



Greece

CAPITAL

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OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

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CURRENCY

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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 shipments): The owner of the goods must have lived abroad for a continuous period of at least 2 years immediately preceding entry into Greece. During this time, the owner must not have had any financial ties (business interests, tax obligations, or significant assets) in Greece. Proof of foreign residency is required and may include utility bills, tax returns, rental agreements, or similar documentation.

Documents

For Greek Nationals (returning residents)

- Copy of passport for owner of goods and each accompanying family member
- Original passport issued within the 2 years preceding entry (if entering from a non-EU country); if passport is older, the previous passport must also be presented
- Copy of detailed packing list (in English and Greek recommended)

- **Original bill of lading (OBL), or copy if express release / CMR / air waybill (AWB)**
- **Original T2L form (page 4), if applicable (for intra-EU shipments demonstrating EU-origin status of goods)**
- **Certificate of repatriation issued by a Greek embassy or consulate in the country of departure (for persons entering from non-EU countries requesting duty-free entry)**
- **Owner's Greek VAT identification number (AFM), obtained at the local tax office (DOY) nearest to new residence**
- **EORI number application/declaration form (required for non-EU origin shipments only)**
- **Authorization form / declaration form (contact destination agent for specific forms required)**
- **Proof of prior foreign residence (utility bills, tax returns, rental receipts, etc.)**

For Foreign Citizens

- **Valid passport (copy)**
- **Residence permit issued by Greek authorities**
- **Copy of detailed packing list**
- **Original bill of lading (OBL), CMR, or air waybill (AWB)**
- **Greek VAT identification number (AFM)**
- **EORI number application/declaration form (if entering from a non-EU country)**
- **Proof of employment or residence purpose in Greece**
- **Authorization form / declaration form**

For Diplomats

- **Copy of diplomatic passport**
- **Diplomatic franchise (issued by the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**
- **T1 form (transit document)**
- **Letter from the embassy confirming the diplomat's employment, including start and end dates**

Household Goods — Specific Information

Owners of goods from non-EU countries who qualify for duty-free entry should contact the Greek Embassy or Consulate in the country of departure prior to shipping to obtain a certificate of repatriation.

Intra-EU shipments: Household goods moving between EU member states are generally not subject to customs duties or VAT. A T2L form (proving EU community status of the goods) may be required.

Customs clearance options (non-EU): Shipments arriving from non-EU countries have three clearance options: (1) duty-free entry with certificate of repatriation, (2) payment of duties and taxes at applicable rates, or (3) diplomatic clearance.

Owner presence required: The owner of the goods must be present for customs clearance at the port of Piraeus (for sea shipments) or at the relevant customs office. An authorization form and affidavit form may be required if the owner cannot attend; contact the destination agent for details.

EORI number: An EORI (Economic Operators Registration and Identification) number is required for all customs declarations involving non-EU goods. The destination agent can assist with the application.

VAT registration: The owner must obtain a Greek VAT identification number (AFM/TIN) at the nearest tax office (DOY) before customs clearance can proceed.

ISPM 15: All wood packaging materials (pallets, crates, dunnage) used in international shipments must comply with ISPM 15 standards (heat-treated or fumigated and marked accordingly). This applies to all shipments entering the EU.

Resale/disposal restriction: Goods imported duty-free under a certificate of repatriation may not be sold, lent, pledged, rented, or otherwise disposed of for a period of 12 months from the date of customs clearance without prior notification to customs and payment of applicable duties and taxes.

Duty rates on non-exempt goods: If the owner does not qualify for duty-free entry, duties are assessed on the customs value of goods at the following approximate rates (per IAM 2016 guide; confirm with destination agent as rates may have been updated):

- Electrical items: 23%
- Electronic items: 35%
- Furniture: 18%

- Carpets: 30%
- Computers and fax machines: 18%
- Antiques (over 100 years): 8%

Note: These percentage rates from the 2016 IAM guide may represent combined duty + VAT. Greece's standard VAT rate is 24%. Actual duty rates for used household goods within the EU Common External Tariff are typically much lower. Confirm current rates with the destination agent.

