



# *Importing Personal Property Into Austria*

## **HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS**

### **CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

#### **Customs Regulations:**

All shipments are subject to inspection. The customer should be present at the destination. Used household goods (owned and used for at least six months) and personal effects are duty free provided the customer has lived abroad for a period of at least twelve months, and the goods will not be sold for at least one year after importation. Household goods must be imported within 1 year from the customer's change of residence.

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Passport including photo page
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill
- ✓ Austrian Customs Form
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory in English or German
- ✓ Original Residence Permit (Meldezette) – must be completed within 3 days of arrival
- ✓ Certificate of Change of Residence
- ✓ Entry certificate from the local Police Station
- ✓ Letter from Employer stating length of stay of at least one year
- ✓ Letter from Employer (Returning Austrians) stating length of residence abroad of at least 1 year
- ✓ Power of Attorney - original

#### **Diplomat Status:**

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted tax and duty free entry of their personal effects and household items either new or used.

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Passport
- ✓ Austrian Customs Form - original, completed and signed by the Embassy/Organization and attested by the Ministry of European and International Affairs
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory in triplicate, in English or German

### **RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS**

- ✓ Firearms and ammunition – require on Official Permit
- ✓ Alcoholic beverages, tobacco & perfume are tax/duty-free in the reasonable quantities below, in excess of that are subject to heavy taxation & duties, require an Import Permit and must go through a complicated clearance process. Importation is not advised.
  - Alcohol: 1 litre of spirits, 2 litres of fortified wine, 2 litres of still wine
  - Tobacco: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250 grams of loose tobacco
  - Perfume: 50 grams or 250 ml of Eau de toilette
- ✓ Plants and certain plant products require a plant protection certificate
- ✓ Objects of art require invoices in duplicate and possibly professional Austrian appraisal
- ✓ Antiques over 100 years old are duty free but subject to VAT and professional Austrian appraisal

- ✓ New furniture, appliances & souvenirs- require invoices in duplicate, import permit and Certificate of Circulation
- ✓ Gifts – Certificate of Origin, invoices in duplicate & Import Permit if applicable

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind including medicines
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Foodstuffs & beverages with the exception of unopened infant formula/food and specialty food for medical reasons
- ✓ Pump Guns, knuckle dusters and other weaponry
- ✓ Items and appliances use in manufacturing
- ✓ Trucks

## IMPORTATION OF PETS

Domestic pets include cats, dogs, ferrets, pet rabbits, reptiles, and ornamental fish and birds are allowed importation but are subject to special EC Regulations No. 998/2003 of the European Parliament and Council. Certain wildlife or exotics are protected under CITES and are therefore not allowed importation. Pets may enter as passenger's checked baggage in the cabin or as cargo.

Pets arriving from the following countries **do not** require anti-body titration for Rabies:

Antigua & Barbuda, Antilles, Aruba, Ascension Islands, Australia, Bahrain, Barbados, Bermuda, Canada, Cayman Islands, Croatia, Falkland Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Jamaica, Japan, Mauritius, Mayotte, Monaco, Montserrat, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Singapore, St. Helena, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Pierre & Miquelon, St Vincent & the Grenadines, USA, Vanuatu, Wallis & Furtuna Islands.

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Vaccination & Health Certificate – in German or attached German translation, vaccinations must be made within 30 days but no more than 12 months prior to importation. The certificate must include name and address of owner, breed, sex, age and color of pet. Date of rabies inoculation, and brand of the vaccine
- ✓ Written Import Permit – for pets younger than 12 weeks, imported for non-commercial purposes

**Note:** Due to the Avian flu special conditions may apply regarding birds. For more information regarding the latest requirements for pet importation consult your Destination Agent or visit: [www.bmgf.gv.at](http://www.bmgf.gv.at)

## IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Motor vehicles are exempt from duties if owned and used abroad for at least six months, and cannot be sold or otherwise transferred for one year. A NOVA tax (between 8-14% of actual value) must be paid at time of registration. All cars must meet Austrian specifications and may require extensive modifications.

**Note:** Vehicles are cleared separately at the Customs facility in Vienna

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport & International Driver's Permit
- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice
- ✓ Grundlagenbescheid – A Notice of basis of Assessment, must apply at a customs office at origin
- ✓ Austrian License plates- Application must be completed immediately, plates from country of origin must also be available

- ✓ Entry certificate from the local Police Station
- ✓ Letter from Employer stating length of stay abroad for at least one year.

**NOTES:**

**Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:** As of this posting Austria does not require ISPM15 for wood packaging material (WPM).

**Currency:** Customers must declare at Customs during both import/export if they have currency or easily convertible assets such as traveler's cheques equal to or exceeding 10,000.

**Inheritance:** Goods must be used and not sold by the heir for at least 6 months. Requires an Inheritance Certificate & inventory of inherited items attested by a notary or court ruling.

**Trousseaux:** Requires a marriage certificate, attestation by the Austrian partner of the marriage that he/she has been a resident of Austria for at least six months prior to the marriage. List of goods used or new, declaration by the applicant the goods are a dowry and a valid Residence registration form (primary residence)

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

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

IATA Travel Centre

Embassy of Austria – [www.austria.org](http://www.austria.org)

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.