



Hungary

CAPITAL

—

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

—

CURRENCY

—

Last verified: June 2026 | **Guide version:** 2.0**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): Used household goods may be imported duty-free by non-citizens who hold a valid Hungarian resident permit, provided they can demonstrate at least 1 year of residence outside the EU.

VAT: Hungary's standard VAT rate is 27% (one of the highest in the EU). This applies to non-exempt imports. Reduced rates of 18% and 5% apply to specific categories of goods.

Documents

Required Documents

- **Copy of passport**
- **Bill of lading (BL), express release, or air waybill (AWB)**
- **Detailed packing list**

- **Detailed inventory in English, dated, valued, and signed by the owner**
- **Resident permit, work permit, registration card, or Hungarian ID**
- **Proof of living abroad for a minimum of 1 year outside the European Union (company confirmation, utility bills, etc.)**
- **Bank guarantee, if applicable (see below)**
- **Owner's contact details in Hungary**

Household Goods — Specific Information

EU member state: Hungary joined the EU in 2004. Import regulations differ significantly depending on whether goods are arriving from within the EU or from a non-EU country.

Bank guarantee: If the resident permit is valid for less than 1 year, a bank guarantee is required covering the amount of the duty and other applicable shipment costs. The guarantee is released once the residency requirement is satisfied.

Resale prohibition: Imported goods cannot be sold or leased. This is a standard EU transfer-of-residence provision.

EORI number: An EORI (Economic Operators Registration and Identification) number may be required for customs clearance of non-EU shipments. The destination agent can assist with registration if needed.

EU Common External Tariff: Hungary applies the EU's common external tariff, with an average rate of approximately 3.6%. Tariff assessment takes place at the first port of entry into the EU, but Hungary collects VAT on all goods with Hungary as their final destination.

ISPM 15: Wood packaging materials from non-EU origins must comply with ISPM 15 standards.

Intra-EU moves: Household goods moving from another EU member state to Hungary are not subject to customs duties or import formalities. Standard transport documentation applies.

Prohibited / Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Illegal drugs and narcotics
- Explosive materials
- Pornographic material

- Meat and milk products from non-EU countries (with limited exceptions noted above)
- Species and products protected under CITES (e.g., ivory, tortoise shell, coral, reptile skin, wood from Amazonian forests) without permits CITES
- Counterfeit goods

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Intra-EU guideline quantities (no formal limits, but customs may question quantities above):

- 800 cigarettes, 400 cigarillos (max 3g each), 200 cigars, 1 kg smoking tobacco
- 10 litres spirits over 22%, 20 litres under 22%, 90 litres wine (max 60 litres sparkling), 110 litres beer

Non-EU duty-free personal allowances (passengers aged 17+):

- 200 cigarettes, or 100 cigarillos, or 50 cigars, or 250 grams of tobacco
- 1 litre of spirits over 22% or 2 litres under 22%
- 4 litres of still wine
- 16 litres of beer

Alcohol in household goods shipments: Per the IAM guide, alcohol and spirits should be shipped separately from personal effects and are subject to tax. This applies to both intra-EU and non-EU shipments.

Currency declaration: No restrictions on currency from EU countries. Currency exceeding EUR 10,000 (or equivalent) must be declared when traveling from outside the EU.

Other restricted items:

- Firearms and ammunition (authorization from the territorial administration required) PERMIT REQUIRED
- Hunting weapons (authorization from the Ministry of Interior required) PERMIT REQUIRED
- Medication (prescription medicines should be accompanied by a doctor's letter/prescription)
- Meat and milk products from non-EU countries (prohibited, with limited exceptions for products from Andorra, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, and small amounts of specific products from other countries)
- Coats, fur, and leather products made from protected animals (special authorization required) CITES
- Fish (max 20 kg, must be disembowelled)

- Powdered baby milk, baby food, and special medical food (including pet food) are permitted if they do not require refrigeration, are branded packaged products, and the package is unopened

Vehicles

Vehicle Documents

- **Original vehicle registration card**
- **Purchase invoice (must show purchase price and date of purchase)**

Specific Information

Duty on vehicles: The duty rate on imported vehicles depends on the country of origin. Vehicles from non-EU countries are subject to customs duty under the EU Common External Tariff.

