



Defense Personal Property System (DPS) Country Instructions United Kingdom

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Alcoholic Beverages

Alcoholic beverages are restricted items but may be shipped as part of the personal property shipments.

Cigarettes/Tobacco Products

Cigarettes and tobacco products are restricted items and should not be shipped without consulting the appropriate UK agency or USAFE-UK A4 for further details.

- a) Cigarettes tobacco products included in a personal property shipment must be declared on the DD Form 1434.
- b) Shipment containing cigarettes and tobacco products will not be released until duty has been paid in full.

Food Stuff and Meats

- 1) Products containing meat including ham, bacon, sausage, pate, poultry, fish shellfish, eggs, milk and other products with a dairy content, honey, gelatin and pet food are prohibited items and cannot be shipped to the UK. **This includes canned products.**
- 2) Authorized foodstuffs must be placed into the number one container of personal property shipments destined to the UK and clearly identified on the personal property inventory.
 - a) Generic, non-specific entries (foodstuffs, food etc., are not to be used).
 - b) Shipment containing foodstuff of any type may be opened for inspection by UK Port Health Authorities which will delay delivery to the member.
- 3) Plants, parts thereof, and plant produce including trees and shrubs, potatoes and certain other vegetables, fruit, bulbs, and seeds are prohibited items that cannot be shipped into the UK.
- 4) Information on Foot and Mouth disease within the USEUCOM AOR can be found at www.eucom.mil/news/hoof_and_mouth_index.htm.

Medication (Narcotics)/Pharmaceutical Products

Controlled drugs (which include: opium, heroin, morphine, cocaine, cannabis (marijuana), amphetamines and lysergic acid (LSD)) are prohibited items that cannot be shipped into the UK.

Electrical Equipment

TVs/VCRs

A valid TV License is required if TV receiving equipment is used to watch or record television programs as they are being shown on TV. This includes a TV, computer, mobile phone, games console, digital box, DVD VHS recorder or any other device. Current cost can be found at [http: www.tvlicensing.co.uk](http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk).

Electrical appliances:

Not all economy homes have the appropriate connections for washers, dryers, refrigerators and freezers.

- a) If you live in off-base housing, a transformer is required to convert the electric current from 240 volts to 110 volts.
- b) Electrical appliances such as toasters, electric frying pans, broilers or appliances relying on heating elements will operate on 50 cycle electrical current. This will cause some electrical appliances to operate slower and slightly warmer. Service life of these items may be reduced.

Furniture, Oversized

- 1) Most homes are small; large American size furniture may not fit into some rooms.
- 2) Narrow staircases and passageways may prevent placement of the furniture into the appropriate rooms.

Pets/Quarantine

- 1) **PROHIBITED PETS:** It is against the law in the UK to possess some types of dogs. The Dangerous Dog Act applies to:
 - a) Pit Bull Terrier
 - b) Japanese Tosa
 - c) Fila Braziliara
 - d) Dogo Argentino types.
 - e) For full and current information, view the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) website at [http: www.defra.gov.uk wildlife-pets pets dangerous](http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets-dangerous).
- 2) **Pet Travel Scheme (Pets):**
 - a) Visit [http: www.defra.gov.uk wildlife-pets](http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets) for current information on which animals from certain countries can enter the United Kingdom without quarantine as long as they meet specific criteria.
 - b) Properly documented cats and dogs coming from the United States and Canada, travelling over approved routes with participating transport companies, will no longer have to go through the six-month quarantine period when entering the United Kingdom.

