



## **Defense Personal Property System (DPS) Country Instructions BAHRAIN**

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## Weight Restrictions

### Unaccompanied Baggage (UB):

- 1) Navy Members: E4 and below serving an unaccompanied tour that it is highly recommended to ship 600 lbs UB.
- 2) Living quarters are on space limited base, and barracks are fully furnished and no storage facilities exist.

### Prohibited Items:

- 1) Uniform swords
- 2) Handheld radios (CB, personally owned satellite dish, amateur/ham radio, MARS equipment, dish antenna, etc)
- 3) High range cordless phones
- 4) Bullet vest, handcuffs,
- 5) Firearms to include live ammunitions, empty bullet shells/magazines, etc.
- 6) Military knives
- 7) Remote controlled toys: chopper/helicopter, planes, etc.;
- 8) Military toys: pellet guns, rubber guns, paintball guns, etc.,
- 9) Alcoholic Beverage
- 10) Cigarette/tobacco products
- 11) Cosmetics
- 12) Products made in Israel are prohibited.
- 13) Pork products are prohibited.
- 14) Medication (Narcotics)/Pharmaceutical Products: certain products are prohibited. It is advisable Prescription Drugs are hand carried by the member.
- 15) Poker chips
- 16) Gaming devices
- 17) Pornographic material, such as: sex toys/items, handcuffs, nudity magazines, DVDs, etc

List can be found at: <http://www.bahraincustoms.gov.bh/customs/en/home.htm>

- 18) **All items confiscated by the Bahrain Customs will not be returned to the shipper.**
  - a) The Personal Property Office is unable to intervene on shipper's behalf to claim the prohibited item.
- 19) Military issued items that are prohibited will be confiscated and not returned, shippers are encouraged to ship gear via Air Mobility Command.

## Electrical Equipment

- 1) Home Computers: No restrictions.
- 2) TVs/VCRs: No restrictions, however, voltage used in Bahrain is 220volts 50Hz.

## Furniture, Oversized

- 1) Some apartments have very small elevators.
- 2) Be cautious with oversize furniture.
- 3) Most apartments are fully furnished.

## Pets/Quarantine

- 1) **Pets must fly on board AMC flights.**
  - a) Commercial transportation will not be authorized based on the lack of pet space.
  - b) If pets can not be accommodated on AMC, member will be responsible for arranging onward transportation.
- 2) Contact the NSA Bahrain Veterinary Treatment Facility as early as possible to allow review of pet records and update any necessary vaccines.
  - a) Please call DSN 318-439-4295, commercial 011-973-1785-4295.
  - b) Questions and Records can be scanned and emailed to [nsa.vetclinic@me.navy.mil](mailto:nsa.vetclinic@me.navy.mil)
- 3) Members assigned to Bahrain may bring their family pets.
  - a) Pets are defined as dogs and cats only.
  - b) There is no limit to pets in Bahrain; however, only 2 pets can be imported on an Air Mobility Command (AMC) flight.
  - c) Import requirements are the same for AMC and commercial flights.
- 4) **Pets will be home quarantined for one month.**
- 5) Boarding, kennel and veterinary facilities are available on the local economy.
- 6) Health documents required to accompany pets in Bahrain are:
  - a) **Dogs:** Certification the dog has been vaccinated twice with a canine Parvo Virus, Hepatitis and leptospirosis vaccine at least 2-3 weeks apart, with the last vaccination given at least 30 days, but less than one year prior to shipment.
  - b) **Cats:** Certification the cat has been vaccinated twice with FVRCP vaccines (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calici, Panleukopenia virus), with the last vaccination given at least 30 days, but less than one year prior to shipment.
  - c) **For both dogs and cats,** must have at least 2 Rabies vaccines in their lifetime with a current rabies vaccination certificate over 30 days old, but less than one year.
  - d) The pet must be at least 18 weeks old to ship to Bahrain. A pet can only be shipped this young if the first vaccinations, including rabies, are given at 12 weeks of age and then booster at 14 weeks of age. The vaccination must then be 30 days old before shipping.
  - e) Most pets are given rabies at 16 weeks of age and then can be booster at 18 weeks. The vaccination must then be 30 days old before shipping, meaning the pet can leave no sooner than 20 weeks or 5 months of age.

