

Importing Personal Property Into Belgium

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Used household goods and personal effects are duty free provided goods have been owned and used by the customer for a minimum of six months and customer has lived outside of Belgium and the European Community for at least one year. The goods must be imported within twelve months of arrival. For private moves, a certificate issued by the Belgian Consulate at origin confirming the transfer is required. For company moves a signed and stamped declaration from the employer confirming the transfer is required. For foreigners not in possession of a Certificate of Residence at the time of importation of house hold goods must pay a guaranty (bond) of 10% of Customs duties and 21% VAT. A disciplinary penalty may also be imposed for missing documents of approximately 500.00 BFRS. The total guaranty amount is refunded in six months on presentation of the original Certificate of Residence, or any other missing documents. Duty-free entry of household goods for a secondary residence in Belgium is no longer possible. Items can not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of during stay.

NOTE: As of 19 August 2010 an EORI (Economic Operators Registration and Identification) number is required for all imports and exports to clear Customs in the European Union.

The requirement was introduced by the European Commission in July 2009 to enhance security. The EORI number must be used in all electronic communications with Customs Offices and other government agencies and departments. This number is valid in all EU member states and replaces ALL Customs identification numbers including the TIN (Traders Identification Number).

Required Documents:

- ✓Passport - copy of biographic page with signature
- ✓Residence Permit or Work Permit
- ✓Proof of residency out side of Belgium for a minimum of 12 months
- ✓Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, rated; Express Release allowed
- ✓Comprehensive Valued Inventory – in French or English, dated & signed by owner
- ✓Pack list - in French or English
- ✓Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓Certificate of Residence – obtained from Belgium commune
- ✓Certificate of Residence Cancellation – obtained from city hall at origin
- ✓Declaration of Customer – provided by Destination Agent, signed by client

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted tax and duty free entry of their personal effects and household goods.

Note: signatures and stamp shown on the declaration 136 F must be on file at the Customs Authority House where the importation is scheduled to take place.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise
- ✓ Passport (diplomatic) - copy
- ✓ Declaration 136 F – signed by diplomat, countersigned and stamped by Embassy at origin
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory – dated & signed by owner
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Appliances/Electronics – must have invoices/receipts
 - ✓ Prescription medications – require a health certificate
 - ✓ Firearms & ammunition- must state name, serial number & caliber on the inventory; proof of registration, shooting license; must be loaded near the container door; some firearms must be registered with the Belgian police; DO NOT ship without prior approval from Belgian Authorities
 - ✓ New items – (less than 6 months) must have invoices/receipts; subject to duty and VAT
 - ✓ Tobacco – 200 cigarettes or 250 grams of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty
 - ✓ Alcohol – subject to authorization from territorial administration
 - ✓ Antiques – require invoices signed by supplier & a Certificate of Age showing items are 100 years old or more; duty-free, subject to 6% VAT
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- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
 - ✓ Pornography and subversive material
 - ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and any other weapons unless otherwise approved

For importing pet birds; only 2 are allowed. Birds must be accompanied with a signed statement from a veterinarian, no more than 2 months old attesting bird (s) is free from fowl plaque, Newcastle disease, cholera, psittacosis, pullorum disease and Pacheco's disease.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, vaccines must be administered 30 days but less than 12 months prior to importation
- ✓ Health Certificate - by a Veterinarian at origin

Vehicles are duty-free provided they have less than 6000km and have been in the possession of the owner for at least 6 months. Amount to be paid depends on value, model, year, cubic centimeters and accessories. The vehicle must be stated on the Inventory of Household Goods.

Required Documents:

- ✓Certificate of Title and Registration - copy
- ✓Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓Drivers License & International Insurance Policy (green card)
- ✓Insurance Policy – current policy in origin country (will become valid in Belgium)
- ✓OBL - Chassis Number, Engine number, Cubic Capacity, year of manufacture, brand and model
- ✓License Plate – keeping origin plates allows vehicle to be driven pending naturalization
- ✓Declaration of Non-Sale – client commitment to not sell vehicle while in Belgium

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: US citizens must obtain a visa if one is residing in Belgium for more than 90 days, will be a student or employed in Belgium. Belgian law requires that everyone carry official identification at all times. This ID must be displayed upon request to any Belgian police official. This can be either your Residency Card or Passport.

Business visitor and employee registration requirement: As of April 1, 2007, non-Belgian employers and self-employed persons or their employees who carry out short-term assignments in Belgium must declare these activities in advance. This mandatory "Limosa" declaration applies to: (1) Employees and apprentices who come to Belgium to execute certain temporary work and who, because of the nature of their short term assignment, are not subject to the Belgian social security system; (2) Self-employed individuals and self-employed apprentices who come to work in Belgium temporarily, irrespective of whether they are subject to the Belgian social security system. For more information, please see the [Limosa website](#). For more information about working in Belgium, please visit the website of the [Belgian Federal Public Service Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue](#).

Crime: In Brussels, pocket picking, purse snatching, and theft of light luggage and laptops are common at the three major train stations -- the North Station (Noordstation or Gare du Nord), the Central Station (Centraal Station or Gare Central), and especially the South Station (Zuidstation or Gare du Midi, the primary international train hub). Another growing problem, especially in Brussels, is theft from vehicles, both moving and parked. Do not leave your valuables in plain sight where a thief may spot them. Thieves will sometimes position themselves at traffic lights to scan for valuables in stopped cars. If they see a purse or other valuable item, they break the window and steal the item before you have time to react. Always drive with your windows up and doors locked. Whenever possible, park your car in secure areas or parking garages.



BPL COMPANY LTD

Currency: U.S. money orders cannot be negotiated in Belgium. Personal checks may only be cleared through a bank at which a person holds an account, and clearance can take two to four weeks. Banks and exchange facilities may refuse U.S. dollar denominations of \$50 and \$100 if they are not equipped with devices to identify counterfeit currency. Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) are widespread in Belgium and accept most U.S. ATM cards for fund withdrawals

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: As a member of the European Union, Belgium has requirements and regulations in effect regarding ISPM15 for wood packaging material (WPM).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Embassy of Belgium: <http://www.diplobel.us/>

Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1044.html

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

IATA Travel Centre

International Association of Movers

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.