

Country Guide: Bahrain



Used Household Goods and Personal Effects

Documents Required

1. Passport
2. Original bill of lading (OBL) / express release / air waybill (AWB) / surrender message
3. Packing list properly marked and corresponding to the OBL
4. Authorization letter from owner of the goods to port authorities
5. Duty exemption certificate from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (diplomats)
6. Commercial invoice indicating currency (commodity shipment)
7. Amount of packages (commodity shipment)
8. Insurance certificate (if applicable) (commodity shipment)
9. Legalized certificate of origin (commodity shipment)

Specific Information

1. Do not include flammable items inside the moving boxes.
2. Items contained in the shipment must be for personal use and cannot be used for commercial purposes.
3. All shipments are subject to inspection
4. New items have a 5% duty
5. Owner of the goods' presence / authorization letter from owner of the goods is required
6. Diplomats are free from duties and physical inspection, but not scanning

Motor Vehicles

Documents Required

1. Proof of insurance
2. OBL
3. Commercial invoice on new vehicles
4. Certificate of ownership
5. Export certificate from country of origin
6. Car condition report
7. No objection certificate (NOC) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (diplomats)
8. Residence permit
9. Owner of the goods' contact details (telephone number, fax number, address and email) (non-citizens)

Specific Information

1. Only vehicles less than 5 years are allowed to be imported, unless a classic / vintage, which requires prior permission before the shipment arrives in Bahrain.
2. Valid insurance is required for the registration of the car.
3. The owner of the goods must arrange to obtain the Central Population Registration (CPR) card through the employer's Human Resources department; once the CPR is obtained, the owner of the goods may obtain a temporary license plate.
4. Customs duties are approximately 5%.
5. Vehicles should not be shipped with a full gasoline tank.
6. The owner of the goods should obtain vehicle insurance directly from an insurance company.
7. Left hand drive vehicles only & GCC specification.

Pets

Documents Required

1. Vaccination record
2. Veterinary health certificate
3. Import permit
4. Copy of air waybill (AWB)

Specific Information

1. Pets may only be transported as cargo; however, assistive animals may be able to travel in the aircraft cabin:
 - Contact agent for specific information.
2. The import permit must be obtained prior to travel from the Veterinary Quarantine Department in Bahrain.
3. The veterinary health certificate must state that the animal is free from disease and is fully vaccinated.
4. Import license to be obtained prior to booking pets.
5. Quarantine for a month (owner of the goods must provide feeding arrangements).
- 6.

Restricted/Dutiable Items

1. Firearms (an import permit and permission from the Ministry of the Interior and Civil Aviation Affairs of Bahrain is required).
2. Videotapes (subject to inspection and hold by Ministry officials and released approximately 2-3 weeks after inspection) (non-citizens)
3. CDs, VCDs, books (only large quantities)
4. Personal computers (subject to inspection and hold by the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications prior to shipment arrival) (non-citizens)
5. Pianos / musical instruments
6. Foodstuffs
7. Wines, spirits, and alcohol are subject to duty at Customs discretion (diplomats)
8. Medicines are subject to prescription by a doctor (in English or Arabic) (diplomats)
9. Commodity shipments are subject to 5% Customs duty
10. Alcoholic beverages

Prohibited Items

1. Narcotics and drugs
2. Ivory
3. Pornographic materials
4. Swords
5. Knives, daggers (ornamental, etc.)
6. Wireless equipment
7. Satellite, receivers, cordless telephones, walkie-talkies
8. Guns, arrows, darts
9. Military clothes
10. Gambling games