



Cyprus

CAPITAL Nicosia	OFFICIAL LANGUAGE —	CURRENCY Euro (EUR)
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Disclaimer

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Overview

Duty-Free Eligibility

Duty-free conditions (non-EU origin): Used household goods and personal effects may be imported free of import duty and VAT provided the shipper has lived outside the EU for a continuous period of at least 12 months prior to transfer of normal residence to Cyprus. The goods must have been in the shipper's possession and use for a minimum of 6 months before the move, must be intended for personal use only (not for resale), and the shipper must not have resided in Cyprus for more than 12 months during the previous 2 years. Goods must be imported within a period of 6 months before or 12 months after the transfer of residence.

New items (non-EU origin): All items owned and used for less than 6 months are classified as new. The 6-month period excludes shipping time. New items are dutiable and must be declared separately on a C6 form. Failure to declare new items results in penalties plus duties and taxes.

Documents

From EU Member States (regardless of nationality) — Sea shipments

- Electronic or original T2L document (page 4) signed by customs at origin, or status C bill of lading
- Packing list
- Original bill of lading (OBL) or express waybill
- Original registration documents for any cars, motorbikes, or boats included

From EU Member States (regardless of nationality) — Air shipments

- Air waybill (AWB) showing C status
- Packing list
- Pre-alert must be sent at least 48 hours before arrival at Larnaca Airport

From Non-EU Countries (regardless of nationality)

- Original passport (shipper must be present for customs clearance)
- Packing list
- Original bill of lading (OBL) or express waybill
- Sale agreement or termination of rental agreement from the origin country
- Termination of employment contract at origin
- Utility bills from the origin residence (electricity, phone, etc.)
- Proof of house ownership or rental agreement in Cyprus
- Employment contract in Cyprus (if applicable)
- Letter from employer at origin confirming employment there and transfer of residence to Cyprus permanently
- Registration of children at local schools (if applicable)
- Bank statement confirming funds held in Cyprus
- Copy of ticket/boarding pass of flight to Cyprus
- Form Απ.2 (application for relief from import duty and VAT on transfer of normal residence from outside the EU; available from any Customs District Office or downloadable from the Cyprus Customs website)

For Diplomats (from EU countries)

- **Electronic or original T2L (page 4) signed by origin customs, or status C B/L**
- **Packing list**
- **Passport copy**
- **OBL or express waybill**

For Diplomats (from non-EU countries)

- **OBL or express waybill (or AWB)**
- **Packing list**
- **Form 1002, stamped and signed by the local embassy (provided by destination agent)**
- **Exemption certificate from the local embassy, required prior to arrival of shipment at port**

Household Goods — Specific Information

Normal residence definition: The place where a person usually lives, spending at least 185 days in a 12-month period, due to personal and occupational ties. If occupational and personal ties are in different places, normal residence is usually determined by personal ties. University or school attendance does not constitute normal residence.

Intra-EU moves: No customs duties apply to household goods moving between EU member states, provided Union status of the goods is demonstrated with a T2L or T2LF document or status C documentation. EU shipments are randomly inspected; inspection fees are charged to the client's account.

All non-EU shipments are inspected. LCL and air shipments are inspected at the NVOCC depot or airport. FCL shipments are inspected at the agent's warehouse or at the residence by customs officers. Physical inspections are usually conducted after 3pm, which may cause additional storage costs.

CE marking requirement: Electrical appliances that do not bear CE markings should not be shipped to Cyprus. Customs officials in the Republic of Cyprus may confiscate non-CE-marked appliances found during inspection.

Shipper must be present: The shipper must be in Cyprus during customs clearance and must sign the customs declaration in the presence of a customs officer. This applies to non-EU

shipments.

Returning students (non-EU origin): Students returning to Cyprus and bringing used personal effects or household goods from non-EU countries must pay duties and VAT ranging from approximately 18-33% on the current value declared to customs. New items are also dutiable at rates depending on the items.

Wharfage and terminal handling charges: Wharfage tax was abolished by the port authority as of February 1, 2017. Terminal handling charges (THC) remain: approximately EUR 186 for a 20' container and EUR 280 for a 40' or 40'HC container. Shipping lines also charge a delivery order fee that varies by carrier. THC and delivery order charges may be included or excluded from the destination agent's service charge.