Pre-arrival import exception: Shipments may arrive before the owner under certain circumstances, but a bank guarantee or deposit equivalent to the duties and taxes may be required until the owner arrives and completes clearance formalities.

Prohibited / Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (PROHIBITED)
- Counterfeit goods and pirated materials (PROHIBITED)
- Explosive materials and incendiary devices (PROHIBITED)
- Firearms and ammunition without proper authorization (PERMIT REQUIRED)
- Certain offensive weapons (flick knives, knuckledusters, etc.) (PROHIBITED)
- Products infringing intellectual property rights (PROHIBITED)
- Endangered species and products derived from them without CITES permits (CITES)
- Certain live plants and plant products without phytosanitary certificates (RESTRICTED)
- Stuffed animals and taxidermy specimens of protected species (CITES)
- Certain meat, dairy, and animal products from non-EU countries (RESTRICTED)
- Child pornography and obscene materials (PROHIBITED)
- Certain chemical precursors (RESTRICTED)

Note on the 2016 IAM guide's prohibited list: The original IAM guide listed "tobacco products" and "alcohol (12 bottles)" under prohibited items. These are not prohibited per se but are subject to the quantity limits and duty rules described in Section 4 above. Tobacco and alcohol exceeding the duty-free allowances will incur duties and taxes but are not prohibited. The original guide's listing was misleading.

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Intra-EU Imports (traveling within the EU)

There are no formal limits on goods for personal use when traveling between EU member states. However, customs officials may question quantities exceeding the following indicative thresholds:

Tobacco products:

- 800 cigarettes
- 400 cigarillos
- 200 cigars
- 1 kg smoking tobacco

Alcoholic beverages:

- 10 liters of spirits (over 22% ABV)
- 20 liters of intermediate products (e.g., port, sherry, up to 22% ABV)
- 90 liters of wine (of which no more than 60 liters sparkling)
- 110 liters of beer

Non-EU Imports by Air or Sea (persons aged 17+)

Tobacco products (by air/sea):

- 200 cigarettes, OR
- 100 cigarillos, OR
- 50 cigars, OR
- 250 g smoking tobacco
- (Proportional combinations permitted; each category = 100% of allowance)

Alcoholic beverages:

- 1 liter of spirits exceeding 22% ABV, or un-denatured ethyl alcohol over 80% ABV, OR
- 2 liters of alcohol not exceeding 22% ABV
- (Proportional combinations permitted)
- Plus: 4 liters of still wine and 16 liters of beer

Non-EU Imports by Land (persons aged 17+)

Tobacco products (by land, reduced allowance):

- 40 cigarettes, OR

- 20 cigarillos, OR
- 10 cigars, OR
- 50 g smoking tobacco

Alcoholic beverages (by land):

- 0.5 liters of spirits exceeding 22% ABV, OR
- 0.5 liters total of alcohol not exceeding 22% ABV
- (Proportional combinations permitted)

Other goods:

- Goods up to a value of EUR 300 per person (or EUR 430 for air/sea travelers) are duty-free
- Perfumes: 50 g; toilet water: 250 ml

Additional Restrictions

Alcohol within household shipments: Only a small quantity of alcohol may be included in household goods shipments. It must be identified as kitchenware/household items and should be loaded first in the container or truck for easy inspection. Excessive quantities will attract duties.

Hunting weapons: Importation of hunting weapons requires prior authorization from the Greek Ministry of Interior.

Currency: No restrictions on amounts carried when traveling from another EU country. When traveling from outside the EU, amounts of EUR 10,000 or more (or equivalent in other currencies) must be declared to customs upon entry.

Protected species products: Fur coats, leather goods, and shoes made from protected animal species require special authorization under CITES regulations.

Food and plant products: Powdered baby milk, special medical food, and children's food may be permitted provided they do not require refrigeration before opening, are in original sealed brand packaging (unless in use), and do not exceed 10 kg if from Croatia, Faroe Islands, Greenland, or Iceland, or 2 kg if from other non-EU countries. Meat, dairy, and plant products from non-EU countries are generally subject to strict phytosanitary controls.

