



Estonia

CAPITAL —	OFFICIAL LANGUAGE —	CURRENCY Euro (EUR)
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Disclaimer

This Country Guide reflects information believed to be correct at the time of publication. Regulations, procedures and charges are subject to change. IAM does not accept liability for errors, omissions, inaccuracies or misinterpretations in this guide. The information provided should not be considered as having been provided or sanctioned by the customs authorities of the country or territory concerned.

Overview

Duty-Free Eligibility

Duty-free conditions (non-EU origin): Personal belongings may be imported free of customs duty provided the shipper's permanent residence has been continuously outside the EU for at least 12 consecutive months. The goods must have been in the shipper's possession and use for a minimum of 6 months before the date they ceased to have their normal residence in the non-EU country. Goods must not indicate by their nature or quantity that they are being imported for commercial purposes. Customs may make an exception to the 12-month rule if the person had a firm intention to stay abroad for 12+ months but the employer terminated employment prematurely.

New items: Items less than 6 months in the shipper's possession are subject to import duties and VAT (currently 22%).

VAT rate: 22% (increased from 20% in January 2024).

Documents

From non-EU countries (transfer of normal residence)

- Full valued inventory list in English
- Photocopy of passport
- Document proving residence in a non-EU country for the past 12 months (lease agreement, employer letter, local council registration, utility bills, bank statements, etc.)
- Letter providing that the shipper is employed in Estonia (if applicable)
- Residence/work permit issued by Estonian authorities
- Letter entitling the removal agent to represent the importer with customs authorities (power of attorney)
- Copy of working contract in Estonia
- Copy of Estonian lease agreement
- Copy of plane ticket (for confirmation of arrival date)
- Express bill of lading (OBL) / air waybill (AWB)

For returning Estonian citizens

- Full valued inventory list in English
- Photocopy of passport
- Letter entitling the removal agent to represent the importer with customs authorities
- Letter providing that the importer has been employed abroad more than 1 year
- Evidence documents for living in a non-EU country (residence permit, work permit, lease, non-EU country registration card, travel tickets, employer's certificate, etc.)

For diplomats

- Photocopy of passport
- Letter entitling the removal agent to represent the importer with customs authorities (completed by the embassy)
- Customs declaration of diplomatic merchandise
- Inventory list in English

Household Goods — Specific Information

Returning Estonian nationals: Per the FIDI guide, duty-free if the importer has been abroad more than 1 year. Per Atlas International, returning nationals must have lived abroad for 2 years for duty-free status. The Estonian Tax and Customs Board (EMTA) website confirms the standard 12-month rule applies. The 2-year figure may reflect an older or different rule. Confirm with the destination agent.

Import timeline: Duty-free import is allowed within 12 months after the shipper's arrival in Estonia.

Alienation restriction: Within 12 months of duty-free release, items must not be provided for use (free or for a fee), used as security, or transferred without prior notification to customs. If disposed of within this period, the shipper must notify customs and pay the corresponding import duties.

Security deposit: Estonian customs may require a security deposit equal to the import duties and VAT that would apply if duty relief is not granted. The deposit is refunded when the person has settled permanently in Estonia within 6 months and submitted all required documentation.

Estonian ID card timeline: It takes approximately 20-40 days to obtain a resident ID card / Estonian ID card. Documents should be received by the agent before the shipment arrives to minimize port charges.

Alcohol within household goods: Forbidden inside the household goods shipment (per FIDI guide). Alcohol and tobacco are excluded from the duty-free relief for personal belongings. Diplomats may import alcohol with the shipment in justified and reasonable quantities; check with the embassy before shipping.

Marriage/wedding trousseaux: If moving to Estonia due to marriage to an EU citizen, duty relief can be applied for gifts and dowry in addition to personal belongings. Each gift imported duty-free cannot exceed EUR 1,000 in value. The number of gifts is not limited.

Students: Persons coming to Estonia to study can apply for duty relief on educational materials and certain personal belongings intended for personal use during studies.

EORI number: An EORI (Economic Operators Registration and Identification) number is required for customs clearance.

Intra-EU moves: No customs duties, procedures, or inspections. Goods retain their Union status.

Currency: Euro (EUR). Estonia adopted the euro on January 1, 2011.