ISPM 15: All solid wood packing materials used as overcasing, bracing, or blocking must conform to EU Commission Directive 2004/102/EC (ISPM 15) and be clearly marked with IPPC symbol, registration, and treatment codes.

Alienation restriction: Per the Shoham Shipping guide, vehicles imported under the transfer of residence relief cannot be transferred in ownership for 3 years after arrival. Confirm whether a similar restriction applies to household goods with the destination agent.

Pre-alert for pianos, alcohol, guns, or abnormal items: The destination agent should be informed in advance if the shipment includes pianos, alcohol, shotguns, air rifles, or other items not typically associated with normal household goods.

Prohibited / Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Narcotics and controlled drugs — strictly prohibited
- Pornographic materials — prohibited
- Meat and milk products from non-EU countries (with limited exceptions for Andorra, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, and small amounts of specific products from other countries)
- Products from protected species (CITES, Washington Convention), including ivory, tortoise shell, coral, reptile skin, and wood from Amazonian forests `CITES`
- Items from or bearing entry/exit stamps from the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus — entry of persons with such stamps/passports is subject to restriction by immigration authorities

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Traveler Allowances (from non-EU countries)

Alcohol (over 17 years, by air or sea):

- 1 litre of spirits exceeding 22% volume, or 2 litres of alcohol not exceeding 22% volume
- 4 litres of still wine
- 16 litres of beer
- Combinations permitted provided total alcohol volume does not exceed 100%

Alcohol (over 17 years, by land): Quantities are reduced; confirm with destination agent.

Tobacco (over 17 years, by air or sea):

- 200 cigarettes, or 100 cigarillos, or 50 cigars, or 250g smoking tobacco

Tobacco (over 17 years, by land):

- 40 cigarettes, or 20 cigarillos, or 10 cigars, or 50g smoking tobacco

Other goods:

- Personal items of non-commercial nature up to EUR 430 (air/sea) or EUR 300 (land)
- Travelers under 15: up to EUR 150
- Medication for personal use only

Alcohol Within Household Goods Shipments

In FCL containers with household goods (applies to both EU and non-EU shipments):

- Up to 12 sealed bottles are acceptable
- Up to 20 open bottles are acceptable

Duties on alcohol in shipments:

- Sparkling wine: EUR 0.32 per litre plus VAT
- Red and white wine: EUR 0.13-0.15 per litre plus VAT
- Spirits: EUR 9.57 per anhydrous ethyl alcohol plus VAT
- Diplomats are exempt from duty and VAT on alcohol, provided the embassy issues a diplomatic franchise prior to arrival

Restricted Items

- **Leather and fur coats/shoes** — authorization required
- **Medication** — for personal use only

- **Firearms (air rifles/pistols)** — European Firearms Pass required, or an import license from the local District Police HQ obtained before arrival; bore must not exceed 0.177"; must be presented for registration at the local police station within 48 hours of shipment arrival; registration fee payable per rifle/pistol `PERMIT REQUIRED`
- **Food** — reasonable amounts of dry and canned food permitted (EU and non-EU)

Intra-EU Moves

Goods moving within the EU are not subject to customs duties. However, excise goods (alcohol, tobacco) and new items may still attract duties or taxes. Proof of Union status (T2L/T2LF) is required.

Vehicles

Vehicle Documents

- **Original signed T2L (page 4) or electronic T2L, or status C express B/L**
From EU countries:
- **Original vehicle registration from the previous EU member state**
From EU countries:
- **Valid driving license**
From EU countries:
- **European or Cyprus insurance cover**
From EU countries:
- **Owner must attend Limassol customs in person**
From EU countries:
- **Purchase invoice (required if the original registration is not in the owner's name)**
From EU countries:
- **CO2 emission certificate from the Road Transport Department in Cyprus**
From EU countries:
- **Certificate of Conformity (required for brand-new cars and motorbikes)**
From EU countries:
- **Original vehicle registration**
From non-EU countries:
- **Valid driving license**
From non-EU countries:

- **European or Cyprus insurance cover**

****From non-EU countries:****

- **Owner must attend Limassol customs in person**

****From non-EU countries:****

- **Certificate of Conformity**

****From non-EU countries:****

- **Purchase invoice (required if the client will pay duties and taxes)**

****From non-EU countries:****

- **CO2 emission certificate from the Road Transport Department in Cyprus**

****From non-EU countries:****

- **For diplomats: exemption certificate (diplomatic franchise) and Note Verbale from the local embassy**

****From non-EU countries:****

Specific Information

From EU member states (as of March 2019): No excise duty or VAT is applicable provided the vehicle is at least 6 months old and has been registered for at least 6 months at origin and driven for at least 6,000 km prior to importation. The vehicle does not need to have been owned by the importer for 6 months, but it must have been registered for at least 6 months. There is no limit on the number of cars or motorbikes the importer brings, provided it is within reason and for personal use only. There is currently no limit on the age of the vehicle.