Registration tax: Hungary levies a registration tax that depends on the environmental classification (emissions class) of the vehicle. This is a separate charge from customs duty.

VAT: A 27% VAT applies to vehicle imports from non-EU countries.

Intra-EU vehicle transfers: Vehicles transferred from another EU member state are not subject to customs duty but are subject to Hungarian registration tax and may be subject to VAT depending on the circumstances of the transfer.

Technical inspection: Vehicles must meet Hungarian/EU roadworthiness standards. A technical inspection (műszaki vizsga) is required for registration.

Homologation: Non-EU vehicles may require type approval (homologation) to meet EU standards for emissions, safety, and technical specifications. This can be a significant expense and barrier for vehicles not originally sold in the EU market.

Pets

Requirements

- **EU Pet Passport (for EU-resident pets) or non-commercial EU Health Certificate (for non-resident pets visiting)**

From EU Member States:

- **Current rabies vaccination record**

From EU Member States:

- **Microchip documentation**

From EU Member States:

- **Non-commercial EU Health Certificate or government-issued pet passport from a Part 1 country**

From Part 1 Listed Third Countries (e.g., US, Canada, UK, Australia, etc.):

- **Microchip documentation**

From Part 1 Listed Third Countries (e.g., US, Canada, UK, Australia, etc.):

- **Current rabies vaccination certificate**

From Part 1 Listed Third Countries (e.g., US, Canada, UK, Australia, etc.):

- **Non-commercial EU Health Certificate endorsed by a government veterinarian**

From Part 2 Listed Third Countries:

- **Microchip documentation**

From Part 2 Listed Third Countries:

- **Current rabies vaccination certificate**

From Part 2 Listed Third Countries:

- **Non-commercial EU Health Certificate endorsed by a government veterinarian**

From Unlisted Third Countries:

- **Microchip documentation**

From Unlisted Third Countries:

- **Current rabies vaccination certificate**

From Unlisted Third Countries:

- **Rabies titer (serology) test results from an approved laboratory**

From Unlisted Third Countries:

Specific Information

Regulatory update (April 2026): The EU modified its pet transport regulations with important changes to non-commercial transport. Key changes include: the owner must travel to the same destination no more than 5 days before the pet travels (if using a representative); a maximum of 5 pets per vehicle when entering the EU by ground; and updated health certificate validity periods.

EU country classification system: The EU classifies countries into EU member states and territories, Part 1 listed third countries, Part 2 listed third countries, and unlisted countries. Requirements differ based on classification. Pet owners should identify their origin country's classification before beginning the process.

Microchip: Required. Must be a non-encrypted, 15-digit, ISO 11784/11785 compliant microchip. A tattoo is acceptable only if applied before July 3, 2011, is clearly visible, and all subsequent rabies vaccinations have been kept current. By January 1, 2028, all microchips must be ISO compliant (new regulation).

Rabies vaccination: Required for all dogs, cats, and ferrets over 12 weeks of age. Must be administered at the same time as or after microchip implantation. From EU/Part 1/Part 2 countries: 21-day wait after primary vaccination before travel. From unlisted countries: 30-day wait before the titer test can be administered.

Rabies titer test: Required only for pets entering from unlisted third countries (or pets that have visited an unlisted country within 4 months of travel). Must be administered no sooner than 30 days after rabies vaccination. The test must be done at least 90 days before the date on the EU Health Certificate (new regulation). Valid for the life of the pet if boosters are kept current.

Import permit: Not required for accompanied dogs, cats, or ferrets. Unaccompanied pets may need an import permit.

Parasite treatments: Not required for Hungary but recommended.

Health certificate validity: Non-commercial EU Health Certificate is valid for 10 days from endorsement to arrival at the border inspection post. Once in the EU, the certificate is valid for 6 months of travel within the EU, provided the rabies vaccination remains current (new regulation). UK residents should use an Animal Health Certificate (AHC) rather than an EU Pet Passport; the AHC validity has been extended to 6 months.

