

Oman

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.

Required Documents

- Copy of passport including the page showing the Oman visa stamp
- Copy of Oman residence visa and Residence Card (front and back), issued by the Royal Oman Police
- Original Bill of Lading (OBL), or copy of B/L in the case of an Express Release or Sea Waybill; Air Waybill (AWB) for air shipments
- Fully detailed inventory in English (Customs does not accept "PBO" or similar generic entries -- all items must be individually described)
- Authorization letter from the consignee authorizing the destination agent to clear the shipment
- Client's Oman mobile number (required for BAYAN e-clearance system registration)
- Duty Exemption Certificate issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (diplomatic shipments only)

Specific Information

Approximate customs clearance times:

A valid Oman residence visa is required for customs clearance. The consignee must be registered in the BAYAN e-customs system before the shipment arrives. This can be done by the consignee personally if present in Oman, or by the local destination agent through the Directorate General of Customs. The destination agent can provide full details and assist with registration.

Used household goods are duty-free if the items have been owned and used for a minimum of 6 months. New items within a shipment are subject to a 5% customs duty. All personal effects shipments are subject to 100% physical inspection by customs authorities.

Multiple shipments may be imported at any time; there is no restriction on the number of entries.

All wood crating, packing cases, and lift vans must be heat treated and bear a clearly visible ISPM 15 stamp. Wood packaging with timber thickness exceeding 6 mm that is not treated and stamped will not be admitted, and non-compliance can result in fines and penalties.

A small quantity of dry foodstuff may be included as part of removal goods, provided items are in original sealed packaging with expiry dates clearly visible and the expiry date is well beyond the arrival date. Perishable foodstuff is prohibited.

Books, films, audio/video materials, CDs, records, computer software, and similar media are detained by customs on arrival for censorship screening by the Ministry of Information. This process takes approximately 3 weeks. If material is found unsuitable, it will be destroyed and the consignee may be fined. Items should be packed separately and near the container doors

for easy access. Any detained prohibited articles may be destroyed without the consignee's consent.

Sea FCL: 6-7 business days; Sea LCL: 7-9 business days; Air: 4-5 business days.

During Ramadan: Sea FCL: 8-9 business days; Sea LCL: 10-12 business days; Air: 5-6 working days.

Customs and port authorities allow 7 days free storage for FCL shipments (some shipping lines such as Maersk allow only 5 days), 15 days for LCL, and 3 days for air shipments. Storage charges apply after these periods.

Fridays and Saturdays are non-working days for Customs.

Prohibited & Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Alcoholic beverages (wine, spirits, beer, and any similar product). Strictly prohibited for all non-diplomatic shipments; if found, heavy duties and penalties apply and the shipment may be detained pending refusal of release. Diplomatic shipments may import alcohol only with prior written permission from the relevant Ministry and must be handled directly by the embassy.
- Narcotics and drugs (medicines in reasonable personal quantities are permitted with inspection)
- Pornographic literature, videos, films, pictures, and any nude imagery of any kind
- Products of Israeli origin
- Political or religious literature, statues, or imagery deemed offensive to the Omani government or the Islamic faith (requires prior approval from the Ministry of Information for restricted items)
- Explosives, firearms, ammunition, knives, swords, daggers, spears, and similar weapons, including toy guns and decorative items of this nature (subject to confiscation without exception)
- Military uniforms and equipment (prohibited unless prior approval is received from the Ministry of Defence)
- Wireless and communications equipment including walkie-talkie systems, remote or cordless telephones, and telescopes [PERMIT REQUIRED]
- Drones and remotely piloted aircraft
- E-cigarettes and vaping devices
- Perishable foodstuff
- Objects made of ivory or any endangered species [CITES]
- Aircraft and helicopters (without prior authorization)
- Pets younger than 4 months old

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Oman is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The standard GCC external tariff is 5% on most goods. Alcohol is prohibited for all non-diplomatic shipments. There is no intra-GCC free movement equivalent for household goods import purposes; all shipments are subject to Omani customs processing.

Books, DVDs, videos, CDs, and digital media: All such items are subject to censorship clearance by the Ministry of Information upon arrival. Clearance takes approximately 3-4 weeks and may incur additional charges. Items deemed unsuitable may be confiscated and destroyed.

Medicines and prescription drugs: Permitted in reasonable quantities for personal use but subject to inspection and possible analysis. Quantities beyond personal use require prior authorization from the Ministry of Health.

Dry foodstuffs: Small quantities permitted as part of removal goods in original sealed packaging with a clearly visible, future-dated expiry. Perishable foodstuff is prohibited entirely.

Consignment Instructions

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

All shipments must pass through the BAYAN e-customs system. The consignee must be registered in BAYAN before the shipment arrives; the destination agent can assist with this process. Inventories must be fully detailed in English; generic entries such as "PBO" (packed by owner) are not accepted by Oman Customs and will delay clearance.

Load media items (books, CDs, DVDs, videos) and any restricted items near the container doors to facilitate customs access and censorship screening.

Do not include alcohol in any shipment. Even trace quantities will trigger penalties, detention, and potential refusal of the entire consignment.

Allow for extended clearance times during Ramadan (see Section 1 for specific timeframes). Free storage periods at the port are relatively short; coordinate arrival timing with the destination agent to avoid demurrage.

Insurance for vehicles must be arranged at least 24 hours before the vessel arrives in Muscat. The destination agent should be informed well in advance to coordinate.

For diplomatic shipments, a Duty Exemption Certificate from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is required and must be arranged before shipping.