## 7) Process:

- a) Member **MUST** fax to their sponsor copies of the pet health record with an official rabies certificate thirty days prior to arrival.
  - b) All vaccinations are required to be 30 days old but no more than one year old upon arrival with a copy of military orders or assignment instructions.
  - c) The member must ensure the sponsor is aware of the flight itinerary.
  - d) The member sponsor must take or email these documents to the Army Veterinarian Office for review (NSA.VETCLINIC@ME.NAVY.MIL DSN 439-4295).
  - e) Once the records are found to be in compliance with Bahrain's regulations, an import memo will be issued.
  - f) **The sponsor will need to pick up the memo** and bring it to the Bahrain Ministry of Agriculture in order to obtain the Bahrain government importation certificate (cost 17.000 BD, approx. \$46.00).
  - g) The Bahrain importation certificate is valid for 30 days.
  - h) **A copy will need to be scanned to the member for travel and the original will need to be brought to the airport upon the member's arrival.**
  - i) Sponsor should also contact personal services representative to arrange pickup and customs clearance at the airport.
  - j) The member **MUST** arrive in country with an original health and rabies certificate, and vaccine records for each pet.
  - k) The health certificate must be no more than ten days old.
  - l) As soon as possible after arrival, the owner should contact the base Army Veterinarian in order to schedule an arrival exam for their pet(s).
  - m) The Veterinarian may be reached at DSN 318-439-4295 Comm. 1785-4295 or from CONUS by dialing 011-973-1785-4295.
- 8) Pet transportation guidelines require a veterinary health certificate before traveling.

## Privately Owned Firearms (POFs)

- 1) **Any type of weapon to include Uniformed Swords is prohibited from being shipped to Bahrain.**
  - a) Examples of confiscated weapons include:
    - i. swords,
    - ii. ammunition,
    - iii. toy guns,
    - iv. paint ball guns,
    - v. empty casings,
    - vi. plaques with knives incased,
    - vii. knives (other than kitchen),
    - viii. body armor,
    - ix. holsters,
    - x. magazines

- 2) It is highly recommended to place questionable item in Non-temporary Storage in the states.
- 3) Any items confiscated by customs, members/employees will receive a custody confiscation receipt from the local delivery agent.
- 4) If the member/employee would like to retrieve the confiscated items, it is their responsibility to contact the Ministry of Interior to determine if the item will be released.
- 5) Please refer the below given web site for further information on Bahrain Customs Regulations (<http://www.bahraincustoms.gov.bh/customs/en/home.htm>)

## Privately Owned Vehicles (POVs)

- 1) Effective 1 May 2016, all vehicles shipped to Bahrain older than 5 years of age will have to be exported when the member departs the island.
  - a) Vehicles shipped under this exemption will not be allowed to be re-registered if sold to another party.
  - b) Members are advised before they purchase a vehicle in Bahrain to make sure the vehicle was shipped prior to the exemption date to ensure that it can be registered.
- 2) Authorized DOD personnel may import free of duty no more than one privately-owned vehicle for the personal use of the member.
  - a) The local Ministry of the Interior defines a motor vehicle as either automobile or motorcycle with engine power exceeding 1.5 HP and engine size exceeding 50 cc.
  - b) However, you may import a second or third vehicle, but member is liable to pay the 20 percent import tax and local port handling.
  - c) The legwork to complete the customs processing is the member's responsibility.
- 3) Prohibited vehicles/items:
  - a) Electric cars are restricted in Bahrain due to the complete lack of charging stations.
  - b) Willy jeeps are prohibited from importation in Bahrain, all other jeeps are allowed.
  - c) No license plates are allowed on or in the POV to Bahrain, because foreign license plates are prohibited completely in Bahrain.
    - I. Local Bahraini Customs Agents are confiscating all foreign license plates from inbound POVs at the Port of Khalifa, Bahrain.
    - II. All license plates should be returned to service members prior to shipping a POV to the Kingdom of Bahrain.
    - III. Packing license plates in the vehicle accessory box is prohibited.
  - d) After market fitting or additional fitting is prohibited.

4) Registration:

- a) All POVs are required to be registered with the government of Bahrain **prior** to being picked up from the VPC.
- b) Before member/employee can register their vehicles they must obtain their VISA and CPR (personal identification number issued by the Kingdom of Bahrain) Card.
  - i. Country VISAs are applied for once the member/employee arrives in country and requires a **GOVERNMENT PASSPORT**, not personal/tourist passport.
  - ii. Once the VISA is received, the member/employee will then apply for their CPR Card. It will take approximately one month to receive both VISA and CPR.
- c) Both documents are processed by the Base Immigration Office, therefore it is imperative that member/employee apply for their VISA as soon as they arrive on station.
- d) Vehicles left at the VPC for more than 20 days are subject to storage fees at member expense.

