



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Section 1 of this document gives a brief overview of the country, whilst section 2 contains the customs requirements.

Section 1 – U.A.E. OVERVIEW

Up until the 1950s the UAE economy was based mostly on fishing but once oil was discovered and regular exports commenced, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan began investing in property development, schools and buildings to create the modern cities of the UAE such as Dubai and Abu Dhabi that we know today. The UAE is now home to some of the wealthiest and ambitious individuals on the planet, and where residents enjoy the 3rd highest per capita incomes in the world. The majority of the UAE economy revolves around natural exports; in 2009 natural gas and oil exports accounted for 85% of the total economy. The UAE has a much more relaxed approach to Western cultures than many other Arab or Islamic nations. For instance although drinking in public is forbidden, in bars and hotels it's allowed. Although Western fashion is very popular due to the high number of expats based in the region, stricter rules apply in public spaces. It's important to be aware of these laws and any restrictions before you decide to move permanently to the UAE. To find out more about the UAE why not visit <http://www.emirates.org/>

Section 2 - REQUIREMENTS FOR DUTY FREE ENTRY OF HOUSEHOLD AND RELATED EFFECTS IMPORTED BY THE OWNER

IMPORTING PERSONAL EFFECTS

Shipments of used household and personal effects may be imported duty free provided the shipper has owned and used them prior to shipment. Your local Simpsons partner will be able to provide you with detailed customs regulations. All necessary documentation must be completed and submitted when requested, before your shipment is dispatched. Please note that you must be in the country in order to successfully complete all customs clearance procedures when the shipment arrives.

DOCUMENTATION

Simpsons and our agents will assist you with completion of the customs formalities. To assist us with this please let us have a copy of your passport (and unless you are a returning UAE citizen we will also need a copy of your residence visa). The required documentation will be supplied to you on arrival and to avoid any potential additional charges and delays, it is advisable that all the forms are completed and returned promptly to our Agents.

PROHIBITIONS

You should not attempt to import the following items (fines and imprisonment are the norm if you do):

- Firearms & ammunition
- Weapons such as swords and large knives
- Military uniform and equipment
- Inflammable or explosive goods & substances
- Plants & plant material, fresh fruit and flowers
- Foodstuffs, perishables or otherwise in large quantities
- Alcohol, narcotics and dangerous goods
- Offensive or pornographic material (all dvd's, videos, books, magazines and photos are screened by the Ministry of Information for any defamatory reference to Islam and usually take 10-15 days to be returned to the owner if all clear)
- Religious books (except those dealing with Islamic faith)
- Large quantities of medicines
- Radio transmitters and communications equipment
- Statues or carvings of the human body

- Statues and figures of animals with religious undertones

TRANSIT TIMES

Groupage or shared containers usually take an average of 6-10 weeks door to door. However, this can vary depending on volumes being shipped, customs or immigration delays and prevailing weather conditions. Sole use container loads take on average 6 weeks door to door.

MOTOR VEHICLES

The import of Motor Vehicles is subject to the vehicle not exceeding 5 years of age at the time of importation. Duty may be charged at 5% of the landed vehicle value but is at the discretion of the local customs office. Examination is mandatory.

USEFUL CONTACTS

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