Commercial vs. non-commercial transport: The EU distinguishes between non-commercial transport (pet traveling with owner, max 5 pets, not for sale/adoption) and commercial transport (unaccompanied, more than 5 pets, or change of ownership). Commercial imports have additional requirements including registration in TRACES (Trade Control and Expert System) and a commercial health certificate endorsed within 48 hours of travel.

Quarantine: No quarantine if all regulations are met. Non-compliant pets may be quarantined, returned, or euthanized at the importer's expense.

Puppies and kittens: Unvaccinated puppies, kittens, and ferrets are not permitted from any country. Rabies vaccinations are not recognized until 12 weeks of age with a 21-day wait for EU/Part 1/Part 2 origins. Puppies and kittens from unlisted countries cannot enter until at least 7 months of age.

No banned breeds: Hungary does not publish a list of banned breeds.

Entry by air (non-EU): Pets from non-EU countries must enter through the Border Inspection Post at Budapest International Airport. Pets can fly in-cabin, as checked baggage, or as air cargo

per airline policies. Flights should be direct or transit through EU/Part 1/Part 2 countries if possible. Transit through an unlisted country requires a Transit Declaration confirming no contact with rabies-carrying animals.

CDC note: Hungary is NOT on the U.S. CDC high-risk countries list for dog rabies. Standard CDC dog import procedures apply for returns to the U.S.

Common Mistakes

- Not having the microchip implanted before (or at the same time as) the rabies vaccination
- Attempting to bring unvaccinated puppies/kittens (not permitted from any origin)
- Not waiting the required 21 days (EU/listed countries) or 90 days (unlisted countries, after titer test) before travel
- Using an EU Pet Passport when traveling from the UK (UK residents should use an AHC)
- Failing to register the transport in TRACES for commercial shipments
- Transiting through an unlisted country without a Transit Declaration

Sources Consulted

1. **IAM Country Guide: Hungary** (August 24, 2016) -- baseline for document requirements, duty-free conditions, bank guarantee requirement, resale prohibition, vehicle registration tax, pet identification requirements, restricted/prohibited items
2. **FIDI Global Alliance** -- no dedicated Hungary customs guide found (404)
3. **VisaHQ Hungary Customs** -- intra-EU guideline quantities, non-EU duty-free personal allowances, prohibited items (meat/milk from non-EU), restricted items, pet requirements summary, currency declaration threshold, fish allowance
4. **PetTravel.com Hungary Pet Import Requirements** (updated with April 2026 EU regulation changes) -- comprehensive EU pet import framework including country classifications, microchip requirements, vaccination timing, titer test, health certificate types, commercial vs. non-commercial transport, TRACES registration, puppies/kittens age limits, breed bans, entry points
5. **Trade.gov Hungary Import Requirements and Documentation** -- EU Common External Tariff, Single Administrative Document, EORI

6. **Trade.gov Hungary Import Tariffs** -- average tariff rate (3.6%), VAT rate (27%, with 18% and 5% reduced categories), EU tariff classification system
7. **EU Your Europe -- Pet Travel** -- confirmed EU-wide pet travel framework
8. **CDC High-Risk Countries for Dog Rabies** -- Hungary not listed
9. **Hinterland Travel** -- Hungary customs page returned 503

Discrepancies

- **Tobacco allowance in household goods:** The IAM guide (2016) lists duty-free limits within household goods as 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars, 100 cigarillos, 500g tobacco. VisaHQ lists the non-EU passenger allowance as 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars, 100 cigarillos, 250g tobacco. The tobacco quantity differs (500g vs 250g). The IAM figure may reflect a specific household goods exemption rather than the passenger allowance. The 250g figure aligns with standard EU non-EU passenger allowances. Confirm with the destination agent.
- **VAT rate:** The IAM guide (2016) states 27% VAT on vehicles. Trade.gov (updated February 2026) confirms 27% as the standard rate, with reduced rates of 18% and 5% for specific categories. The vehicle registration tax is separate from VAT and depends on environmental class.
- **Pet identification:** The IAM guide (2016) states pets must be identifiable through tattoo or electronic identification. PetTravel (2026) confirms that tattoos are still acceptable but only if applied before July 3, 2011 and with continuous rabies vaccination history. Microchip is the de facto standard.