Prohibited / Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Unlawful drugs and narcotics — strictly prohibited
- Explosive materials — prohibited
- Counterfeit and pirated goods — prohibited
- Indecent or pornographic materials featuring minors — prohibited
- Alien species endangering fundamental ecological balances in Estonia — prohibited
- Vehicles with Russian registration plates — prohibited from entry since September 2023
- Vehicles with Belarusian registration plates — prohibited from entry since July 2024
- Motor fuel from Russia — prohibited
- Meat and dairy products from non-EU countries (with limited exceptions)

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Traveler Allowances (from non-EU countries, over 17 years)

Alcohol:

- 1 litre of spirits exceeding 22%, or 2 litres of alcohol not exceeding 22%
- 4 litres of still wine
- 16 litres of beer

Tobacco:

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

Other goods:

- Goods of non-commercial nature up to EUR 430 (air/sea) or EUR 300 (land)

Restricted Items

- **Alcohol within household goods shipments** — forbidden; subject to 100% tax if shipped separately; diplomats may import in reasonable quantities
- **Firearms and ammunition** — authorization from territorial administration required `PERMIT REQUIRED`
- **Hunting weapons** — authorization from the Ministry of Interior required `PERMIT REQUIRED`
- **Endangered species and CITES products** — authorization from CITES required `CITES`

- **Plants and vegetable products** — phytosanitary certificate from the National Plant Protection Service of the country of origin required
- **Pyrotechnics** — Class I and II from EEA countries up to 2 kg; import license required for third-country pyrotechnics
- **Food products of animal origin** — meat and milk products may NOT be brought from non-EU countries (with limited exceptions for Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland up to 10 kg, and infant formula/baby food)
- **Russian and Belarusian goods** — from July 20, 2025, an additional customs duty of 50% applies to certain Russian and Belarusian goods including live animals, meat, dairy, cereals, pet food, and more

Intra-EU Moves

No customs duties apply. However, excise goods (alcohol, tobacco) are subject to limits if quantities suggest commercial intent.

Vehicles

Vehicle Documents

- **Purchase documents**
- **Letter entitling the removal agent to represent the importer with customs authorities**
- **Photocopy of passport**
- **Letter providing that the importer is employed in Estonia**
- **Residence/work permit issued by Estonian authorities**
- **Original technical passport of the vehicle**
- **OBL / AWB**
- **Customs declaration form**
- **Car invoice showing purchase price and date of purchase**

Specific Information

Duty-free conditions: Per the FIDI guide, vehicles are duty-free if the importer has been abroad more than 1 year and all required documents are presented. Standard EU Council Regulation (EC) No 1186/2009 relief applies: the vehicle must have been owned and used for at least 6 months,

and the shipper must have lived outside the EU for at least 12 months.

Registration requirement: The shipper must obtain a customs declaration and customs certificate to register the vehicle with the Estonian Motor Vehicle Registration Centre (ARK, now Transpordiamet/Transport Administration). The vehicle must be presented for a pre-registration inspection prior to customs clearance and registration.

5-day registration deadline: A vehicle obtained outside of Estonia must be registered within 5 days of customs clearance. This is an unusually short deadline.

Russian and Belarusian vehicles banned: Since September 13, 2023, vehicles with Russian registration plates are prohibited from entering Estonia through Estonian border crossing points. Since July 1, 2024, vehicles with Belarusian registration plates are similarly banned. These bans apply regardless of the owner's nationality or reason for entry.

Driving: Driving is on the RIGHT-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 (pet must be at least 12 weeks old; 21-day wait after primary vaccination)**
From EU member states:
- **ISO 11784/11785 compliant microchip**
From non-EU listed countries (including USA, Canada, Australia, etc.):
- **Current rabies vaccination (primary: at least 21 days before travel)**
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**
From non-EU listed countries (including USA, Canada, Australia, etc.):
- **All of the above, plus**
From non-EU unlisted countries:
- **Rabies antibody titer test at an EU-approved laboratory; result must be at least 0.5 IU/ml; pet cannot travel until at least 3 months after the blood sample date**

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

Specific Information

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

Microchip before vaccination rule: Standard EU requirement. The microchip must be implanted before rabies vaccination.

Primary vs. booster vaccination: Standard EU rules. First vaccination after microchip (or after any lapse) is "primary" and valid for only 1 year, even with a 3-year vaccine. 21-day waiting period.

Tattoo identification: Accepted only if applied before July 3, 2011 and clearly legible, with all rabies vaccinations kept current.

Pet registration in Tallinn and Tartu: Pets moving to Tallinn or Tartu must be registered in those cities after arrival.

