

FRANCE

This guide is compiled from the FIDI Customs Guide for reference only. Customs regulations change frequently; please consult your Seapoe relocation consultant for the latest requirements before shipping.

Updated 2026

Removal goods for the principal residence (from countries outside the EU).

Documents Required

- Passport copy.
- Detailed inventory list in French, valued in EUR, dated and signed (one for the sea shipment and another one for the air shipment if applicable).
- Certificate of non-resale.
- Certificate of change of residence issued by the French Consulate stipulating the date of arrival in the country and the date of departure from this country, the customer should have stayed abroad during at least 12 months to be duties and taxes exempted.
- This document is only requested for the French nationals.
- Important to note on the certificate that the client is returning to France.
- Certificate of transfer or certificate of employment done on a letterhead by the employer with date of employment in the origin country and date of transfer (during the last 12 months).
- Proof of residence in France three months maximum - from the date of arrival of the shipment (electricity, phone bills, lease contract).
- Declaration of duty exemption entry of personnel effects coming from a country outside the EU (Cerfa N° 10070
- 03) - dated and signed.

Customs Prescriptions

- Duty free entry, provided that:
- The importer has had his residence for at least one year outside the EU.
- Personal effects and vehicles have been used by the importer for at least 6 months.

Remarks

- Goods must be imported within 12 months of the date of transfer of residence.
- If goods come in separate consignments, they must all be shown on the first inventory list deposited with Customs.
- Goods must remain with the importer's possession for at least 12 months from the date of importation.
- Personal goods can circulate freely within the European Community. However, some particularly sensitive items remain subject to regulation.
- The list of these products has been established to take account of health, security, consumption, environment, and cultural considerations.
- For moves from outside the EU, if documents are missing and the importer needs his household effects immediately, you can ask the customs office for information on the existing possibilities.
- The importer may authorise another person to handle the formalities on his behalf.
- The customs duties are to be paid in cash or with bank or postal cheques. If the payment is

made by cheque, the cheque must be certified by your bank.

- The customs supply on request of the importer a free trade card "carte de libre circulation" for example for camera, lens, radio, etc. This document proves the correct condition of the objects during a 10-year period.

Personal effects or furniture for a secondary residence (from countries outside the EU)

Documents Required

- Authorisation certificate from the Regional Customs Directorate of the secondary residence area, upon request in triplicate, together with detailed inventory in French, valued in EUR, dated and signed.
- Evidence of ownership or renting in France.
- Evidence of the normal residence abroad.
- Bill of transport and insurance of the removal goods.
- Passport copy.

Customs Prescriptions

- Approx. 10 % Duty and VAT 20% are due based on transportation plus inventory value).

Wedding trousseaux & gifts

Documents Required

- Marriage certificate (or family record book).
- A copy of the form (Cerfa N° 10070
- 03).
- Detailed valued inventory in duplicate, which must be dated and signed.

Customs Prescriptions

- Duty free entry for:
- Trousseaux and household effects including new items.
- Presents received by the person transferring residency:
- Customs duty free for items with a unit value less than 1000 EUR.

Remarks

- The required documents for the duty-free entry must be remitted within 2 months before and 4 months after the date of the marriage.
- Deposit of a guarantee may be required.
- Consult: <https://www.servicepublic.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F492/personnalisation/resultat?lang=&quest0=1&quest>

Inheritance

Documents Required

- Certificate from an official authority or a notary stating that the imported goods are obtained by inheritance and giving the inventory.
- Copy of heir/heiress 'passport.
- Death certificate of the deceased person.
- French residence certificate of the person who is receiving the effects.
- Detailed and valued inventory in duplicate, which must be dated and signed.
- Documents showing that the importer has his residence in France.
- A non-resale form signed by the importer.

Customs Prescriptions

- Duty free entry for inheritance goods.

Remarks

- The goods must be imported within two years of becoming the possession of the importer and must be transported under the heir/heiress' name.

Raw materials semi-finished products

Customs Prescriptions

- Subject to payment of duties.

Tobacco & related products

Customs Prescriptions

- Subject to payment of duties, limited.

Remarks

- Consult: <https://www.servicepublic.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F804>

Alcohol

Documents Required

- A separate inventory to the personal effects must be drawn up:
- Type of alcohol (wine, whisky, rum...)
- Value of each bottle
- Alcohol percentage and quantity per bottle (75cl, 1l, ...)

Customs Prescriptions

- Subject to payment of duties.
- In regard to importation of alcohol, diplomats are considered as 'private persons' and consequently subject to the same rules. Importation of alcohol is consequently subject to duties.

Remarks

- Fond de cave, no longer allowed (previously up to ten bottles).

Important cellar provisions

Customs Prescriptions

- Subject to payment of duties.

Medicine, narcotics

Documents Required

- Authorisation from the Ministry of Health

Arms, ammunition

Documents Required

- Import permit issued by Directorate General of Customs

Prohibited Items

Customs Prescriptions

- Military or paramilitary equipment, raw wood material, lithium batteries, live plants, dried Flowers, fresh fruits, electric scooter/bike/car
- , medicine with or without

Remarks

- Toys reproducing weapons are strongly discouraged (potential customs inspection)
- It is recommended not to pack food at all.
- Consult your local agent for more