Unverified Items

- Specific vehicle registration tax rates by environmental class could not be verified against a current Hungarian government source because the NAV English site and transport authority site were both unreachable (503). The destination agent should provide current rates.
- The bank guarantee amount and process for short-term resident permits (from the 2016 IAM guide) could not be independently verified against a current source. The requirement itself is consistent with EU transfer-of-residence rules.

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.

Intra-EU vs. non-EU: The key distinction for Hungary is whether the shipment originates from within or outside the EU. Intra-EU moves are essentially free of customs formalities. Non-EU moves require full customs clearance, duty assessment, and potentially a bank guarantee.

Residency documentation: Ensure the resident permit, work permit, or registration card is in hand before the shipment arrives. The bank guarantee requirement for short-term permits can be a significant additional cost.

Valued inventory: The inventory must be detailed, in English, dated, valued, and signed by the owner. Values should be realistic depreciated values for customs assessment purposes.

Ports of entry: Sea cargo entering from non-EU origins typically arrives via northern European ports (Hamburg, Rotterdam, Bremerhaven) and is transported overland to Hungary. Air cargo clears through Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport. Road shipments from non-EU countries enter through Hungary's eastern and southern border crossings.

Clearance timing: Allow additional time for non-EU shipments requiring bank guarantees or when the residency permit has not yet been finalized.

Cultural & Other Information

- **OpenFactBook (replaces CIA World Factbook):** <https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/hungary/> (verified 200)
- **Wikipedia -- Hungary:** <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungary> (verified 403 to bots; works in browser)
- **NAV (National Tax and Customs Administration):** <https://nav.gov.hu/> (verified 200; Hungarian-language; English subdomain en.nav.gov.hu confirmed dead -- 404 -- as of June 2026)
- **Nébih (National Food Chain Safety Office / veterinary authority):** <https://portal.nebih.gov.hu/> (verified 200; Hungarian-language)
- **Hungarian Government Portal:** <https://kormany.hu/> (verified 200)
- **Trade.gov -- Hungary Import Requirements and Documentation:** <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/hungary-import-requirements-and->

[documentation](#) (verified 200)

- **Trade.gov -- Hungary Import Tariffs:** <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/hungary-import-tariffs> (verified 200)
- **EU Pet Travel Rules:** <https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/carry/pets-and-other-animals/> (verified 200)
- **PetTravel.com -- Hungary:** <https://www.pettravel.com/information/pet-passports/hungary-pet-import-requirements/> (verified 200)
- **VisaHQ -- Hungary Customs:** <https://www.visahq.com/hungary/customs/> (verified 200)

Note: The English-language subdomain of Hungary's NAV website (en.nav.gov.hu) has been removed and now returns 404 as of June 2026. The main Hungarian-language site at nav.gov.hu remains accessible. English-language customs information for Hungary is best accessed via Trade.gov or the destination agent.

Quick Links & Resources

- [Find Movers in Hungary](#)
<https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Hungary&lat=47.1625&lng=19.5033&range=50&asso cs=800&fvw=c&ctry=Hungary>
- [Foreign Embassies in Hungary](#)
<https://www.embassypages.com/hungary>
- [NAV \(Nemzeti Adó- és Vámhivatal / National Tax and Customs Administration\)](#)
<https://nav.gov.hu/>
- [Nébih \(National Food Chain Safety Office\)](#)
<https://portal.nebih.gov.hu/>
- [EU Pet Travel Rules](#)
<https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/carry/pets-and-other-animals/>
- [OpenFactBook \(replaces CIA World Factbook\)](#)
<https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/hungary/>