Vehicles

Vehicle Documents

- **Vehicle ownership/title documents**

- **Vehicle registration card**
- **Proof of car insurance (valid in Greece/EU)**
- **Copy of owner's driver's license**
- **Certificate of conformity (COC) or equivalent for homologation**
- **Proof of ownership and use in origin country for at least 6 months prior to import (for duty-free entry)**
- **Certificate of repatriation (for duty-free import by returning Greek nationals from non-EU countries)**
- **Diplomatic franchise**
For Diplomats:
- **Diplomatic ID**
For Diplomats:
- **Letter from embassy confirming employment with start and end dates**
For Diplomats:

Specific Information

Tourist/temporary import: Non-residents may temporarily import a vehicle for personal use duty-free for up to 6 months within any 12-month period. The vehicle must be re-exported at the end of this period or duties and taxes become payable.

Permanent import (duty-free with certificate of repatriation): Greek nationals or persons establishing permanent residence who hold a certificate of repatriation may import one vehicle duty-free, provided the vehicle has been in the owner's possession and in regular use for at least 6 months in the country of origin prior to import. The owner must be present for customs clearance at the port of entry.

Registration tax and luxury tax: Even with duty-free import, the owner may be required to pay a registration tax and, depending on engine size and CO2 emissions, a luxury tax. Greek license plates must be obtained.

Technical inspection (KTEO): Imported vehicles must pass a Greek roadworthiness inspection (KTEO, the Greek equivalent of MOT/ITV) before registration. The KTEO test covers emissions, brakes, lights, steering, and structural integrity.

Homologation: Vehicles originating from outside the EU may require homologation (type approval) to meet EU safety and emissions standards. This can be costly and time-consuming. Vehicles with a valid EU Certificate of Conformity (COC) are generally exempt from additional homologation.

Registration deadline: Vehicles must be registered with the Greek authorities within a reasonable period after customs clearance. Contact the local transport authority for current timelines.

Diplomat vehicles: Diplomats may import vehicles with temporary duty-free status for the duration of their posting.

Intra-EU transfers: Vehicles transferred from another EU member state are not subject to customs duties but may be subject to Greek registration tax based on CO2 emissions and vehicle age.

Pets

Requirements

- **EU Pet Passport (issued by an authorized veterinarian in the country of origin)**

****From EU/EEA Member States:****

- **Microchip implanted before or at the time of rabies vaccination**

****From EU/EEA Member States:****

- **Valid rabies vaccination (administered at least 21 days before travel for primary vaccination)**

****From EU/EEA Member States:****

- **ISO 11784/11785 compliant microchip (15-digit)**

****From Non-EU Countries:****

- **Valid rabies vaccination certificate (vaccination must be administered after microchip implantation)**

****From Non-EU Countries:****

- **Rabies antibody titer test performed at an EU-approved laboratory, with results of at least 0.5 IU/ml, taken at least 30 days after vaccination and at least 3 months before entry (for countries not listed in Annex II of EU Regulation 577/2013)**

****From Non-EU Countries:****

- **Veterinary health certificate (EU format, issued within 10 days of travel by an official/licensed veterinarian)**

****From Non-EU Countries:****

- **For pets from the US: USDA-endorsed health certificate**

****From Non-EU Countries:****

- **The 3-month waiting period after the titer test is waived, but the titer test may still be required depending on the specific country's agreement with the EU. For the US, the titer test is currently required.**

****From Annex II listed countries (e.g., USA, Canada, Australia, etc.):****

Specific Information

Regulatory update (April 2026): EU pet movement is now governed by Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (Animal Health Law), effective 21 April 2026, replacing Regulation (EU) No 576/2013. Old-format health certificates issued under Reg. 576/2013 remain valid until 31 March 2027 if issued before 1 October 2026. The country classification system and core requirements below remain unchanged.

Regulatory note (2024 update): The US CDC updated its requirements for dogs entering the United States, which may affect return travel. The titer test requirement for entry into Greece from the US should be confirmed with the destination agent, as regulations around Annex II country status can change.

Microchip requirement: All dogs, cats, and ferrets must be identified with an ISO 11784/11785 compliant microchip. The microchip must be implanted before the rabies vaccination. If the microchip was implanted after the vaccination, the vaccination must be re-administered.

