



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

Section 1 – USA OVERVIEW

The USA has always been a popular destination with immigrants, and those looking for adventure, a new life or new opportunities. The USA is not only one of the strongest economic powers in the world, but offers an unparalleled mix of cultures and lifestyles, varied terrains, and diverse employment opportunities.

The USA was founded by thirteen British colonies located along the East Coast in the 16th century. Almost 500 years later, the USA has emerged as a major economic and military power in the world. The US now accounts for almost 50% of global military spending, and is a leading political, ideological, and cultural force worldwide.

The USA can offer unparalleled opportunities, high wages, and a sense of individual freedom. On the flip side, employment opportunities are limited by restrictive labour laws for expats, and the country has been hit recently by the global financial crisis, which has also affected employment levels. Living standards among the population vary greatly, partly due to the thin safety net, the fact that public health care coverage is not universal, and high further education fees. For those who manage to move permanently to the USA, there is great potential in a multi-cultural country that welcomes and values expats and encourages an entrepreneurial spirit.

Some useful tips

- To work in the USA, you will require a visa. You will have to apply for your visa at the American embassy in the UK. If you are living and working in the USA without a visa, you are considered an “illegal alien”.
- Living costs will greatly depend on the area you are moving to. If you are moving to Los Angeles, Chicago or New York, prepare for high costs. Moving into smaller towns can be much cheaper.
- While the USA health care system outspends most of the nations in the world, it falls behind in overall performance. The country's life expectancy has dropped in the last decades and there is no universal public health care coverage. However, if you can afford to pay for private health insurance, or your employer pays for you, you will get a high-quality service.
- Before moving to the USA with your children, you will also have to consider education options. In most states, there are both public and private schools, and a good university degree may require substantial financial investment.
- The limited availability of visas and green cards restricts employment opportunities for expats moving to the USA. Explore your options, and the situation in your profession before seriously thinking about moving to the USA.

For more information why not visit <http://worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=USA>

Section 2 – A GUIDE TO IMPORTING UNACCOMPANIED HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS INTO USA

REQUIREMENTS FOR DUTY FREE ENTRY OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS IMPORTED BY THE OWNER.

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 US\$300 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 owner has arrived in the United States. If the shipment was to take place in the owner's absence, container detentions charges will be inevitable.

*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 US\$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.

*Above forms will be provided by Simpsons Removals.

NOTE: Situations where no formal Visa is held, for example where a person is 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 (may be 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 TROUSSEaux

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

ALCOHOL- LIQUOR AND WINE

Simpsons 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. The information contained within this document is for guide purposes only. Please note the United States has a number of “dry” States where the importation of Alcohol products is strictly prohibited. For further information please contact us at Simpsons Removals.

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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 Simpsons consultant 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, they should be completed in triplicate and submitted 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 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 and a copy will need to be presented to us at Simpsons Removals. If such documentary evidence is not available a permit will be 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 may be requested to show original medical prescription documents upon importation. Copies of the original document should be supplied to us at Simpsons Removals.

VEHICLE IMPORTATION

The importation of vehicles in the US is very difficult. Vehicles and motorcycles are subject to examination in addition to the payment of 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

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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 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

Simpsons Removals & Storage Ltd
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Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF)
Firearms and Explosive Import Branch
Washington, D.C. 20226
+1(304)-616-4550
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United States Department of Agriculture
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U.S. Customs and Border Protection
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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