipment.

**Ports:** Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Khorfakkan, & Fujairah

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Passport – copy, including photo page (2 clear copies)
- ✓ Residence Visa or employment permit - mandatory ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill (express B/L is acceptable) ✓ Waybill with client's contact details & billing instructions
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory list – in English, original & 2 copies
- ✓ Confirmation Letter from Employer in UAE

#### **Diplomat Status:**

**Foreign diplomats are granted duty free entry**

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise
- ✓ Passport copy
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory list

## RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Political and religious literature need prior approval from the Ministry
- ✓ New household and personal effects
- ✓ Medication and food stuffs require approval and inspection from the Ministry of Health
- ✓ Live plants and plant material require a Health Certificate
- ✓ Jewelry, stamp/coin collections, exposed film and other items of high value
  
- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind and dried poppy flowers, seeds can lead to sever legal action
- ✓ Firearms, ammunitions, explosives and ANY other type of weaponry including decorative items
- ✓ All forms of pornographic materials, erotic statues, religious idols, figurines & materials ✓ Alcohol including fine wines, pork or pork products
- ✓ Wireless transmitters, satellite antennas and any receivers
- ✓ Items of ivory, animals skins, statues and those listed on the Endangered Species List
- ✓ Goods and currency of Israeli origin or affiliation
- ✓ Any material deemed offensive or seditious to Arabs and Muslims and the principles of Islam

Dogs, cats and birds are allowed to be imported with an approved Import Permit. Health and Vaccination certificates must be issued by the Ministry of Agriculture from the country of origin. The certificates must be issued at least 30 days prior to importation but less than 12 months. Given the extreme heat of the region it is advised not to bring pets.

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination
- ✓ Health Certificate
- ✓ Import Permit

Vehicles can only be registered with a valid United Arab Emirates Residence Visa. Duty of 5% is incurred on the value of the vehicle. Vehicles with tinted glass are not allowed.

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport copy
- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration
- ✓ Certificate of Origin
- ✓ Purchase Invoice copy & Proof of Ownership
- ✓ Insurance Policy
- ✓ Residence Permit/Visa

### NOTES:

**Entry & Exit Requirements:** A full medical exam is required for those with work or residence permits and includes an HIV/AIDS test. Testing must be performed after arrival; a U.S. HIV/AIDS test is not accepted. U.S. citizens have been detained and deported for testing positive for HIV or hepatitis. U.S. citizens traveling to or through the United Arab Emirates on diplomatic or official passports are required to obtain a visa before travel. Unlike other countries in the region that accept U.S. military ID cards as valid travel documents, the UAE requires U.S. military personnel to present a valid passport for entry/exit.

The Government of the United Arab Emirates requires that all persons residing in the UAE, including U.S. citizens, have a national identification card. U.S. citizens who are working or living in the UAE should visit the [Emirates Identity Authority website](#) for more information on card registration procedures and requirements.

**Document Authentications:** U.S. citizens intending to reside and work in the UAE are generally required by the UAE government to present authenticated personal documents such as marriage and birth certificates, adoption and custody decrees, and educational documents. Authentication of documents can be a complex process involving local, state, and federal offices and requiring several weeks to complete. For procedural information, [the Office of Authentications may be contacted](#).

A recent change to UAE labor law requires local sponsors to have employees' diplomas, academic and/or occupational/professional certificates validated through a "Degree Verification" process established in the UAE. Prospective employees will be required to submit photocopies of such documents for verification to a firm under contract to the Ministry of Labor.

**Safety & Security:** US citizens are encouraged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, to stay current with the latest safety and security announcements dispersed by the Embassy in your area. Your enrollment can also help the Department of State reach your family and friends in case of emergency. U.S. citizens in the United Arab Emirates should exercise a high level of security awareness. The Department of State remains concerned about the global threat of terrorism from al-Qa'ida and affiliated organizations who plan attacks against Western targets

**Crime:** Violent crimes and crimes against property are rare, but do occur. The U.S. Embassy advises all U.S. citizens to take the same security precautions in the UAE that one would practice in the United States or any large city abroad. Incidents of verbal and physical harassment as well as isolated cases involving assault of expatriate women have occurred. Women should be mindful of the cultural differences among the many people who coexist in the UAE and should be cognizant that unwitting actions may invite unwanted attention. Taxi passengers should avoid sitting in the front seat of a taxicab and should be sensitive that "small talk" can be misinterpreted as over-friendliness or even a form of propositioning by some taxi drivers.

**Criminal Penalties:** As each Emirate has its own independent judicial system, legal procedures and penalties vary throughout the country. Persons violating Emirati laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested, or imprisoned. U.S. citizens have been arrested for obscene hand gestures, using inappropriate (foul) language with a police official, and for public displays of affection, such as kissing. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in the United Arab Emirates are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines. Some drugs normally taken under a doctor's supervision in the United States, and even some over-the-counter U.S. drugs and medications, are classified as narcotics in the UAE and are illegal to possess. A doctor's prescription should be carried along with any medication that is brought into the country. A person may be subject to arrest and prosecution if possession of prescribed medicines (especially those containing codeine and similar narcotic-like ingredients) comes to the attention of local authorities. The U.S. Embassy's website includes an unofficial list of such medicines, obtained from the UAE Ministry of Health.



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**Alcohol Consumption:** Drinking or possession of alcohol without a Ministry of Interior liquor permit is illegal and could result in arrest and/or fines and imprisonment. Alcohol is served at bars in most major hotels but is intended for guests of the hotel. Persons who are not guests of the hotel, and who consume alcohol in the restaurants and bars, technically are required to have their own personal liquor licenses. Liquor licenses are issued only to non-Muslim persons who possess UAE residency permits. Public drunkenness and driving under the influence, regardless of one's blood alcohol content level, are considered serious offenses. Penalties may include hefty jail sentences and fines and, for Muslims (even those holding U.S. citizenship), lashings.

**Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:** As of this printing the UAE does not require ISPM 15 certification of wood packing materials.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

Embassy of United Arab Emirates: <http://www.uae-embassy.org/>

Department of State: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1050.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1050.html)

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

AGS World Wide

DP World contact: [customerservice@dpworld.com](mailto:customerservice@dpworld.com)

**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.**