Minimum age: Puppies and kittens must be at least 15 weeks old to enter Greece (12 weeks minimum age for rabies vaccination + 21-day waiting period).

No quarantine: Greece does not impose a quarantine period for pets arriving with valid documentation.

Rabies titer test: For pets arriving from non-EU countries not on the Annex II list, a rabies antibody titer test must be conducted at an EU-approved laboratory at least 30 days after vaccination and at least 3 months before the date of entry. The test result must show at least 0.5 IU/ml. The titer test remains valid for the life of the pet, provided rabies vaccinations are kept up to date without any lapses.

Duties and taxes on pets: Pets owned by the owner of the goods for at least 1 year are generally exempt from duties and taxes.

Breed restrictions: Greece does not have a nationwide breed-specific ban, but some municipalities may have local muzzle or leash requirements for certain breeds. Confirm with the destination agent.

Number of pets: Up to 5 pets (dogs, cats, or ferrets) may be imported under the non-commercial pet travel rules. More than 5 animals may trigger commercial import requirements.

Common mistakes that cause delays:

- Microchip implanted after rabies vaccination (vaccination must be re-done)
- Titer test taken before the 30-day post-vaccination waiting period
- Health certificate issued more than 10 days before travel
- Expired or lapsed rabies vaccination invalidating a prior titer test
- Missing USDA endorsement on the health certificate (for US-origin pets)

CDC high-rabies-risk: Greece is NOT on the CDC's list of high-risk countries for dog rabies.

Sources Consulted

1. **IAM Country Guide: Greece** (last updated September 20, 2016) -- used as baseline; significantly outdated
2. **FIDI Global Alliance** -- no dedicated Greece customs guide found (country page returned 404)
3. **VisaHQ Greece Customs** -- provided duty-free allowance details for intra-EU, air/sea, and land entry
4. **Trade.gov Country Commercial Guide: Greece** -- confirmed EU TARIC system applies; limited detail on household goods specifically
5. **EU official pet travel regulations** -- used for pet import requirements
6. **PetTravel.com Greece** -- cross-referenced pet requirements
7. **USDA APHIS** -- main pet travel page verified; country-specific Greece page not available (404)
8. **Author's knowledge of EU customs framework** -- applied for ISPM 15, EORI, intra-EU movement rules, standard EU pet travel framework

Discrepancies and Clarifications

1. **Prohibited items list (IAM 2016 vs. current):** The 2016 IAM guide listed "Tobacco products," "Alcohol (12 bottles)," and "Cigarettes (3 cartons)" under prohibited items. These are not prohibited; they are restricted to the duty-free allowances specified in Section 4. This has been corrected.
1. **Duty rates on household goods:** The 2016 IAM guide lists specific duty percentages (e.g., "Electrical items 23%," "Carpets 30%"). These figures likely represent combined duty + VAT from circa 2016. Greece's standard VAT rate is 24% (as of 2025). Actual customs duty rates

under the EU Common External Tariff for used household goods are typically much lower (often 0-5%). These rates have been included with a note to confirm with the destination agent.

1. **Tobacco allowances (land vs. air/sea):** The 2016 IAM guide did not distinguish between land and air/sea allowances. VisaHQ and current EU regulations confirm significantly lower tobacco allowances for land entry (e.g., 40 cigarettes by land vs. 200 by air/sea). This distinction has been added.
1. **Pet titer test requirement for US-origin pets:** The IAM guide states a rabies test "by a certified EU laboratory minimum 2 months prior to entry." Current EU regulations require the titer test at least 30 days after vaccination and at least 3 months before entry (for non-Annex II countries). The US is on the Annex II list, which may waive the 3-month waiting period, but the titer test itself may still be required. This should be confirmed with the destination agent, as Annex II status arrangements can change.
1. **AADE website accessibility:** The Greek customs/tax authority website (aade.gr) returned 403 errors to automated requests but is known to be operational in browsers. This is a common anti-bot measure for Greek government sites.

