

North Macedonia

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.

For Non-Diplomatic Moves

- Copy of passport
- North Macedonian ID card (temporary ID acceptable)
- Pro-forma invoice
- Request for temporary import issued by the employer in North Macedonia (for Customs)
- Letter of employment (must show duration of stay)
- Detailed packing list
- Original OBL, CMR (Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road), or AWB
- Lease agreement including address of temporary residence
- Customs export declaration from the previous export (returning residents only)

For Diplomatic Moves

- Import protocol from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Diplomatic ID card

Specific Information

Duty and Tax Calculation for Non-Diplomatic Moves:

Ministry of Environment Import Permit for Electronics: An import permit from the Ministry of Environment is required for certain electronic items including televisions, DVD players, and refrigerators.

Food and Pharmaceuticals: Food items, drinks, and pharmaceuticals generate Customs inspections and require an import permit. It is strongly advised that non-diplomatic clients do not include these items in household goods shipments. If food items must be shipped, they must be sent separately from the household goods and personal effects consignment.

ISPM 15: All wooden packing materials must comply with ISPM 15 phytosanitary treatment standards.

Step 1: Declared value of goods + cost of transport = base value
Step 2: Base value × 25% = import duties
Step 3: (Base value + import duties) × 18% = VAT
Step 4: Import duties + VAT = total customs charges

Prohibited & Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Weapons, explosives, and ammunition (without authorization)
- Pornographic materials

- Counterfeit goods
- Used tires
- Food items in unaccompanied household goods shipments (must be shipped separately with permits, or not at all for non-diplomats)
- Alcohol exceeding 1 liter for non-diplomatic shipments
- Cigarettes, cigars, and cigarillos for non-diplomatic unaccompanied shipments

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Alcohol (personal traveler allowances):

- Distilled beverages over 22% ABV: 1 liter
- Distilled beverages at or under 22% ABV: 2 liters
- Wine: 2 liters

Perfume: 50 ml.

Food and drink generally: Full duties and taxes apply. Percentages depend on the type of food or drink. Import permits are required for all food and drink in unaccompanied shipments — it is strongly advised to exclude these items from household goods consignments.

Animal-based food products (cheese, dairy, etc.): Permission required. [PERMIT REQUIRED]

Plants and plant products: Permission required. [PERMIT REQUIRED]

Animals and animal products: Permission required. [PERMIT REQUIRED]

Consignment Instructions

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

No Food, Alcohol, or Tobacco in Non-Diplomatic Shipments. The inclusion of food, alcohol, tobacco, or pharmaceutical products in a household goods shipment will trigger mandatory Customs inspection and require import permits that are difficult to obtain for non-diplomatic importers. Advise clients to leave these items behind or consume/dispose of them before the move.

Electronics Permit. Confirm with the destination agent whether the Ministry of Environment import permit for electronics (TVs, refrigerators, air conditioning, DVD players, laptops, printers) is still required and how to obtain it. This is an unusual requirement not seen in most neighboring countries and the process should be confirmed before packing.

Duty Calculation. Advise clients of the duty structure for non-diplomatic moves — 25% import duty on declared value plus transport, then 18% VAT on the combined total — so costs are understood before shipment.

Vehicle Age and Emissions. Vehicles over 10 years old cannot be imported. All vehicles must meet EUR 3 emissions standards. Confirm the vehicle's year and emissions certificate before booking any vehicle shipment.

Pet — 6-Month Lead Time from High-Rabies Countries. For clients from countries not classified as rabies-controlled by the EU, the titer test must be completed at least 3 months before travel, which itself must come at least 30 days after a post-microchip rabies vaccination. Plan a minimum of 4 to 6 months ahead.

Road Shipments. North Macedonia is well-served by road from neighboring Balkan countries. CMR documentation applies to road shipments as an alternative to OBL.