Country Guide (IAM)

Czech Republic (Czechia)

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

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Documents

Documents required for importing used household goods, personal effects, and related shipments.

Intra-EU moves

No customs formalities are required for household goods moving between EU member states. Goods retain their Union status and move freely. No T2L or customs declaration is needed for intra-EU moves by road (the Czech Republic is landlocked with no seaports).

From non-EU countries (transfer of normal residence)

- Copy of passport photo page
- Copy of visa (for non-EU citizens)
- Inventory list
- Pro forma invoice
- Packing list
- Original bill of lading (OBL) or air waybill (AWB)
- Proof of residence in origin country: at least 2 documents as evidence the shipper has lived outside the EU for at least 12 months (rental contract, company statement, bank statements, health insurance documents, utility bills)
- Proof of residence in Czech Republic: EU residence permit, Czech ID card, employment contract, or rental/ownership contract for residence in the Czech Republic
- Copy of lease agreement or proof of accommodation in the Czech Republic
- Letter of employment (if applicable)
- Request for duty and tax-free importation (original format required)
- Power of attorney (if the shipper is not present at customs clearance)
- Customs import declaration provided by the local embassy (diplomats)

Specific Information

Intra-EU moves: No customs procedures. Goods moving from another EU member state to the Czech Republic are not subject to import duty, VAT, or inspection. The Czech Republic joined the EU on May 1, 2004 and the Schengen Area on December 21, 2007.

Digital customs portal (2026 update): Czechia launched a fully digital immigration and customs portal in early 2026. Move managers should ensure inventory and declarations are uploaded correctly to this system to prevent border delays.

ISPM 15: As an EU member state, the Czech Republic requires all solid wood packing materials from non-EU origins to comply with ISPM 15, bearing the IPPC mark with registration and treatment codes.

Currency: Czech koruna (CZK). The Czech Republic has not adopted the euro. Cash amounts of EUR 10,000 or equivalent must be declared when entering or leaving the EU.

Landlocked country: The Czech Republic has no seaport. Sea freight shipments arrive via ports in Germany (Hamburg, Bremerhaven), Poland (Gdynia), or the Netherlands (Rotterdam) and are transported by road or rail to the Czech Republic. This affects transit times and may involve customs clearance at the EU port of entry.

Duties & Taxes

Duty-free conditions (non-EU origin): Personal effects and household goods may be imported free of customs duty and VAT provided the shipper has lived outside the EU continuously for more than 12 months, the goods were in use by the shipper for at least 6 months before departure from the country of prior residence, and the goods are intended for personal use only (not commercial). This relief is granted under EU Council Regulation (EC) No 1186/2009.

New items (non-EU origin): Items owned and used for less than 6 months are considered new and are subject to customs duty and VAT (currently 21%). New items must be declared separately.

VAT rate: The standard Czech VAT rate is 21%.

Prohibited & Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Narcotics and controlled drugs — strictly prohibited
- Meat and dairy products from non-EU countries (with limited exceptions for Andorra, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, and small amounts of specific products from other countries)
- Products from protected species (CITES, Washington Convention), including ivory, tortoise shell, coral, reptile skin, and wood from Amazonian forests CITES
- Counterfeit goods
- Items that pose a risk to public health, safety, or the environment (per EU regulations)

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Traveler Allowances (from non-EU countries)

Alcohol (over 17 years, by air or sea):

- 1 litre of spirits exceeding 22% volume, or 2 litres of alcohol not exceeding 22% volume
- 4 litres of still wine
- 16 litres of beer
- Combinations permitted provided total does not exceed 100%

Alcohol (over 17 years, by land): Reduced quantities apply; the VisaHQ and Czech customs sources list frontier-zone rules at 0.5 litre of spirits over 22%.

Tobacco (over 17 years, by air or sea):

- 200 cigarettes, or 100 cigarillos, or 50 cigars, or 250g smoking tobacco

Tobacco (over 17 years, by land):

- 40 cigarettes, or 20 cigarillos, or 10 cigars, or 50g smoking tobacco

Other goods:

- Personal items of non-commercial nature up to EUR 430 (air/sea) or EUR 300 (land)
- Travelers under 15: up to EUR 150 (per Czech Customs Administration, may be EUR 200 per some sources; confirm with customs)
- Medication for personal use only
- No restrictions on amounts moving between EU countries for personal use, except cash amounts of EUR 10,000+ must be declared

Restricted Items

- Coats, furs, leather shoes made of animal products from protected species — authorization required PERMIT REQUIRED

- Medication — personal use quantities only; prescription drugs in quantities corresponding to personal need
- Firearms and ammunition — permit from Czech police required; persons permanently residing outside the Czech Republic may import up to 1,000 hunting shot cartridges and 50 bullets with a permit from the Czech Embassy or Consulate PERMIT REQUIRED
- Food products — may be permitted if in original sealed containers; check with destination agent
- Live farm animals, plants, produce, coffee, and tea — may not be imported without permits; household pets are an exception with proper documentation
- Cultural property — export from the Czech Republic requires a permit from the Ministry of Culture

Intra-EU Moves

No customs duties apply to goods moving within the EU. However, excise goods (alcohol, tobacco) may be subject to limits if quantities suggest commercial intent.

Consignment Instructions

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

Landlocked logistics: All sea freight must transit through EU ports (typically Hamburg, Bremerhaven, Gdynia, or Rotterdam) and be transported overland. This adds transit time and potentially requires coordination between the port agent and the Czech destination agent. Customs clearance for non-EU goods typically occurs at the port of entry into the EU, though it can be deferred to the Czech Republic using a transit procedure.

Power of attorney: If the shipper cannot be present at customs clearance, a notarized power of attorney must be provided. The destination agent can typically handle customs formalities on behalf of the shipper with this document.

Language: Czech customs documentation is in Czech. All foreign-language documents may require official translation. The destination agent will handle translations as part of their service.

Import timeline: Goods should be imported in conjunction with the shipper's transfer of residence. The 12-month prior residency abroad must be continuous.

Vehicle clearance at Limassol: N/A (Czech Republic is landlocked). Vehicle clearance occurs at the customs office or at the destination agent's facility.

Unpredictable expenses: STK inspection fees (CZK 3,000-5,000), registration fees (CZK 800+), emission surcharges for older vehicles, customs brokerage fees, and storage charges at transit ports.