

Slovakia

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 All Importers (Transfer of Residence from outside EU)

- Detailed and valued inventory list in Slovak and English, dated and signed by the owner of the goods; must include brand names and serial numbers of all electronic items
- Copy of passport
- Customs declaration (power of attorney for the customs agent to act on behalf of the owner)
- Sworn statement (*čestné vyhlásenie*)
- Original bill of lading (OBL), sea waybill (SWB), air waybill (AWB), or CMR (road consignment note)
- Slovak residence permit or residence application (if permit not yet issued), or bank guarantee / cash deposit
- Letter of employment on company letterhead, including the owner's date of birth and passport number; must include a statement that the employer will pay any applicable duties or taxes (for employees); for owners of private companies or self-employed persons, the company must be registered in Slovakia
- Lease agreement -- notarized original plus one notarized copy
- Confirmation letter proving the owner worked or resided outside the EU for more than 12 months (for returning Slovak citizens and qualifying non-EU transferees)

For Intra-EU Moves (Moving from another EU Member State)

- Detailed and valued inventory in Slovak and English
- Copy of passport or EU national ID
- Proof of residence in Slovakia (lease agreement, employment contract, or residence registration)
- Power of attorney for the customs agent (though customs formalities are minimal within the EU)

For Diplomats

- Accreditation card from the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or written confirmation of accreditation from the embassy
- Standard documentation as above

For Returning Slovak Citizens

- Slovak national ID card (*občiansky preukaz*)
- Confirmation letter proving the owner worked or resided outside the EU for more than 12 months

Specific Information

Slovakia applies the EU Transfer of Residence (ToR) relief framework for imports from outside the EU. Household goods and personal effects may be imported duty-free and VAT-free from non-EU countries if all of the following conditions are met:

- The goods must have been used for a minimum of 6 months prior to import.
- The goods may not be sold and must be used solely for the owner's personal purposes for 12 months after import (the restriction period stated by the customs office).
- The owner must have lived outside the EU for more than 12 months prior to entry into Slovakia.
- The shipment must be imported within 6 months of the owner's arrival date in Slovakia.

For intra-EU moves (from one EU member state to another), there are no customs duties or VAT. Goods move freely within the EU single market. Normal Slovak VAT (23%) may apply to new goods purchased in lower-VAT EU countries only in certain commercial contexts; for personal household effects this is generally not an issue.

The letter of employment must explicitly state that the employer accepts responsibility for any applicable duties or taxes. This is a Slovak-specific requirement not commonly found in other EU countries.

The lease agreement must be a notarized original; a standard copy or scan is not sufficient. This document confirms the owner's intended place of residence in Slovakia.

All solid wood packing materials must comply with ISPM 15 phytosanitary treatment standards.

Prohibited & Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

The following items are prohibited from import into Slovakia:

- Illegal drugs and narcotics
- Commercial vehicles (within household goods shipments -- cannot be imported duty-free under ToR)
- Endangered species and their products as listed under the Washington Convention (CITES) -- including ivory, tortoise shells, coral, and reptile skins [CITES]
- Counterfeit goods and intellectual property infringement
- Weapons and firearms without authorization [PERMIT REQUIRED]
- Pornographic material involving minors
- Goods subject to EU sanctions (currently includes many categories of goods of Russian and Belarusian origin)

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Intra-EU travel (no customs limits -- goods must be for personal use):

There are no legal quantity limits for goods moved within the EU, provided they are for personal use or as gifts and duty and tax have been paid in the EU country of purchase. Customs authorities may investigate shipments exceeding the following indicative quantities: cigarettes (800), cigarillos (400, up to 3g each), cigars (200), smoking tobacco (1 kg), spirits over 22% (10 L), fortified/sparkling wine (20 L), beer (110 L), still wine (90 L, of which no more than 60 L sparkling).

Arrivals from outside the EU (duty-free allowances for accompanied baggage, persons 17 and over):

By air or sea: cigarettes (200), cigarillos (100), cigars (50), or smoking tobacco (250 g); spirits over 22% (1 L) or fortified/sparkling wine (2 L); still wine (4 L); beer (16 L). By road or rail: cigarettes (200), cigarillos (100), cigars (50), or smoking tobacco (250 g); spirits (1 L) or wine (2 L).

Currency: Amounts of EUR 10,000 or more (or equivalent in other currencies) entering or leaving the EU must be declared at customs.

Cultural artifacts and objects of historical value: Subject to licensing requirements and applicable customs duties. Check with the destination agent for items with potential cultural

significance.

Plants and plant products: Subject to phytosanitary controls. A phytosanitary certificate from the country of origin may be required for imports from outside the EU.

Firearms and ammunition: Require prior authorization. [PERMIT REQUIRED]

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.

Slovakia is a landlocked Central European country. Most household goods shipments arrive by road (CMR) from other European countries, or by sea via Hamburg, Bremerhaven, or Rotterdam with onward trucking. Air freight is handled at Bratislava's Milan Rastislav Štefánik Airport (BTS) or Vienna International Airport (VIE), which is approximately 60 km from central Bratislava and frequently used for Slovakia.

The inventory must be in both Slovak and English, with serial numbers for all electronics. Non-Slovak inventories will be rejected or cause delays. Members should ensure inventories are prepared and translated in advance.

The power of attorney (customs declaration authorization) must be prepared by the destination agent and signed by the client before the shipment can be cleared. The destination agent should provide the correct form and instructions in advance of shipment.

For moves from outside the EU, the 6-month window from the owner's first arrival date in Slovakia is strictly enforced for the ToR duty-free exemption. If the shipment cannot arrive within this window, the client may be liable for customs duties and 23% VAT on the full CIF value.

The lease agreement must be a notarized original -- standard copies are not accepted. Clients should arrange notarization before departure if their lease is signed in Slovakia.