

# **BRITANNIA MOVERS INTERNATIONAL PLC**

## **GUIDE FOR THE IMPORTATION OF UNACCOMPANIED HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS- UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**



### **HOUSEHOLD AND RELATED EFFECTS IMPORTED BY OWNER- REQUIREMENTS FOR DUTY FREE ENTRY**

Migrants or new settlers may import used personal, household effects and professional equipment\* duty free if the removal consists of used household effects which have been in the owner's use and possession abroad for at least one year and are for the continued use of the owner in his new residence. The year of use does not have to be continuous, nor does it need to be the year immediately before the date of importation.

Items with the value of \$300USD or greater that were imported free of duty under your personal customs exemption cannot be sold with 3 years unless duty tax is paid.

The household goods should not arrive prior to the owner's arrival date. U.S Customs will not clear the goods until the owners arrival in the United States. If the shipment was to take place, container detentions charges will take place.

*\*Professional equipment- Tools of trade or business.*

### **RETURNING U.S CITIZENS**

U.S Citizens are able to re-import all personal belongings and tools of trade, which were originally exported by the importer from the U.S, this is known as "American Goods Returned". U.S Citizens can also import newly acquired household belongings provided that they have been owned and used overseas prior to shipment for a period of no shorter than 1 year.

**NOTE:** This privilege does not include articles placed in storage outside the home.

### **WORKS OF ART AND ANTIQUES**

Genuine antiques (over 100 years old) can be imported duty and tax free providing the following:

- Antiquity statement declaring items are over 100 years old produced at time of import,
- The items have been in the use and possession of the owner for a period of 12 months,
- Statement signed by the importer stating that the items are for personal use, not for resale.

**NOTE:** Antiques and Works of Art imported into the U.S. for resale are treated as a commercial import, and such goods would be subjected to duty and tax.

**Unless the above criteria are satisfied import duty will be applied to the consignment.**

### **U.S CUSTOMS CLEARANCE**

All consignments must be customs cleared within 5 working days of arrival, failing which the goods will be transferred to a Customs Bonded warehouse until custom clearance can be made (minimum charge approx \$200 for the first month). Documentation required for formal Customs clearance:

- Copy of passport (bio-page) inclusive of U.S Visa, Permanent Residence Visa and or Residence Card. U.S Citizens will only need to supply a copy of passport,
- USCF-3299 form and Supplemental Declaration for Unaccompanied Personal and Household Effects form\*,
- Customs 10+2 Security Filing Customs form\*,
- Power of Attorney\*,
- Inventory\*-Full description of items necessary (do not show "Misc or PBO".

U.S returning citizens must also produce the above following:

- Where dutiable items have been purchased in the last 12 months, a valued inventory is required, also showing the country or origin.

*The information contained within this document is for guide purposes only.*

*\*Above forms will be provided by Britannia Movers International.*

**NOTE:** Situations where no formal Visa is held, in other words a person entering the U.S for a short period, they will be required to complete the above and provide a photocopy of their Visa Waiver I-94w (as completed on the plane by non U.S nationals).

### **INHERITANCE, DECEASED ESTATES**

Inherited or deceased estates maybe imported into U.S duty and tax free providing the following is presented:

- Copy of Will or copy of relevant part of Will,
- Copy of Death Certificate (maybe requested by Customs),
- Detailed inventory and documents as stated in "U.S Customs Clearance",
- Tax free entry provided legatee is permanently domiciled in the United States and will not use the goods for trade business and resale purposes.

### **WEDDING TROUSSEAU**

Wedding trousseaus are liable to assessment of full duty and tax.

### **ALCOHOL- LIQUOR AND WINE**

Britannia strongly advises against the importation of alcohol products into the United States. If exportation does take place customs will require a list of each item stating where it was manufactured and when. Each item will be taken away and inspected by customs for the purpose of classification, if they reject one item in the container, the whole shipment will be detained and examined. This will result in delays and additional charges, all costs relating to the process will be borne by the importer.

