



## *Importing Personal Property Into Egypt*

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

#### **Customs Regulations:**

All household goods and personal effects are subject to physical inspection. The client **MUST** be in Egypt but is not required to be present during the clearance process. All used household goods and personal effects are subject to import taxes and duties, storage, demurrage, administration fees and cost of inspection.

**Exception:** Expatriates working on government contracts or the private sector under the terms of “Temporary Admission” are granted duty-free entry by providing a “Letter of Guarantee”. These customers must have a Work Visa of a minimum of three months to be eligible, and subject to full exportation once the contract has expired.

Any Egyptian citizen or expatriate with out a valid Work Visa must pay full taxes and duties on the household goods and personal effects shipment. Documentation requirements vary depending on client's visa status. One should consult their Destination Agent to ensure all proper documents are submitted. **NOTE:** CUSTOMERS ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY CLEARING “RESTRICTED” ITEMS WITH OUT INCURRING SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE OR LOSS.

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓Passport – original, must have latest entry stamp to Egypt
- ✓Work/Residence Visa – valid for a minimum of three months
- ✓Bill of Lading/Air Waybill or Express Release – copy; cleared marked “Used HHG”
- ✓Comprehensive Valued Inventory in English or Egyptian Arabic; **MUST** be typed ✓Pack List – typed, in English or Egyptian Arabic
- ✓Document stating insurance coverage
- ✓Letter of Guarantee – provided by employer approving the import and stating shipment will be re-exported upon end of work contract
- ✓Authorization Letter - authorizing Destination Agent to clear shipment, stamped by client's Egyptian bank where he has an account

\* Keys for automobiles and any locked items or baggage must be presented to the Customs officer upon inspection. Do not attach the Inventory List for insurance purposes with the documents enclosed in the shipment.

### **Diplomat Status:**

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted tax and duty free entry of their personal effects and household items either new or used. Full diplomatic shipments are not subject to inspection. Local Agent should prepare the Diplomatic Card and exemption papers with the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs no less than 3-4 weeks from date of arrival of diplomat into Egypt.

### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Diplomatic Card & Diplomat Passport – original ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill or Express Release - copy
- ✓ Documents from Ministry of Foreign Affairs supporting evidence of mission
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory list in English – MUST be typed, NOT handwritten

### **RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS**

**Any consumables including food items, toiletries, detergents and cosmetics are subject to duty regardless of the status of the consignee.**

- ✓ Works of Art/Antiques - are examined by a committee for evaluation/censure purposes. This process is time consuming, costly and will delay the clearance process
- ✓ Video tapes, Computer disks, CD's, DVD's, cassette tapes, records, slides and any other type of media are subject to censorship and confiscation in the event any of the recorded material is in the prohibited category below
- ✓ Religious books or materials not Islamic
- ✓ Printers, scanners, fax machines, copiers - require approval from the Ministry of Security. The brand and model number of these items must be on the inventory. Inclusion of the owners manual for these items expedites the clearance process
  
- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Alcoholic of any kind – penalty charged = 3000x the value of the alcohol & bottles destroyed
- ✓ Pornography in any form, any publications depicting semi-nudity including fashion magazines
- ✓ Firearms, explosives, ammunitions and weapons, daggers or swords (even as decorative items)
- ✓ Politically sensitive materials, literature contrary to Muslim, and/or Arab beliefs and morality
- ✓ Gold and silver (tableware permitted)
- ✓ Seeds of any kind, cotton
- ✓ Any kind of live, frozen or stuffed birds or any bird derived products
- ✓ All telephones (mobile, wireless and home land line phones)
- ✓ Communications equipment - strongly recommended to not be included in shipment

Pet cats and dogs are examined by a veterinarian from the Ministry of Agriculture upon arrival. Quarantine is not required. However if a pet looks ill or unhealthy upon examination your pet will be kenneled in a government facility for a maximum 15 days.  
Pet birds of any type are prohibited.

**Required Documents:**

- ✓Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated less than 30 days prior to arrival
- ✓Health Certificate - dated less than 30 days prior to arrival, endorsed by a Veterinary Service

All vehicles are subject to high import taxes and duties. The vehicle must be new (the same year of importation and the client must be the first owner. Vehicles with diesel engines are prohibited. Client must receive prior authorization before importing a vehicle. Regulations for vehicle importation change frequently, thus it is wise to consult with the Destination Agent prior to importation.

**Required Documents:**

- ✓Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓OBL – state make, model, engine & chassis numbers, color & weight

## NOTES:

**Entry & Exit Requirements:** US citizens residing in Egypt are encouraged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program to stay current regarding safety and security announcements provided by the Embassy or Consulate. It will also help your friends and family get in touch with you in an emergency.

Diplomatic and Official passport holders are required without exception to have a visa before arrival in Egypt. The Egyptian Embassy in Washington is currently requiring 7-10 working days to process official visa requests, an expedite letter from the Department of State notwithstanding, so it is incumbent upon all official travelers to submit their visa requests and passports to the Egyptian Embassy well in advance of travel. Foreigners can acquire a work permit from the Ministry of Manpower and Immigration offices in the district of the employer, and accordingly are authorized residency in the country.

**Safety & Security:** The Egyptian-Gaza border has been re-opened on a permanent basis since June 2010 after being closed for three years. Travelers to Gaza from Egypt should read the [Travel Warning for Israel, West Bank, and Gaza](#), which advises against travel to Gaza.

Egyptian authorities may require that they execute an affidavit that they have read the Travel Warning for Israel, West Bank, and Gaza. The affidavit is an Egyptian requirement but is not a guarantee for crossing the border. The fee for the affidavit is \$50. Official U. S. government travel to the areas of Rafah and Al Arish in the North Sinai is restricted.

**Crime:** Crime is relatively low. While violence is rare there has been an increase in violence against women. The Embassy has received increasing reports of U.S. citizen women subject to violence, sexual harassment, verbal abuse, and rape in Egypt. Women have been groped in taxis and public places. The Consular Section strongly encourages women who seek our assistance to take legal action against perpetrators in order to bring them to justice.

**Health:** Evidence of an AIDS test is required for everyone staying over thirty days, for the purpose of studying or working in Egypt. The U.S. Department of State is unaware of any HIV/AIDS entry restrictions for visitors at this time. A test performed in the U.S. may be accepted under certain conditions. Please verify this information with the [Government of Egypt](#) prior to travel.

**Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:** Egypt has adopted ISPM15 requirements for wood packaging material (WPM). This regulation has been in effect since October 1, 2005.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

International Association of Movers

[www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)

IATA Travel Centre

US Dept of State: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1108.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1108.html)

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

**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.**