

# **BRITANNIA MOVERS INTERNATIONAL PLC**

## **GUIDE FOR THE IMPORTATION OF UNACCOMPANIED HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS- SOUTH AFRICA**



### **HOUSEHOLD AND RELATED EFFECTS IMPORTED BY OWNER- REQUIREMENTS FOR DUTY FREE ENTRY**

The owner of the household effects **MUST** be in South Africa prior to the arrival of the shipment and formal Customs clearance. South African Revenue Service (SARS) allows **one** Duty-Free import only, permission must be gained for additional imports from SARS.

#### **HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS**

- Bona fide household effects may be imported free of Duty and exempt from the VAT normally levied on imports provided that the importer changes his or her residence to South Africa on a permanent or temporary basis. Visa/Permit must be valid for a minimum of one year.
- Immigrants, Returning residents, Temporary Residents, Contract workers and Students may import their bona fide household effects into the Republic of South Africa Duty-Free. Visa/Permit must be valid for a minimum of one year.
- The following documentation is required for clearance; detailed inventory for attestation, **ORIGINAL** Passport including page with date of entry in South Africa (exit stamp for returning residents), Permanent Residence documents, Temporary Residence permit or Work Permit. Customs forms DA 304 and P.1.160 must be completed in triplicate (Britannia South Africa will supply the required Customs forms).

#### **PERSONAL EFFECTS**

- Personal effects (excess baggage) such as clothing, books, linen etc (no furniture) can be brought VAT and duty-free by completing a P1.160 form (supplied

by Britannia South Africa) irrespective of your residence status.

Britannia does not recommend exporting household effects to South Africa if the owner is not present at time of clearance. Items however can be placed in a bonded warehouse and cleared upon client's arrival in RSA. Fee's applicable, POA.

#### **RETURNING RESIDENTS**

- Returning residents must have been out of South Africa for an unbroken period of at least 6 months before they are automatically entitled to Duty-Free importation of household goods purchased while out of South Africa.

#### **INHERITANCE BEQUESTS**

- Inheritance bequests should be accompanied by a copy of the Will/Testament or Notary letter confirming right of inheritance that goods are not contested from any other party and Death Certificate. Importers must be in possession of their Permanent Resident Permit prior to shipment. The goods should not be dispatched until the Customs have given authority for Duty free entry.

#### **WEDDING TROUSSEAUX**

- Wedding dresses, gifts are subject to payment of duties.

#### **DIPLOMATS' REMOVALS**

- Diplomatic removals will be free of Duty and VAT providing the following is satisfied; importer has Diplomatic clearance, a detailed inventory of all household items, certificate from relevant Embassy

in South Africa, and must be countersigned by the South African Department of Foreign Affairs.

#### **ALCOHOL**

- Alcohol and Tobacco may be imported but will be subject to full duties and taxes. An Import Permit and Liquor removal certificate is required. Permits can be gained from the Department of Trade and Industry, Export and Import Control in Pretoria.

#### **PROHIBITED ARTICLES**

The following are examples of goods that are prohibited. They should not be imported:

- Objectionable (indecent) articles- Pornographic books, recorded media and magazines.
- Narcotic and habit-forming drugs in any form.
- Fully automatic, military and unnumbered weapons, explosives and fireworks.
- Poison and other toxic substances.
- Cigarettes with a mass of more than 2kg per 1000.
- Goods to which a trade description or trademark is applied in contravention of any Act (for example counterfeit goods).
- Unlawful reproductions of any works subject to copyright.
- Prison-made and penitentiary-made goods.

#### **RESTRICTED ARTICLES**

Certain goods may only be imported provided you are in possession of the necessary authority/permit.

- South African bank notes in excess of R10 000, gold coins, coin and stamp collections and unprocessed gold.

- Endangered species of plants or wildlife, whether alive or dead, including any parts of and articles made from them.
- Plants and plant products, such as seeds, flowers, fruit, honey, margarine and vegetable oils.
- Animals, birds, poultry and products thereof, for example dairy products, butter and eggs.
- Medicines (excluding sufficient quantities for one month for own personal treatment accompanied by a letter or certified prescription from a registered physician).

#### **WOODEN PACKAGING**

All wooden packaging including crates, pallets, over cases and chocks must be stamped with ISPM15 for 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 local Britannia representative for advice.

#### **FIREARM IMPORTATION**

The importation of firearms is strictly controlled, a Police permit is required to import. The following application form SAP311 Permit for Permanent Import must be gained **prior to shipment**. The form SAP311 must be completed and signed by the importer which SARS will retain and thereafter issue form SAP312 allowing the importer 60 days to officially license the firearm with the South African Police. Further information on the importation of weapons can be found South African Police Service website (See Useful Contacts).

#### **CUSTOMS FORMALITIES**

Used household and personal effects are subject to a levy called the **National Port Authority Wharfage Charge**. An indication of the charges are as follows:

Groupage	£0.25p/2.79ZAR per cuft
FCL 20"	£260.00/2902.00ZAR (Approx)
FCL 40"	£483.00/5391.00ZAR (Approx)

The above rates for FCL (Full Container load) are regardless of the volume. If there is a motor vehicle shipped groupage, then the rate will be calculated on the gross volume utilised in the container inclusive of any crating/over crating.

SA Customs Inspections: South African Revenue Service (SARS) inspect virtually every container and charge approx R150.00 plus VAT per hour for the inspection. This calculates to approx £13.40 Inc VAT. Groupage shipments will be charged proportionally.

#### **USEFUL CONTACTS**

##### ***Britannia Movers International(Head Office)***

+44 (0) 20-8256-1735

[sales@britannia-movers.co.uk](mailto:sales@britannia-movers.co.uk)

[www.britannia-movers.co.uk](http://www.britannia-movers.co.uk)

##### ***Britannia Brytons (Johannesburg)***

+27 11- 392-3962

[brytons@brytons.co.za](mailto:brytons@brytons.co.za)

[www.brytons.co.za](http://www.brytons.co.za)

##### ***Britannia Aidan K. Movers South Africa (Cape Town)***

+27 021-556-9448

[sales@britannia.co.za](mailto:sales@britannia.co.za)

[www.britannia.co.za](http://www.britannia.co.za)

##### ***South African Revenue Service (SARS)***

+27 (11) 602-2093

[contact.central@sars.gov.za](mailto:contact.central@sars.gov.za)

[www.sars.gov.za](http://www.sars.gov.za)

##### ***South African Police Service***

+27 (12) 353-611

[www.saps.gov.za](http://www.saps.gov.za)