



Importing Personal Property Into FRANCE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

DUTY-FREE AND TAX-FREE ENTRY IS PERMITTED IF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS ARE MET:

- The customer is moving to France on a permanent basis, not as a seasonal resident.
- The customer has resided outside of the European Union (EU) for at least 12 months before arriving in France.
- All items have been used for at least 6 months.
- Items must stay in shipper's possession for at least 12 months, post-clearance.
- Each article is itemized (in English and French) in a comprehensive list along with its value in euros.
- The shipper shows proof of residency in France (e.g. bill, rental contract)

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- New items are subject to duties and taxes. They must be specified on the valued inventory. The shipper should expect to pay a value added tax (VAT) of 19.6% plus Duties (about 10%).
- Subsequent shipments must be reported and inventoried with the shipper's first importation. Duty-free entry may be possible for importations made within one year of the initial importation.
- If motor vehicles are part of a household goods and personal effects shipment, they must be listed on the valued inventory.
- Customs clearance generally takes 3-4 days; shipper's presence is not necessary during this process.
- Wedding trousseaux, gifts and inheritance items must be inventoried and include proper documentation.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passports (and visa if applicable) of all family members, or photocopy of all pages of the passports.
- ✓ Original declaration of change of residence ("Certificate de Changement de Résidence") obtained from a French consulate in the country of origin certifying that the customer has been living in the country of origin for at least 12 months prior to arrival of shipment and that he/she is transferring his/her residence permanently to France. For civil servants, a "service transfer order" is sufficient.
- ✓ Employer's declaration of transfer in French (on company letterhead) stating that the shipper has been working for the company for at least the last 12 months and is being transferred to France. Document must indicate starting date of employment in France and length of stay abroad, which should be for at least one year.
- ✓ Proof of residence for at least the previous 12 months in the origin country (e.g. electricity or phone bill, or certificate of study).
- ✓ French Residence Card ("Carte de séjour") or letter from employer in France.
- ✓ Detailed, valued inventory (in duplicate), signed and dated by the shipper. Values should be in euros (€).
- ✓ Declaration of non resale ("Certificat de Non Cession")
- ✓ Proof of residence in France, such as an electricity or phone bill, or a rental agreement.
- ✓ Delivery address in France detailing parking access, floor, and access entry code

Note: If customer is unable to provide declaration of transfer from employer, then proof of residence in the country (electrical bills, tax income bills, or scholarship for the previous year) must be provided.

IMPORTATION OF INHERITED ITEMS:

Inheritance must be imported within 1 year of the death. The following documents are required:

- ✓ Declaration from a Notary Public with inventory of goods, date of death, and relationship of the deceased to shipper.
- ✓ French Residence Permit

IMPORTATION OF WEDDING PRESENTS:

Wedding gifts must be imported within 1 month following the marriage date. Required documents include:

- ✓ Marriage certificate
- ✓ French Residence Permit

IMPORTATION FOR A SECONDARY RESIDENCE:

Household effects for a secondary residence may be imported duty-free if they have been owned by the shipper for more than 6 months and the shipper has applied for exemption to the Regional Director of Customs of the district where the residence is located. Tax will be applicable for all countries of origin, except EU countries.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Drugs and narcotics
- Endangered species of animals and plants, as well as any by-products made from their fur, skin, bone, etc. are prohibited; this generally includes all ivory and ivory products. Importation of such items is allowable only if a CITES Import Permit is obtained from the French Department of the Environment. For additional information, contact the US Department of the Interior-Fish and Wildlife Service-Division of Law Enforcement in Arlington, VA, phone: 1-800-358-2104.
- Firearms and weapons are prohibited, as is ammunition, unless specific conditions are met (see **Firearms** section).
- Raw materials and semi-finished products are subject to duties.
- Articles that infringe upon rights in patents, utility-models, designs, trademarks, or copyrights or neighboring rights.
- Meat, meat products, milk and milk products.

RESTRICTED ITEMS

- Alcohol must be inventoried separately with brand, type, amount, number of bottles, and value.
- Tobacco and tobacco products are subject to duties.
- New items are subject to tax and duties.
- Works of art should have Certificate of Authenticity
- Prescription medications, other than narcotics, may be brought into France in amounts appropriate for personal use, in accompanied baggage. A three month allowance of medicine is permissible, as determined by Customs. A prescription dispensed by your physician is required. If medicines are imported for personal use by mail or express shipment, an import permit is required. Call the agence du medicament at 011-331-5587-3632 for additional information, or see the Embassy of France's online fact sheet, **Information for Private Individuals-Medicine:** <http://www.info-france-usa.org/intheus/customs/19000.asp>.
- Gold, gold bars or gold coins require authorization from the Banque de France.
- Plants and plant products require an inspection at the port of entry by officers of the Plant Health Inspection Service (contrôle phytosanitaire). The customer should call 011-331-4955-8153 in advance of their arrival.

