



## United Kingdom Customs Information

### Introduction

The information contained within this leaflet has been specially compiled to help those moving from outside the European Union to the United Kingdom for the first time. It is by no means a comprehensive guide and to obtain further information we recommend that you contact the United Kingdom's local Embassy or visit HM Revenue and Customs website at [www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk)

### Customs Duties and Taxes

#### **General Used Household Goods and Personal Effects**

You may import your household goods into the United Kingdom without paying duty provided you have owned and used them overseas for a minimum of six months, lived outside the European Union for at least twelve months and taking up permanent residence in the United Kingdom. You must be present within the European Union before Customs clearance can be carried out and your belongings should arrive within twelve months of your arrival. Duty will be payable on alcoholic drinks, tobacco, goods owned for less than six months and tools of your trade.

#### Documents Required:

- Inventory of shipment in English
- Completed Customs form C3 (Available from Atlantic International Movers Ltd)
- Receipts for items less than 6 months old

#### **Wedding Presents**

Wedding gifts may be imported into the United Kingdom without paying duty provided you have lived outside the European Union for at least twelve months and taking up permanent residence in the United Kingdom. The gifts must be imported no more than two months prior to the wedding and no later than four months after. No gift should exceed £800.00 in value and you must retain the items for personal use for at least one year. Please note, where goods arrive prior to the wedding a duty deposit may be required if proof of the wedding details cannot be supplied to the satisfaction of the Customs Authorities.

#### Documents Required:

- Inventory of shipment in English
- Completed Customs form C3 (Supplied by Atlantic International Movers Ltd)



## Inheritance

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If you are permanently domiciled in the European Union you may import inherited goods free of duty provided they will not be used for trade or business purposes. However, you have to make a special application to Customs for duty free entry and it is recommended that goods are not dispatched until authority has been given.

### Documents required:

- Customs notice 368 with attached Customs form C1421
- Certified copy of Will, certified copy of relevant extract of Will or copy of Probate from the court. Must be in English or accompanied by a translation.
- Inventory with declaration from the lawyer that the goods listed are your rightful share of the estate.
- Declaration from yourself confirming that you are a beneficiary under the Will of the deceased and that you are a permanent resident in the European Union.

## Antiques

Antiques can be imported as part of your household removal under the same conditions as General Used Household Goods as described above. Bona-fide antiques (i.e. items over 100 years old) can also be imported into the United Kingdom free of duty provided they are accompanied by a Letter of Antiquity issued by a specialist dealer certifying the articles are over 100 years old, you have owned and used the items overseas for at least six months and you do not sell or dispose after importation.

### Documents Required;

- Letter of Antiquity (obtainable from approved Antique Dealers)
- Inventory of shipment in English
- Completed Customs form C3 (Available from Atlantic International Movers Ltd)

## Cars and Motorcycles

You may import your motor car or motorcycle into the United Kingdom without paying duty provided you have owned and used it overseas for a minimum of six months, lived outside the European Union for at least twelve months, are taking up permanent residence in the United Kingdom and you do not sell the vehicle for at least one year after the date of importation.

### Documents Required

- Customs form C104/A
- Customs form C384 if your vehicle does not meet the above requirements and you are paying duty and /or tax on it.
- Documents confirming that you have owned and used the vehicle abroad as described above, for example; original purchase invoice, insurance certificate etc.

Once the vehicle has been cleared by customs it will need to be licensed and registered before it can be used on public roads. All vehicles less than ten years old that qualify as a personal import are required to pass a Single Vehicle Approval (SVA) test and all vehicles over three years old will be subject to an MOT test prior to registration. It is recommended that you ensure that your vehicle will meet the SVA and MOT requirements, prior to shipping, as modification to comply can be costly. Further information can be found on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency website at [www.dvla.gov.uk](http://www.dvla.gov.uk).

## **Pets**

The importation of dogs and cats into the United Kingdom is very strictly controlled and, whilst the 'pet passport' system can be used from approved countries, in the majority of cases dogs and cats are subject to a six month quarantine period. An import permit is required but this will only be issued after you have made quarantine arrangements with a licensed Kennels. Further information can be found on the website for the Department for Environmental, Food and Rural Affairs at [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk).

## **Firearms**

Only specific types of firearms can be imported into to the United Kingdom and you must have a valid Firearm Certificate which is issued by the Police authorities in the area in which you intend to reside. The Firearms Certificate must be present at the Port of Entry when the shipment arrives.

Please note that the inclusion of firearms usually results in a full Customs inspection at the Port of Entry which will incur additional costs.

You must not import ammunition of any kind.

## **Prohibited Items**

You must not import unlicensed drugs, offensive weapons, any items made from endangered species, counterfeit or pirated goods, indecent, obscene or pornographic material or meat, milk and other animal products.

There are also restrictions on the import of birds, animals, food stuffs, live plants and radio transmitters. These items should not be imported without seeking professional advice.

## **Additional Information**

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained herein is accurate, Atlantic International Movers can accept no responsibility for amendments made to the information supplied prior to or after its publication.

For further information and advice please e-mail us on [info@atlanticinternationalmovers.com](mailto:info@atlanticinternationalmovers.com)