Please note the United States contain a number of “dry” States where the importation of Alcohol products is strictly prohibited. For further information please contact your local Britannia branch.

#### **WOODEN PACKAGING**

All wooden packaging including crates, pallets, over cases and chocks must be stamped with ISPM15 for U.S agriculture purposes. If items do not comply to the above, the items may be destroyed, re-exported, fumigated at the owner expense. If in doubt please ask your local Britannia representative for advice.

#### **FIREARM AND WEAPON IMPORTATION**

The importation of firearms and ammunition is strictly controlled and subject to restrictions and import permits. Application forms are available from the U.S Embassy in London, in triplicate and submit for approval to the Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). Please see “Useful Contacts” for further information.

Returning U.S citizens taking back with them a firearm originally purchased in the U.S, can do so without the requirement of a permit. Subject to documentary proof of the original purchase a copy will need to be presented to your Britannia representative. If such documentary evidence is not available a permit is then required.

#### **PROHIBITED ARTICLES**

The following are examples of goods that are prohibited, they should not be imported into the United States:

*Articles manufactured from wildlife (including but not limited to)*

- Elephants, rhinoceros, zebras, antelope, deer, reptiles/snakes, whales, dolphins, feathers, coral and members of the cat family

*Weapons (including but not limited to)*

- Daggers, spring bladed knives, knuckle dusters

*Objectionable material (including but not limited to)*

- Pornographic material including recorded media, child pornography, child abuse material, material which may promote, incite or instruct in matters of

crime or violence or misuse of a drug or sexual material (including bestiality)

*Agriculture Products (including but not limited to)*

- all meat products, fresh fruit and vegetables, seeds, bulbs, honey, egg products, and raw wooden products

*Merchandise from embargoed countries*

- Cuba, Libya, Iraq, Iran and North Korea
- Narcotics drugs and drug paraphernalia.

***Violations of the above will result in severe penalties.***

#### **RESTRICTED ARTICLES**

The following goods are prohibited unless a permit is obtained (*including but not limited to*):

- ivory in any form, including jewellery, and carvings (except with \*CITES certificate)
- tortoise or sea turtle shell jewellery, and ornaments (except with CITES certificate)
- most herbs and spices
- dried flowers, pine cones or seeds

#### **MEDICATION**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may allow an individual entering into the United States to import three months supply of prescription medications. The importer maybe requested to show original medical prescription documents upon importation. Copies of the original document should be supplied to your Britannia representative.

#### **VEHICLE IMPORTATION**

Vehicles and motorcycles are subject to import taxes and duties. The only exception is if the vehicle/s were previously exported from the U.S and the importer can supply the Export Bill of Lading and can prove that no modifications had been made during the stay abroad. All vehicles must meet both the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Transportation (DOT) requirements. Any conversions required to the vehicle must be preformed prior to shipment. If conversion has

not taken place the importer must post a bond (typically 50% of value) in order to have the necessary conversions performed in the U.S. Required documentation for importation:

- Drivers Licence copy,
- Certificate of Title and Registration-DVLA V5 document -must be original,
- Commercial/Purchase invoice-must be original,
- EPA Form 3520-1
- Importer must also provide the Make, Model and Year the vehicle was manufactured.

#### **USEFUL CONTACTS**

***Britannia Movers International***

+44 (0)20-8256-1710

[international@britannia-movers.co.uk](mailto:international@britannia-movers.co.uk)

[www.britannia-movers.co.uk](http://www.britannia-movers.co.uk)

***Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF)***

Firearms and Explosive Import Branch

Washington, D.C. 20226

+1(304)-616-4550

[www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov)

***United States Department of Agriculture***

+1(301)-724-0841

[aphis.web@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:aphis.web@aphis.usda.gov)

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

***U.S. Customs and Border Protection***

+1(703)-526-4200

[www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov)

***U.S. Environmental Protection Agency***

+1(734)-214-4100

[imports@epa.gov](mailto:imports@epa.gov)

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)