

Netherlands Country Guide - IAM

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Used Household Goods and Personal Effects

Documents Required

- Copy of passport
- Letter of employment
- Work permit
- Lease / purchase contract (new and previous residences)
- Detailed inventory (2 copies)
- Bewijs van aanmelding
- Aangifte – Douane 39 form (diplomats)
- Completed Netherlands application

Specific Information

- The “Bewijs van aanmelding” is the certificate from the population register of the municipality showing owner of the goods’ intent to reside in the Netherlands
- The Netherlands application is a required form that must be filled out to be able to move to the Netherlands
- All fumigated containers arriving in the port of Rotterdam or Antwerp with an excessive concentration of gas will be removed from the logistic transport chain.
 - Delays may take several months before the container is released.
 - High costs may be incurred due to any delays.

- The following conditions must apply for the duty-free import of the household effects shipment:
 - The permanent residence of the owner of the goods must be the Netherlands or another European Union member country.
 - The previous permanent residence of the owner of the goods situated outside of the European Union for at least 12 months.
 - All goods have been used as part of the normal household of the owner of the goods and will be used for the same purpose.
 - All goods have been in the owner of the goods' possession for at least 6 months and have been used during that time.
 - The goods will be imported into the Netherlands within 12 months after registration.
 - The goods will not be sold, rented off or given away within 12 months after registration in the Netherlands.
- Owners of the goods must apply to Customs for the exemption in the import declaration.
 - The following documents are required:
 - A signed inventory listing all of the personal goods in the shipment.
 - The certificate of registration in the personal records database of the municipality in the Netherlands.
 - Must certify that the date on which the owner of the goods has established in the Netherlands or another country within the European Union.
 - Owner of the goods can also send comparable documentary evidence demonstrating that this is the case.
 - Employment contract
 - Employer statement
 - Work permit
 - Rental contract or mortgage certificate for new place of residence

Motor Vehicles

Documents Required

- Certificate of title / registration
- Purchase invoice or other proof of ownership
- Original bill of lading

Specific Information

- Consideration for an application for free entry of motor vehicles is 4 to 6 weeks
- A separate application for any tax exemption must be completed if not imported with the household effects shipment.
- A technical inspection as well as registration is required at the RDW after Customs clearance.

Pets

Documents Required

- Vaccination record
- Veterinary health certificate

Specific Information

- The veterinary health certificate must be signed by an authorized veterinarian within 8 days of import.
- The vaccination record must be signed at least 31 days prior to departure but not longer than 12 months prior to import.

Restricted/Dutiable Items

- Hunting and shooting firearms require a permit issued by the Dutch authorities
- Alcohol / Cigarettes / Tobacco:
 - The following restrictions apply to the import of these items:
 - Only persons 17 years or older may import these items.
 - The items cannot be contained as part of the household effects shipment and must be imported as travel baggage.
 - Spirits (1 L), sparkling wine (2 L), liquor wines like sherry, and port (2 L) or a proportional mix of these items
 - Non-sparkling wines (4 L) and beer (16 L)
 - Cigarettes (200), tobacco (250 g), cigarillos (100), cigars (50)
- Medicines:
 - To import medicines, a manufacturing license issued by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport is required.
 - Medications must be for personal use.
 - Owners of the goods should request a medical passport from a general practitioner to verify the personal use of the medication.
- Plants / flowers / fruits / vegetables:
 - These items require a phytosanitary certificate from the country of origin declaring the items healthy and free from diseases.
 - If a phytosanitary certificate is unavailable, Customs will confiscate the items.
- Animal Products / Food Items:
 - A health certificate is required for the import of these items, including but not limited to, cheese, milk, eggs, meat, meat products, animal skins, and hunting trophies.
 - The health certificate must be issued by the authorities of the origin country at the time the goods are imported.
 - All animal products and food items are subject to veterinary examination upon arrival.

- Goods of animal origin, including food items, are subject to special requirements.
 - Contact the destination for specific information and exceptions.
- Powdered milk, baby food, and special food items for medical purposes may be imported provided the following requirements are met:
 - The products do not need to be chilled prior to consumption.
 - The products are packaged products of a registered trademark.
 - The packaging should be unopened and undamaged.
- An exemption from the required health certificate applies to products in which an animal ingredient is no longer identifiable (e.g., chocolate, etc.).
- Contact the Dutch Embassy in the origin country if you need assistance.

Prohibited Items

- Weapons (toy and imitation) and ammunition (strike, thrust or stabbing weapons; gas pistols, alarm pistols, pepper sprays, etc.)

Consignment Instructions

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

Helpful Website(s):

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/netherlands.html>

<https://www.netherlandsandyou.nl/your-country-and-the-netherlands/united-states>

Cultural and Other Information

[CIA World Factbook Entry for Netherlands](#)

[Wikipedia Entry for Netherlands](#)