Birds: The IAM guide states that certain breeds of dogs are prohibited from entry into Estonia. The FIDI guide and Atlas International note that birds from countries infected with avian influenza cannot be imported. Per [Hinterlandtravel.com](https://www.hinterlandtravel.com) (2025), animals are subject to mandatory health inspection at the first point of entry on EU territory, must have a microchip or tattoo, and must be vaccinated against rabies. A Common Veterinary Entry Document certifying the health inspection must be provided with the customs declaration.

No quarantine: No mandatory quarantine for healthy pets with valid documentation.

No banned breeds confirmed: The IAM guide mentions "certain breeds of dogs are prohibited" but directs readers to contact the agent. No current source confirms a breed ban at the national level.

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

Common mistakes: Not implanting the microchip before vaccination. Not registering pets in Tallinn or Tartu after arrival. Attempting to import birds from avian influenza-affected countries.

Consignment Instructions

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

Do not include alcohol in household goods shipments. Alcohol is explicitly forbidden within household goods and will be subject to 100% tax if found. Only diplomats may include alcohol, and

even then quantities must be reasonable and justified.

Security deposit may be required. Estonian customs may require a deposit equal to the duties and VAT that would apply without the relief. This is refunded once the shipper has settled permanently within 6 months and all documentation is provided.

5-day vehicle registration deadline. This is one of the shortest vehicle registration deadlines in Europe. The shipper must have the pre-registration inspection completed and registration processed within 5 days of customs clearance.

20-40 day ID card processing. The Estonian ID card takes 20-40 days to obtain. Plan accordingly, as it is needed for customs clearance. Submit documents to the agent before the shipment arrives.

Russian/Belarusian vehicle ban. Vehicles with Russian or Belarusian plates cannot enter Estonia under any circumstances. Shippers relocating from Russia or Belarus must ensure their vehicles are re-registered with non-Russian/Belarusian plates before attempting to cross the Estonian border.

Port of entry: Muuga Harbor (near Tallinn) is the primary container port. Tallinn Airport handles air freight. Estonia is accessible by road from Latvia and by ferry from Finland and Sweden.

Digital customs: Estonia is one of the most digitally advanced EU member states. Many customs procedures can be handled electronically through the EMTA system.

Cultural & Other Information

- [OpenFactBook — Estonia \(replaces CIA World Factbook\)](#) — verified 200
- [Wikipedia — Estonia](#) — verified 403 to bots, works in browser
- [Estonian Tax and Customs Board \(EMTA\) — Settling in Estonia](#) — verified 200
- [EMTA — Traveler Information \(Third Country to Estonia\)](#) — verified 200
- [USDA APHIS — Pet Travel to Estonia](#) — verified 200
- [PetTravel.com — Estonia Pet Import Requirements](#) — verified 200
- [EU Pet Travel Regulations](#) — verified 200
- [Trade.gov — Estonia Customs Regulations](#) — verified 200
- [VisaHQ — Estonia Customs](#) — verified 200

EU membership: Estonia joined the EU on May 1, 2004 and the Schengen Area on December 21, 2007. The EU Common Customs Tariff applies to imports from non-EU countries.

Currency: Euro (EUR). Adopted January 1, 2011.

Language: Estonian is the official language. Russian is widely spoken (approximately 25% of the population). English is common in Tallinn and business settings.

Digital society: Estonia is globally recognized for its e-governance and digital infrastructure. Many government services, including some customs procedures, are available online through the e-Estonia platform.

Pedestrian reflector law: Estonian law requires pedestrians to wear small reflectors (pinned to coats or bags) when walking in low-light conditions. Fines apply for non-compliance.

Quick Links & Resources

- [Find Movers in Estonia \(IAMX Directory\)](https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Estonia&lat=58.5953&lng=25.0136&range=50&assoc_s=800&fvw=c&ctry=Estonia)
https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Estonia&lat=58.5953&lng=25.0136&range=50&assoc_s=800&fvw=c&ctry=Estonia
- [Foreign Embassies in Estonia](https://www.embassypages.com/estonia)
<https://www.embassypages.com/estonia>
- [OpenFactBook — Estonia \(replaces CIA World Factbook\)](https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/estonia/)
<https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/estonia/>
- [Wikipedia — Estonia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estonia)
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estonia>
- [Estonian Tax and Customs Board \(EMTA\)](https://www.emta.ee/en/private-client/consignments-travel-settlement/settlement/settling-estonia)
<https://www.emta.ee/en/private-client/consignments-travel-settlement/settlement/settling-estonia>