

Iraq

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.

Updated 2026-09-05

Documents

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

Required Documents

- Copy of passport
- Copy of bill of lading (OBL) or air waybill (AWB)
- Packing list
- Pro-forma invoice
- Authorization letter from the owner (required for shipments to Erbil)

Specific Information

Erbil shipments: An authorization letter from the owner is required for shipments destined for Erbil. Customs procedures in the Kurdistan Region may differ from those in Baghdad and southern Iraq.

Customs interpretation varies by city: This is a critical operational point. Customs regulations may be interpreted and enforced differently between cities. Contact the destination agent for the specific destination city before importing.

All goods subject to customs inspection.

ISPM 15: Wood packaging materials should comply with ISPM 15 standards.

Duties & Taxes

Duties and taxes: Returning Iraqi citizens must pay duties and taxes of approximately 8 to 10% of the declared customs value based on the pro-forma invoice. This applies to household goods; Iraq does not offer a general duty-free transfer-of-residence exemption for its own nationals.

Diplomatic exemption: Diplomats can receive a diplomatic exemption from duties and taxes if their country has an embassy in Iraq.

Prohibited & Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Weapons (without authorization) PERMIT REQUIRED
- Illegal drugs and narcotics
- Pornographic materials
- Tactical gear
- Products of taxidermy (stuffed animals)
- Israeli currency
- Nuclear material (except for legitimate industry or medical purposes)

- Meat and milk products (per VisaHQ)
- Artifacts of important religious or historical importance
- Antique carpets
- Magazines, films, and other material against the public interest
- Counterfeit goods

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Personal duty-free allowances (per VisaHQ):

- 200 cigarettes, or 50 cigars, or 250 grams of tobacco
- Up to 1 litre of wine or spirits
- 500 ml of perfume (in two small opened bottles)
- All local and foreign currency must be declared on arrival

Alcohol in household goods: Only diplomats may import alcohol. Non-diplomatic alcohol imports are restricted.

Tobacco in household goods: Only diplomats may import tobacco (limited to 1 carton).

Other restricted items:

- Firearms and ammunition (authorization required) PERMIT REQUIRED
- Material used in the creation of explosives, including fertilizers (license from Ministry of Trade required) PERMIT REQUIRED
- Plants and plant products (permission from Ministry of Trade required)
- Fowl and poultry products from countries with bird flu outbreaks (permission required)
- Dogs, cats, and other pets (must be cleared by the veterinary department with proper documentation)

Special Categories

Common Mistakes

- Assuming pets can or cannot be imported to Erbil without confirming with the destination agent (conflicting information between sources)
- Not obtaining the Ministry of Agriculture import permit before travel
- Not administering parasite treatments before departure (required, not optional)

Discrepancies

- Pets in Erbil: The IAM guide (2016) states "Pets cannot be imported to Erbil." PetTravel (2026) states "Erbil International Airport is the preferred port of entry for personally owned dogs and cats." This is a direct contradiction. The most likely explanation is that the restriction was lifted between 2016 and 2026, or that it applied to a specific category of import. This must be confirmed with the destination agent before any pet shipment is arranged.
- Rabies vaccination validity: PetTravel states "between 30 days and 11 months." Most other countries use a 12-month window. The 11-month figure may reflect an Iraqi-specific requirement or a conservative estimate. Confirm with the destination agent.
- Alcohol for travelers vs. shipments: VisaHQ lists 1 litre of wine or spirits as a personal duty-free allowance for travelers. The IAM guide restricts alcohol imports in household goods to diplomats only. These are consistent: the personal traveler allowance applies to accompanied luggage, not household goods shipments.

Unverified Items

- The 8-10% duty rate (from the 2016 IAM guide) could not be verified against a current Iraqi government source because the customs website is unreliable. This rate should be confirmed with the destination agent.
- The 2-year vehicle age limit for non-armored vehicles (from the 2016 IAM guide) could not be independently verified and may have changed.
- Whether the Erbil pet import restriction has been formally lifted could not be confirmed

through official sources.

- The VisaHQ note about mandatory AIDS testing for all travelers entering Iraq could not be independently verified and may reflect outdated information. Confirm with the Iraqi embassy.

Consignment Instructions

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

Regional differences: Iraq effectively operates two customs regimes: federal Iraq (Baghdad and southern/central governorates) and the Kurdistan Region (Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Duhok).

Procedures, enforcement intensity, and documentation requirements may differ between these areas. The destination agent must be consulted for the specific destination city.

Pro-forma invoice: Required for all shipments. The declared customs value on the pro-forma invoice is the basis for duty and tax calculations (8-10%).

Security considerations: Iraq's security environment affects logistics, delivery timelines, and costs. Armed escorts may be required for certain routes. The destination agent should advise on current security requirements for the specific delivery location.

Ports of entry: Sea cargo typically arrives at Umm Qasr port (near Basra). Air cargo clears through Baghdad International Airport or Erbil International Airport. Land shipments may enter through border crossings with Jordan, Turkey, or Kuwait depending on the destination.

Alcohol and tobacco: Non-diplomatic shipments must not contain alcohol or tobacco.