



# Importing Personal Property Into

## The United Kingdom

### IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

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

- The importer is moving or returning to the EC (European Community).
- The importer has lived at least 12 months outside the EC.
- The goods have been in the possession and use of the importer for at least 6 months in the country of origin.
- Tax has been paid on the items.
- The items may be imported up to 6 months in advance of the transfer of residence and no later than 12 months after. The shipper should be prepared to produce invoices, receipts, or similar evidence of use abroad.
- All items have been declared to Customs.
- A deposit of duty and tax must be paid on goods imported in advance.
- The items must be kept for personal use and not be sold, lent, hired out or otherwise disposed of in the UK within 12 months of its importation or the importer's arrival, whichever is later, without Customs prior authority.

#### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Completed and signed H.M. Customs Form Number C3.

**Note:** To avoid listing all imported items on the form, the following declaration should be made under section "B" of the C3 Form: "All household goods and personal effects have been in my possession and used abroad by me for more than one year, except for the following..." An approximate **TOTAL VALUE** of the household goods must be given along with individual values for any exceptions that may have been specified. No shipment can be cleared through Customs without these forms being completed in their entirety.

- ✓ Valid passport
- ✓ Work Permit
- ✓ Detailed valued inventory in duplicate.

#### PROHIBITED ITEMS:

- All firearms
- Explosives and fireworks.
- Offensive weapons such as flick-knives, swordsticks, knuckle-dusters and some martial arts equipment.
- Self-loading rifles and short-barreled shotguns.
- Weapons that are designed or adapted to discharge any noxious substance are prohibited, including stun guns, electric shock batons and self-defense sprays.
- Horror comics
- Unlicensed drugs, such as heroin, morphine, cocaine, cannabis, amphetamines, barbiturates and LSD.
- Pornographic materials
- Counterfeit and pirated goods.
- Goods that infringe upon patents.
- All foodstuffs

#### RESTRICTED ITEMS:

- Radio transmitters (walkie-talkies and CB radios) that have not been approved for use in the United Kingdom.
- Dogs, cats and other animals require a British import license.
- Live birds require a British health import license.
- Endangered species, including birds and plants, whether alive or dead; also included are fur, ivory, or leather (or goods made from them) that have been taken from endangered species.
- Meat and poultry and their products.
- Certain plants and their produce including trees, shrubs, potatoes, certain fruit, bulbs and seeds.
- Certain fish or fish eggs.

## IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES, PETS AND FIREARMS/ WEAPONS

### IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES:

Duty-free importation of motor vehicles is permitted if the following conditions are met:

- The importer has owned and used the vehicle for more than 6 months.
- The importer has signed an affidavit that duties and taxes will be paid should the automobile be sold or otherwise disposed of in the United Kingdom within 12 months of either the owner's arrival or the importation of the vehicle, whichever is the later.
- Before importing a motor vehicle, you should check with the nearest Consulate to the United Kingdom to verify whether or not the vehicle is able to meet the specific safety and environmental protection specifications.

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Customs Form C104A
- ✓ Proof you have used the vehicle outside the European Community. This can include:
  - ✓ Foreign registration papers
  - ✓ Police certificate of registration; or
  - ✓ Insurance policy.
- ✓ Purchase invoice
- ✓ Foreign vehicle registration
- ✓ Proof of ownership
- ✓ Proof you have owned the vehicle for more than 6 months.

**NOTE: Vehicles being shipped into any port in the UK require a C104A, Certificate of Title, Bill of Lading, Copy of Passport, Proof of Insurance (if shipper is collecting vehicle from port themselves) and Proof of US Residency for previous 12 months.**

Note: if shipper has not been a resident outside of the EC for more than a period of 12 months and has not owned and used the vehicle for a period of more than 6 months, the C104A is not the correct form. For the correct form, go to the government website <http://www.hmce.gov.uk/>

### IMPORTATION OF DOGS AND CATS:

- Proof of quarantine arrangements with a licensed kennel is required. The usual quarantine period is 6 months in a licensed premise (35 days for birds).

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Import Permit
- ✓ Customs Form C5 for each pet, with the pet's purchase price or the cost of buying another pet of the same breed, age and condition.

### IMPORTATION OF WORKS OF ART/ ANTIQUES:

Works of art/ antiques can be imported duty-free if the following conditions are met:

- Articles are part of a bona fide household removal or are over 100 years old.
- Articles have been in the use and possession of the owner for a minimum of one year.
- Articles are not for sale or other disposal in the United Kingdom.
- Owner must declare the age and value of the goods in advance of the importation. Date of manufacture **must** be produced.
- Certificate of Antiquity should be supplied.
- Precious metal objects may enter duty-free. Silverware is considered as household goods.

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Customs Form C88. Enter the appropriate Customs Procedure Code in Box 37.
- ✓ An Age Declaration. This should be a written statement made by the shipper to read: "I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the articles in the form as imported were wholly manufactured or produced more than 100 years before the date of importation."
- ✓ Evidence of Age as proven by a certificate of age provided by the seller or by an independent expert in the country where the antique/work of art was acquired.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

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- Oceanair, 2002
- VANPAC, March 2000.
- EuroUSA Shipping Ltd., April 2004
- HM Customs and Excise, <http://www.hmce.gov.uk>, September 17, 1999.

**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.**