MOTOR VEHICLES

Private vehicles (automobiles, motorcycles, motor scooters, motor homes and trailers) may be imported free of duty and VAT if the following conditions are met:

- Shipper is moving to France on a permanent basis (not as a seasonal resident) and has resided outside of the EU for the last 12 months.
- The vehicle is not considered commercial or industrial.
- The owner has had possession of the vehicle for at least six months.
- The owner paid all applicable internal taxes at time of purchase.
- The vehicle must comply with French safety and environmental standards.
- The vehicle must be listed on the signed and dated household goods and personal effects inventory, in duplicate. Be sure to include its value, make, model and serial number.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Once the vehicle has cleared customs, the following documents will be issued: a copy of the list endorsed by Customs and a customs entry certificate (“certificat de dédouanement”) #846 A.
- The vehicle can not be sold, rented or disposed of for 12 months after importation.
- Application for registration of a French domestic plate at the local prefecture must occur within four months of importation.
- Vehicles are subject to duties, if they were purchased abroad without payment of a value added tax (VAT); or if they were purchased abroad with the VAT included and have been operated by the shipper less than six months.
- Before being declared road-worthy, vehicles must be inspected and, if needed, undergo modifications in France to comply with French safety and environmental standards. It is suggested to determine whether modifications are necessary before importing vehicles. Contact the DRIRE for additional information (see www.drire.gouv.fr for regional-specific contact information).
- Other rules and regulations apply when importing pick-up trucks and other special purpose motor vehicles, vintage cars, etc.
- If a vehicle is registered with a French domestic license plate and is exported when the owner moves abroad, it may then be re-imported back into France free of duty and tax when the owner changes residence to France on a permanent basis.
- Students enrolled in French schools and colleges, trainees, seconded employees and interns may temporarily import private vehicles into France (duty and tax-free), if certain conditions are met: domestic tax must have been paid on the vehicle (e.g. licensing fee paid in Canada or US); the vehicle should be for the owner’s personal use during her/his stay in France; the vehicle should not be sold, rented or otherwise disposed of in France; the owner should possess a valid Canadian or US Driver’s License; and the owner should have a valid Canadian or US auto insurance policy. The temporary admission expires after 12 month (for trainees, seconded employees and interns) or after the completion of studies (for school/college students). Appropriate documentation must be submitted with the application to Customs at the port of entry (e.g. temporary employment contract, the letter of acceptance of the internship, or the enrollment certificate from the school or college.) Customs generally requires the posting of a bond or other security.

Required Documents for Motor Vehicles:

- ✓ Signed and dated comprehensive inventory, in duplicate, listing all goods imported into France, including details of the vehicle (value, make, model and serial number).
- ✓ Proof of being a permanent resident of a non-EU country for the last 12 months and proof of establishing residency in France.
- ✓ Original certificate of registration.
- ✓ Original purchase invoice in the shipper's name showing taxes paid, dated at least 6 months prior to the shipping date.
- ✓ Original title in the shipper's name, issued at least 6 months prior to the shipping date.
- ✓ Engine number, chassis number and engine power
- ✓ Plate numbers
- ✓ Signed "Non-Resale" form
- ✓ T1 declaration (copies #4, 5 and 7 of the single administrative document, or SAD), if imported through another EU country.

FIREARMS

- Firearms and ammunition used for sporting/recreation may be eligible for import into France. The regulations vary depending on the type of firearm and the duration of importation. Please refer to the Embassy of France's fact sheet, **Information for Private Individual-Firearms and Ammunitions:** <http://www.info-france-usa.org/intheus/customs/6000.asp>.
- If the customer has owned the firearms for at least 6 month, then it may qualify for duty and tax-free entry.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Possession ("autorisation de détention") from the local "Préfecture" in France
- ✓ An Import Permit ("autorisation d'importation de matériels de guerre"-armes et munitions) is required for certain of firearms and ammunition. To apply for an Import Permit, Form CERFA 11192-01 must be completed.

DOGS, CATS AND FERRETS

Advance planning of at least 4 months is required to meet the stringent requirements for importing pets. When bringing dogs, cats and/or ferrets into France from the United States, the following conditions must be met:

- The pet must be micro-chipped (standard ISO 11784/11785) or have an identification tattoo.
- A valid rabies vaccine must be administered to each animal. If it is the pet's first rabies vaccination, a 21-day wait period is required before the pet enters France.
- A health certificate must be signed by an official veterinarian (certified or endorsed by the USDA). Refer to the USDA's website, www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/area_offices.htm, for area offices. The certificate must verify that the pet has received the necessary vaccines. The certificate is valid for 4 months after it is signed. To download an application, visit the Embassy of France's fact sheet, **Information for Private individuals-Pets** (<http://www.info-france-usa.org/intheus/customs/7000.asp>) and click on the link, "application to print."
- A limit of 5 animals per household is enforced.
- The animal must be at least 3 months old. If younger, it must travel with the mother.
- For pets other than dog, cats and ferrets, refer to **Information for Private individuals-Pets**, <http://www.info-france-usa.org/intheus/customs/7000.asp>.

Note:

- A blood test is not required for pets coming from the US and Canada.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Health Certificate
- ✓ Certified Rabies Certificate

ART AND ANTIQUES

- Articles of an artistic or antiquarian classification are allowed entry as part of a household goods and personal effects shipment.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Embassy of France, <http://www.info-france-usa.org/intheus/customs/cover2.asp>, 2007
- GrosIRON International, 2006
- Delahaye Moving, 2006

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.