From non-EU countries: The vehicle must have been owned by the importer and used at origin for at least 6 months and driven for at least 6,000 km. The importer must have lived abroad for a continuous period of 12 months and must prove relocation to Cyprus permanently. One vehicle per family member is allowed duty-free. The vehicle must be imported within 6 months of the transfer of primary residence to Cyprus. Confirm current rates with the destination agent.

Vehicle over 5 years old (non-EU, not eligible for relief): If the owner is not eligible to import the vehicle as part of a transfer of residence and the vehicle is over 5 years old, customs will not allow importation. The vehicle must be exported or placed in a bonded warehouse. The owner cannot register it locally.

Vehicle under 5 years old (non-EU, not eligible for relief): Can be imported with payment of duties and taxes.

Temporary importation: Upon arrival, the vehicle is initially released under a temporary importation license (form C104). Extensions may be granted if application is made before the expiration date.

Motorbikes (non-EU): Under approximately 499-599cc, free of excise tax (the exact current threshold varies by source). Over that threshold, the same regulations as cars apply. If the owner does not meet all criteria, duties of approximately 6-8% plus VAT apply. Confirm current thresholds with the destination agent.

Bill of lading requirements: Must include make and model, chassis number, and engine number. The B/L and T2L must have matching weight and piece counts.

Vehicle customs clearance location: All vehicle customs clearance is conducted at Limassol customs. The owner must attend in person.

Vehicle registration in Cyprus: After customs clearance, the vehicle must be registered through the Road Transport Department. A CO2 emission certificate is required.

Driving: Driving is on the LEFT-hand side of the road.

Pets

Requirements

- **EU Pet Passport issued by an authorized veterinarian in the origin EU country**
From EU member states:
- **ISO 11784/11785 compliant microchip (implanted before rabies vaccination)**
From EU member states:
- **Current rabies vaccination (administered after microchip; pet must be at least 12 weeks old)**
From EU member states:
- **ISO 11784/11785 compliant microchip**
From non-EU listed countries (including USA, Canada, Australia, etc.):
- **Current rabies vaccination (primary vaccination: at least 21 days before travel; booster: no waiting period if continuous coverage is documented)**
From non-EU listed countries (including USA, Canada, Australia, etc.):
- **EU Health Certificate issued by a USDA-accredited veterinarian (for U.S. origin) and endorsed by USDA APHIS within 10 days of travel**
From non-EU listed countries (including USA, Canada, Australia, etc.):
- **Cyprus requires a bilingual version of the EU health certificate; request from LAIE@usda.gov**
From non-EU listed countries (including USA, Canada, Australia, etc.):

- **All of the above, plus**

****From non-EU unlisted countries:****

- **Rabies antibody titer test (serology) at an EU-approved laboratory; result must be $\geq$ 0.5 IU/ml; pet cannot travel until at least 3 months after the blood sample date**

****From non-EU unlisted countries:****

Specific Information

Cyprus follows standard EU pet import regulations under Regulation (EU) No 576/2013.

Microchip before vaccination rule: The microchip must be implanted before the rabies vaccination is administered. The veterinarian must scan the microchip before giving the vaccination. If the vaccination was given before the microchip, or without scanning the microchip first, the vaccination does not count under EU rules.

Primary vs. booster vaccination (EU rules): The first rabies vaccination after microchip implantation, or after any lapse in coverage, is considered a "primary" vaccination and is only valid for 1 year under EU rules, even if the pet receives a 3-year vaccine. A booster must be given within 12 months. If coverage lapses by even one day, the next vaccination is again treated as primary.

Minimum age: Pets must be at least 12 weeks old for rabies vaccination. After a primary vaccination, there is a 21-day waiting period before the pet can enter Cyprus.