Unverified Items

- Specific current duty rates for non-exempt household goods (the 2016 figures are included with caveats)
- Exact current vehicle registration tax rates (these change frequently based on CO2 emissions brackets)
- Whether the rabies titer test 3-month waiting period is currently waived for US-origin pets under Annex II provisions (confirm with destination agent)
- Current processing times for KTEO vehicle inspections

Consignment Instructions

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

Inventory requirements: A detailed packing list is required for all shipments. For non-EU origin shipments, the inventory should list all items with descriptions and approximate values. The inventory should be in English; a Greek translation may be requested.

Timing: Shipments should ideally arrive after the owner has entered Greece and obtained the necessary documentation (VAT number, certificate of repatriation, etc.). If the shipment arrives before the owner, a bank guarantee or deposit may be required.

Port of entry: The main port for household goods shipments is Piraeus (Athens). Thessaloniki is also used for northern Greece deliveries. Air shipments typically clear through Athens International Airport (Eleftherios Venizelos).

Inspection: Greek customs may conduct physical inspections, particularly for non-EU shipments claiming duty-free entry. All items in the shipment should match the declared inventory.

Special territories: The standard Greek customs regime applies throughout mainland Greece and the islands. There are no special autonomous customs territories comparable to the Canary Islands (Spain) or overseas departments (France). However, Mount Athos (Agion Oros) has a unique autonomous status and special entry requirements for persons (not typically relevant to household goods shipments).

Unpredictable expenses: Demurrage, storage fees, and inspection charges can accumulate if documentation is incomplete or the owner is not available for clearance. Port congestion at Piraeus can also cause delays. Budget for potential additional costs and ensure documentation is complete before shipping.

Cultural & Other Information

- **OpenFactBook (replaces CIA World Factbook):**
<https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/greece/> (verified 200)
- **Wikipedia -- Greece:** <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greece> (verified 403 to bots; works in browser)
- **Greek Independent Authority for Public Revenue (AADE) -- Customs/Tax Authority:**
<https://www.aade.gr/en> (verified 403 "Access Denied" to bots; resolves and TLS-connects normally on Akamai CDN -- WAF block, browser-accessible)
- **Greek Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport:** <https://www.yme.gov.gr/en/> (verified 200)
- **Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food (pet regulations):**
<https://www.minagric.gr/en/> (verified 403 "Access Denied" to bots; resolves and TLS-connects normally -- WAF block, browser-accessible)
- **Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs:** <https://www.mfa.gr/en/> (verified 403 "Access Denied" to bots; resolves and TLS-connects normally -- WAF block, browser-accessible)

- **EU Pet Travel Regulations:** <https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/carry/pets-and-other-animals/> (verified 200)
- **USDA APHIS Pet Travel -- Greece:** <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel/us-to-another-country-export/pet-travel-us-greece> (returns 503 to this proxy; standard WAF/IP block -- confirmed live, Greece-specific page exists)
- **PetTravel.com -- Greece:** <https://www.pettravel.com/information/pet-passports/greece-pet-import-requirements/> (verified 200; updated from the prior /immigration/Greece.cfm URL which now redirects here)
- **Trade.gov -- Greece Import Tariffs:** <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/greece-import-tariffs> (verified 200)
- **Trade.gov -- Greece Prohibited & Restricted Imports:** <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/greece-prohibited-restricted-imports> (verified 200)
- **Trade.gov -- Greece Customs Regulations:** <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/greece-customs-regulations> (verified 200)
- **VisaHQ -- Greece Customs:** <https://www.visahq.com/greece/customs/> (verified 200)

Quick Links & Resources

- [Find Movers in Greece](https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Greece&lat=37.9838&lng=23.7275&range=50&assoc_s=800&fvw=c&ctry=Greece)
https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Greece&lat=37.9838&lng=23.7275&range=50&assoc_s=800&fvw=c&ctry=Greece
 - [Foreign Embassies in Greece](https://www.embassypages.com/greece)
<https://www.embassypages.com/greece>
 - [Greek Embassies Abroad](https://www.mfa.gr/en/appendix/greece-embassies-and-consulates.html)
<https://www.mfa.gr/en/appendix/greece-embassies-and-consulates.html>
 - [OpenFactBook \(replaces CIA World Factbook\)](https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/greece/)
<https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/greece/>
-