

# ISRAEL

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

## Immigrants

### Documents Required

- Passport scan of consignee and spouse.
- English packing list, without values (from Origin agent (O/A)).
- Freight invoice.
- Power of Attorney authorizing destination agent (D/A) to clear shipment (provided by D/A).
- Declaration for customs (provided by D/A) showing values of all items, giving make, serial number and appliance manufacturer's name, whether old or new.
- Invoices for newly purchased items (less than 12 months old).
- Rental contract or other proof of residence in Israel for a 1-year minimum.
- New Immigrant Booklet "Teudat Oleh" of consignee and spouse.

### Customs Prescriptions

- New Immigrants are entitled to 3 tax free importations of household goods / personal effects within 3 years of arrival. To utilize this privilege, consignee must have a new immigrant booklet (Teudat Oleh).
- Duty free entry for all personal and household goods. Household items are usually goods used in a home.
- Electrical appliances: Tax free exemption applies to one of each household appliance plus 3 computers, 3 TVs and 2 vacuums per family.
- Communication equipment, sporting equipment may be subject to duties and taxes.

### Remarks

- Consignee can immigrate from country A and import from country B.
- Date of arrival is the date of first entry into Israel as marked in the "Teudat Oleh" booklet issued upon arrival.
- Number of duty-free shipments limited to three within 3 years of arrival.
- Lease contract for flat must be minimum of one year.
- Shipment of a car and professional tools are not counted as one of the three shipments allowed.
- Expiration of rights: goods must arrive at port of entry no later than 3 years from the date of arrival.
- No items brought for other people are allowed.

## Israeli Citizens who lived abroad less than 2 years

### Documents Required

- Clear scan of picture page of Israeli Passport.
- English packing list, without values (From O/A).
- Freight invoice.
- Power of Attorney authorizing destination agent to clear shipment (provided by D/A).

- Declaration for customs (provided by D/A) showing values of all items, giving make, serial number and appliance manufacturer's name, whether old or new

### Customs Prescriptions

- Israeli citizens who lived abroad for less than 2 years do not qualify for tax-exempt importation of personal effects/household goods. Shipment will be taxed based on declared value including VAT and Sales Tax in country of origin.
- If consignee did a formal export when leaving Israel (via a certified Freight Forwarder) and the Export Documents are found in that company's archives, all good on export packing list found on import
- packing list can be imported tax free. This is called a "returning import."

## Israelis who lived abroad more than 2 years

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### Documents Required

- English packing list, without values on it.
- Clear scan of picture page of Israeli Passport.
- Freight invoice.
- Confirmed "returning resident" status.
- Proof of Residence in Israel.
- Invoices for newly purchased items (less than 12 months old).
- Power of Attorney authorizing destination agent to clear shipment (provided by D/A).
- Declaration for customs (provided by D/A) showing values of all items, giving make, serial number and appliance manufacturer's name, whether old or new.

### Customs Prescriptions

- If consignee is Israeli citizen, who lived abroad more than 2 years and sum of visits did not exceed 120 days / year, he/she may be eligible for 'Returning Citizens' status.
- Consignee must obtain "returning resident" status via link on the internet when s/he is in Israel.
- Once Israeli Customs confirms "Returning Resident" status, consignee may import personal effects and household goods tax free, including 1 of each household appliances plus 3 computers, 3 TVs, 2 vacuums per family.
- Some items may not be exempted at all, including Alcohol, food, sports gear, Communication equipment (phones, fax machines etc.).

### Remarks

- Expiration of rights: goods must arrive at port of entry no later than 9 months from date of arrival.

## Religious individual (A-3 status) (Minister, Priest, Theological Student)

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### Documents Required

- Same procedure as persons entering under B-1 status including:
- Status (A-3) stamped in passport by Customs authorities
- Letter from place of service
- Bank guarantee or deposit.

### Remarks

- A-3 visa needs to pay a deposit or a bank guarantee, which will be released or paid back once he leaves Israel and sends the household goods back.

## Tourists (B-2)

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### Customs Prescriptions

- No duty-free rights. All goods imported are subject to Customs duty.