5) Personnel must be 18 years old and possess a valid permit to operate automobiles and motorcycles.

6) Inspection:

- a) POV will be inspected by local traffic directorate for compliance and thus requires registration according to Bahrain traffic law.
- b) Tinted windows: Local motor law allows the importation of vehicles with **factory tinted** windows.
  - i. Vehicles cannot be registered unless the windshield and front side windows allow at least 70% of light to pass through.
  - ii. The front windshield may have a sun strip as long as it is the original manufactured windshield.
  - iii. All windows behind the front driver and passenger side windows can be tinted as long as it is the **factory tinted** windows.
  - iv. The amount of tinting for windows behind the driver and passenger side windows was not address by the Kingdom of Bahrain with the exception of them needing to be **factory tinted**.
- c) **Vehicle with right-handed** steering wheel (right hand driven) is not permitted.
- d) Vehicles with badly faded paint, dents, widely visible scratches, rust, or any other damage will not pass the inspection.
  - I. Normal dings and scratches are acceptable.
  - II. Loose or hanging body parts are not acceptable.
  - III. Major body damage or twisted and bent frame is not acceptable.
- e) Cars and motorbikes decorated with **flat matt paint or matt vinyl wrapping** will no longer be allowed on Bahrain's roads due to safety concerns
- f) All tires will be in good condition.
  - I. Tires extending partially beyond the fender are prohibited.

- g) All installed lights must be operational.
  - I. Headlights cannot be modified.
  - II. The taillight or a separate light must illuminate the rear license plate.
  - III. Backup lights must function when the transmission is engaged in reverse gear.
  - IV. Vehicles must be equipped with directional signals.
  - V. **Roof rack light systems are prohibited.**
- h) Windshield wipers must be operational.
- i) Vehicle must have two separate means of applying brakes. The failure of one braking system will fail registration.
- j) There are no restrictions as to color. However, **no weird painting or art on vehicle is permitted.**
- k) **Faulty or excessively loud exhaust systems are prohibited.**
- l) Salvaged vehicles as stated on the certificate of title are not permitted.
- m) **After market hydraulic systems are prohibited.**
  - I. Department of Ministry will not pass a vehicle for safety inspection if replacement or modification on engines has been performed.  
(Example: if there was a V8 engine in a V6 car)
- n) Vehicles must meet operational and safety standards.
  - I. Missing fenders, broken windows, missing side view mirrors, and improper wheel alignment (wheels that cannot be turned from full right to left without jamming or rubbing part of the vehicle) will not be accepted.
- o) **Stickers, drawings, advertisements, or writing on the vehicle are not allowed.**

## Motorcycles/Mopeds

Mopeds and motorcycles require registration according to Bahrain traffic law.

## Gasoline/Catalytic Converters

- 1) Unleaded gasoline is available throughout Bahrain. Removal of catalytic converters is no longer required.
- 2) The Island of Bahrain does not have Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel, Diesel fuel in Bahrain is 500ppm.

## Insurance and Safety Requirements:

- 1) Insurance and traffic registration expiration dates must coincide with one another, (i.e., last day of the month).
- 2) Insurance and registration must be renewed annually; failure to comply will preclude operation of vehicle and may subject the owner to a penalty in accordance with Bahrain law.
- 3) Automobile insurance for the Bahrain area is reasonable.

- a) Cost depends on make, model, year of vehicle and the total value (what is it worth at present) you declare on the vehicle.
- 4) Insurance is compulsory, and POV cannot be released, registered, and used without proof of insurance.
- 5) Once insurance is issued on a vehicle, coverage includes anyone who drives the vehicle.
- 6) Not necessary to have each individual driver insured. There are two types of insurance policies available:
  - a) Third party (without collision) will run about \$125-160 per annum.
  - b) Comprehensive (full cover) will run \$300 and above per annum.

#### **BAHRAIN NATIONAL HOLIDAYS:**

- 1) January New Year Day
- 2) Eid holidays (Depends on Islamic calendar – Twice a Year)
- 3) Islamic New Year (Depends on Islamic calendar)
- 4) Ashoora (Depends on Islamic calendar)
- 5) Nov 20 Prophet Birthday
- 6) Dec 16 - 17 National Day

Holidays are declared upon sighting of the moon, using the Islamic calendar.