- c) The scheme only applies to cats and dogs, including guide dogs and hearing dogs.
 - d) Pets are not authorized to enter the United Kingdom on military aircraft.
 - e) Reference leaflet on requirements at [http: www.defra.gov.uk publications files pb13582-bringing-pets-to-uk-120229.pdf](http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13582-bringing-pets-to-uk-120229.pdf) and details of approved routes and carriers can be found at [http: www.defra.gov.uk wildlife-pets pets travel pets routes](http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets-travel-pets-routes).
 - f) You can get more information about PETS by contacting the Pet Travel Scheme Helpline: [www.defra.gov.uk wildlife-pets pets travel contact-us](http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets-travel/contact-us) .
E-mail: pets.helpline@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk Telephone: +44 (0)870 241 170 C.
- QUARANTINE:
- 3) **QUARANTINE:** There is a 6-month quarantine requirement for dogs and cats entering the United Kingdom which do not qualify under the Pet Travel Scheme.
 - a) The costs for maintaining pets in approved quarantine kennels is expensive.
 - b) For further information on quarantine refer to [http: www.defra.gov.uk wildlife-pets pets travel quarantine](http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets-travel/quarantine)

Privately Owned Firearms (POFs)

DEFINITION: Privately Owned Firearms including imitation and airsoft type and other weapon related items.

1) Prohibited firearms:

- a) Handguns
- b) Automatic weapons
- c) Burst fire weapons
- d) Semi automatic rifled weapons (.22 rim fire are RESTRICTED FIREARMS)
- e) Pump action rifled weapons (.22 rim fire are RESTRICTED FIREARMS)
- f) Shotguns with barrels measuring less than 24 inches
- g) Shotguns measuring less than 40 inches overall length
- h) Air weapons using self contained gas cartridge rounds
- i) Air/BB pistols with a muzzle energy exceeding 6ft lbs
- j) Firearms disguised as another object (pens, belt buckles, etc)
- k) Deactivated firearms (except those deactivated to UK specifications)
- l) Parts of firearms (barrels, including cannon barrels, receivers, frames, etc)
- m) Electrical stun weapons of any type
- n) Weapons that discharge any noxious thing (CS sprays, mace, etc)
- o) Realistic Imitation Firearms (airsoft weapons are RESTRICTED FIREARMS)
- p) Ammunition (except air weapon pellets and BBs)
- q) Ammunition, explosives and fireworks

- 2) **Restricted Firearms:** can only import the following if you have the required authorization documents at the time of importation:
 - a) Rifles (single shot, bolt action, semi-auto pump action .22 rim fire etc)
 - b) Shotguns (other than prohibited types)
 - c) Air BB rifles (with a muzzle energy of 12ft lbs or more)
 - d) Airsoft Realistic Imitation Firearms (airsoft weapons)
 - e) Authorized Documents for above restricted firearms:
 - i. A valid UK Import License or;
 - ii. A valid Shotgun Certificate (single and double barrel shotguns, 3 round capacity pump action shotguns)
 - iii. A valid UK Firearms Certification (single action rifles, bolt action rifles, rifle shotgun combinations, multi round capacity shotguns, high powered air BB rifles)
 - iv. A valid UK Airsoft Club membership card (realistic imitation Airsoft weapons)
- 3) **Non-Restricted Firearms:** The following firearms may be imported without
 - a) Air BB pistols (with a muzzle energy of less than 6 ft/lbs)
 - b) Air BB rifles (with a muzzle energy of less than 12ft/lbs)
 - c) Non-realistic Imitation Firearms (wholly transparent or brightly colored)
- 4) **Prohibited Offensive Weapons:**
 - a) gravity knives,
 - b) flick (switchblade) knives,
 - c) butterfly knives,
 - d) stealth knives (not detectable by metal detectors),
 - e) belt buckle knives,
 - f) zombie knives,
 - g) push daggers,
 - h) swordsticks,
 - i) knuckle-dusters,
 - j) straight, side-handled,
 - k) friction-lock and
 - l) telescopic truncheons,
 - m) blow pipes, and
 - n) numerous types of martial arts equipment such as hand and foot claws (for full list contact usafe-uk.a4@us.af.mil).
 - o) Swords with a curved blade of 50 centimeters 19½ inches or over in length (for exceptions contact usafe-uk.a4@us.af.mil)
- 5) **Individual trophies:**
 - a) swords,
 - b) knives,
 - c) firearms, and
 - d) firearms parts,
 - e) Cannon barrels and aircraft cannon barrels are prohibited
- 6) For clarification contact usafe-uk.a4@us.af.mil

7) Possession and licensing of rifles shotguns

- a) Importation or possession of handguns (pistols revolvers) is a criminal offense under British law. Only certain firearms may be permitted in the UK. The likelihood that local constabularies will license any firearm is extremely low.
- b) All firearms (including BB guns, air weapons, etc) are subject to inspection on arrival. The member and carrier must ensure firearms are placed in the number one container for easy access by Customs officials.