Tattoo identification: Accepted as an alternative to microchip only if the tattoo was applied before July 3, 2011 and is clearly legible, and all rabies vaccinations after the tattoo were kept current.

No import permit required: Per PetTravel.com, pet owners do not need an import permit when entering Cyprus with a dog, cat, or ferret. Unaccompanied pets may need an import permit; confirm with the destination agent.

No banned breeds: Cyprus does not publish a list of banned dog breeds. Pet owners are responsible for their pet's behavior.

Quarantine: Pets that do not meet EU requirements may be refused entry or quarantined at the owner's expense.

CDC rabies status: Cyprus is NOT on the U.S. CDC's list of high-risk countries for dog rabies.

Common mistakes: Vaccinating before microchip implantation (invalidates the vaccination under EU rules). Allowing rabies coverage to lapse, requiring the process to restart with a 21-day wait. Shipping appliances with the pet's bedding that lack CE markings. Not requesting the bilingual EU health certificate for Cyprus.

Consignment Instructions

Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air/sea shipments.

Shipper must be present (non-EU shipments): The shipper must be in Cyprus for customs clearance and must sign the customs declaration in the presence of a customs officer.

Vehicle clearance at Limassol: All vehicle customs clearance (cars, bikes, boats) takes place at Limassol customs. The owner must attend in person.

Pre-alert air shipments: A pre-alert must be sent at least 48 hours before the arrival of any air shipment at Larnaca Airport.

Declare abnormal items in advance: Notify the destination agent if the shipment includes pianos, alcohol, shotguns, air rifles, air-soft guns, or any items not associated with normal household goods.

Inspection timing (non-EU): Physical inspections of non-EU shipments are typically conducted after 3pm, which may cause additional storage costs.

Import timeline: Goods should be imported within 6 months before or 12 months after the shipper's transfer of residence to Cyprus. Vehicles must be imported within 6 months of the transfer.

Ports of entry: Legal ports of entry are Larnaca, Paphos, Latsi, and Limassol. Entry from the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus or any Turkish-occupied area is not permitted.

Marriage certificate: If traveling with a spouse who has a different surname, a copy of the marriage certificate must be submitted to customs.

VAT rate: The standard VAT rate in Cyprus is 19%.

Cultural & Other Information

- [OpenFactBook — Cyprus \(replaces CIA World Factbook\)](#) — verified 200
- [Wikipedia — Cyprus](#) — verified 403 to bots, works in browser
- [Cyprus Customs and Excise Department](#) — verified 403 (Azure WAF), accessible in browser; confirmed live via search (this.nsf URL structure is unusual but correct — content current to March 2026, including 2026 customs announcements)
- [Cyprus Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) — verified 403 (Azure WAF), accessible in browser; confirmed live via search

- [USDA APHIS — Pet Travel to Cyprus](#) — verified 200
- [PetTravel.com — Cyprus Pet Import Requirements](#) — verified 200
- [EU Pet Travel Regulations](#) — verified 200
- [VisaHQ — Cyprus Customs](#) — verified 200
- [Trade.gov — Cyprus Customs Regulations](#) — verified 200
- [Trade.gov — Cyprus Import Tariffs](#) — verified 200

EU membership: Cyprus is a member of the European Union (joined May 1, 2004) and uses the euro (EUR). Cyprus has fully adopted the EU's Common Customs Tariff for third countries.

Language: Greek (official), Turkish (official). English is widely spoken and used in business.

Political note: The Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control over the northern part of the island (the self-declared Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, recognized only by Turkey). Entry from the north is subject to restrictions. Persons with entry/exit stamps or passports from the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus should be aware this may cause issues with Cypriot immigration authorities.

Driving: Left-hand side of the road.

Quick Links & Resources

- [Find Movers in Cyprus \(IAMX Directory\)](#)
https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Cyprus&lat=35.1264&lng=33.4299&range=50&assoc_s=800&fvw=c&ctry=Cyprus
- [Foreign Embassies in Cyprus](#)
<https://www.embassypages.com/cyprus>
- [Cyprus Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#)
<https://mfa.gov.cy/>
- [OpenFactBook — Cyprus \(replaces CIA World Factbook\)](#)
<https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/cyprus/>
- [Wikipedia — Cyprus](#)
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyprus>