

Latvia Country Guide

Country Guide: Latvia

Due to the current coronavirus/COVID-19 situation and restrictions in various countries, the below information may not be accurate. This pandemic is a fluid situation. Check with authorities for local laws and restrictions concerning movements.

Updated: January 24, 2017

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Used Household Goods and Personal Effects

Documents Required

- Copy of passport
- Diplomatic franchise (diplomats)
- Detailed inventory in English
- Pro-forma invoice with values
- Formal letter to Customs with detailed information about reasons of moving into
- Latvia (the first time or return, temporary move or permanent, etc.)
- Letter of employment (foreigners)

Copy of employment contract (foreigners)

- Rental agreement (foreigners) / proof of real estate ownership (returning citizens or EU citizens from outside the EU)
- Proof of living abroad from origin shipping country of European Union (EU) for a period of at least 12 months) (returning citizens, EU citizens from outside the EU)

Specific Information

- The shipment must arrive within 12 months of the owner of the goods' arrival.
- Diplomats may import household shipments duty free.
- Returning citizens may import household shipments duty free if having lived abroad for at least 12 months.
- Returning citizens must present a letter issued by the Repatriation Centre of Latvian Citizenship and Migration Affairs of their status and may import household shipments duty free.
- If the owner of the goods is not a resident of Latvia, they must have a residence and work permit before arriving to Latvia.
 If these documents are not present at the time of Customs clearance, the shipment will be delayed.
- For shipments entering by roadway, Customs must be notified and receive documents at least 1 hour prior to shipment arrival.

Motor Vehicles

Documents Required

- Technical passport
- Proof of ownership for a period of at least 6 months

Specific Information

- Motor vehicles must be registered in the owner of the goods' name.
- Motor vehicles may enter duty free only if owned and operated for a minimum of 6 months and the vehicle meets European requirements.
- The vehicle must have a valid license plate and third party liability (TPL) insurance policy valid within the entire territory of the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland.

Pets

Documents Required

- Rabies vaccination certificate valid for 12 months (dogs)
- Original international vaccination book
- Certificate of origin
- Veterinary health certificate in English or Latvian

Specific Information

The veterinary health certificate must be issued by a licensed veterinarian within 10 days of import.

Antiques, Artifacts, Carpets, Paintings

Antiques and artwork:

- All antiques and artwork must be declared.
- Two photographs for each item need to accompany documentation.
- Contact the destination agent for specific information.

Restricted/Dutiable Items

- **Weapons:**
 - For the import of personal arms, hunting weapons, gas pistols (revolvers) and munitions, the owner of the goods must apply for a license at the Home Affairs Ministry Police Department.
 - The license must be obtained prior to import as a valid firearms license from abroad must be presented upon entry.
- **Medications:**
 - The owner of the goods can import all medicines as long as the owner of the goods can provide proof that they are for personal use only.

- It is recommended to attach a doctor's prescription to prove the necessity. Drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as equipment for the use of them, cannot be imported.
- **Alcohol:**
 - The import of alcohol is restricted.
 - Some exceptions may be allowed depending on the mode of transport used to enter the country.
 - Contact the destination agent for specific information.
- **Excise goods:**
 - Excise goods such as tobacco, coffee, lemonade, etc. may be restricted.
 - Contact the destination agent for specific information.
- **Fur and hunting trophies:**
 - A license is required for import.

Prohibited Items

- Pornographic materials
- Narcotics and illegal drugs
- Subversive materials

Consignment Instructions

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

Cultural and Other Information

CIA World Factbook
Wikipedia Entry for Latvia