## Foreign Workers (B-1 Visa) Work Visa

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### Documents Required

- English Packing List, without values.
- Freight invoice.
- Original Passport, already stamped with B-1 Visa.
- Israeli Customs Forms & Power of Attorney (filled in Israel).
- Letter from employer, confirming that client will be working for him in Israel.
- Document required for clearance from consignee's EMPLOYER in Israel.
- ORIGINAL Bank Guarantee documents, signed by issuing bank.

### Customs Prescriptions

- Unlike most countries in the world, where Work Permit/Visa entitles consignee to import his personal effects tax-free, in Israel the procedure is different. The options are either to pay duties (non-refundable) or
- provide a bank guarantee – see below.
- Consignee's employer will have to provide a bank guarantee in the amount of duties levied by Israeli Customs, to clear the shipment in lieu of paying taxes. This guarantee will have to be renewed every year and can be revoked only when goods are exported out of Israel.

### Remarks

- The guarantee covers Israeli Customs duties and taxes only and does not cover other port related charges like NVOCC handling charges, cargo terminal charges and wharfage fee.

## Diplomats

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### Documents Required

- English Packing List, without values.
- Clear scan of passport.
- Clear scan of diplomat's ID card.
- Power of Attorney from Embassy (one time per Embassy).

### Customs Prescriptions

- Diplomats are entitled to tax-free importation of personal effects, once a tax exemption franchise is obtained by the body (e.g., embassy, consulate or organization) in which the diplomat serves.

### Remarks

- The exemption covers Israeli Customs duties and taxes only and does not cover port related charges like NVOCC handling charges, cargo terminal charges and wharfage fee.
- There are restrictions on importing alcohol for diplomats however will be released with tax exemption. We recommend consulting with your local destination agent (D/A) prior to shipping.

## Inheritances

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### Customs Prescriptions

- No special privileges. Taxes and duties will be charged.

## Tools for professional purposes

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### Documents Required

- Valued packing list.

### Customs Prescriptions

- If consignee is new immigrant or “returning resident”, s/he will have to leave a bank guarantee in lieu of paying taxes for equipment valued up to \$36,000. Within 6 months will have to present to Customs proof of opening a business using this equipment. Customs will then refund the bank guarantee.

### Remarks

- Importer must prove they are essential to his profession.

## Liquors, cigarettes

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### Customs Prescriptions

- Subject to payment of full duties and taxes.

### Remarks

- Up to 120 bottles of any combination of wine, beer, liquor may be imported but will always be highly taxed. Diplomatic
- shipments are exempt. It is recommended consulting with your local destination agent (D/A) prior to shipping.

## Motorcars, other motor vehicles, caravans, trailers

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### Documents Required

- Document proving registration in importer's name.
- Picture of data tag on driver's door post
- Purchase invoice.
- Valid driver's license.
- Proof of payment.
- Carfax (US, Canada).
- COC (Europe).
- Certificate of Origin

### Customs Prescriptions

- New immigrants:
- Will pay taxes of ~ 77% of value of car plus shipping.
- Car must arrive at POE within 3 years from consignee's date of arrival.
- “Returning residents” can import car up to 46.5 months from date of manufacture.
- Others can import a car up to 22.5 months from date of manufacture.
- Tax rates range from 114% to 129% of current depreciated value + cost of ocean freight, insurance (CIF)
- Only one car can be imported.
- Import permit is required before shipping.

### Remarks

- Vehicle importing is potentially complicated and should be coordinated with DA before shipping to confirm if it is possible to import.

- All cars should comply with the European, North American code of standards.
- Shipper should check with D/A by faxing registration details of car.

## **Firearms, ammunitions, explosives, dangerous chemicals, drugs Electric bikes, hoverboards, any type of motorized scooter**

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### **Customs Prescriptions**

- Prohibited.
- E-bikes are not considered normal household goods. All local guidance from relocation and customs specialists in Israel (including FIDI members) clearly instructs not to include e-bikes, scooters, hoverboards, or similar motorized items in HHE shipments.

### **Remarks**

- Firearms: special authorisation has to be applied for to Ministry of Interior prior to shipping.
- E-bikes: Removing the battery does not change the customs classification. Customs determines the HS code based on the nature of the product itself. Even without the battery, the item classifies as an electric vehicle—not a standard bicycle. Import is possible only through a vehicle type regulatory process. This requires Ministry of Transport compliance (including standards certification), which is long, technical, and expensive.