Privately Owned Vehicles (POVs)

- 1) Single or unaccompanied married members, US Forces Military, and civilian personnel, are allowed to import or purchase one (1) duty free vehicle, including mopeds and motorcycles.
- 2) Accompanied members with spouse are allowed to import or purchase two (2) duty free vehicles. Only one vehicle may be shipped per active duty service member or DOD employee at Government expense.
- 3) Members exceeding the importation allowance will be assessed a valuation duty.
- 4) All motor vehicles (including mopeds and motorcycles) will **not be customs cleared until the member arrives on station and completes HMRC Form 941**. This form is only available in the UK and is issued by the Security Police Pass and Registration Section (or similar agency) at each installation.
- 5) Motorcycles and mopeds shipped in household goods must be clearly identified and packed in a separate container to prevent the member's entire shipment from being delayed.
- 6) Effective 30 June 2017. Frontal protection systems (e.g. Bull bars, push bars) on vehicles must be EU approved in order to ship to the UK. Approved equipment will bear an indelible stamped or engraved EU compliant marking in a visible location while mounted on the vehicle (Example: e1 01 1471)
 - a) Vehicles with non-EU approved frontal protection systems due to after-market modifications may not be shipped to the UK.
 - b) Personnel who possess vehicles that required extensive modification to remove frontal protection systems may seek approval for government funded storage through their Service Representative at: HHGHELP@navy.mil.

Insurance and Safety Requirements

- 1) Before a motor vehicle can be operated on UK highways each operator must be properly insured.
- 2) Military or DOD civilian personnel and their dependents must possess a 3AF Driving Fuel Permit (3AF Form 435). The permit is issued to those personnel possessing a valid US driving license, the host country license, another country license, or a permit issued by another military authority (i.e., SF Form 46 or US Forces Japan) and after completion of a local driving conditions course.
 - a) ***NOTE: Navy personnel are not required to possess a 3AF Driving Fuel Permit (3AF Form 435), or attend safety course seven.**

- 3) UK provisional license (learners permit) and UK operator license (drivers license) may be obtained, but the process is costly and the exams are generally regarded as the most difficult in the world.
- 4) To operate a motorcycle moped in the UK, all personnel (military, DOD civilian, and dependents) must have an endorsement on their stateside drivers license reflecting they can operate a motorcycle (this statement covers mopeds).
 - a) Must attend course seven and satisfactorily complete a hands on driving test conducted by a certified ground safety instructor in the UK.
 - b) Each installation commander may establish other requirements and testing.
- 5) Personnel without a stateside motorcycle license or an endorsement may operate a motorcycle moped after satisfactorily completing a safety course in the UK.
- 6) Dependents without a stateside license will have to obtain a United Kingdom provisional and then a United Kingdom operator license.
- 7) Required documents to pickup vehicles from the water port:
 - a) Proof of UK insurance.
 - b) 3AF Driving Fuel Permit (3AF Form 435) (except Navy personnel and British international license holders).
 - c) DD Form 788.
 - d. Extra set of keys.
- 8) Vehicle Registration and Testing: All vehicles must be registered with the appropriate security police pass and registration office within 72 hours after pickup from the port.
 - a) Any vehicle 3-years-old or older must receive a test prior to base registration. Testing is more detailed than stateside inspections, more details can be found at http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/OwningAVehicle/MotDG_4022109.
 - b) Repairs required to pass testing can be very expensive. Most US vehicles must undergo major changes or additions to the vehicle lights, specifically the headlights, turn signals, white front park lights, and rear fog lights. The cost of the light conversion on some newer model POVS can be expensive or nearly impossible to convert. Recommend owners with newer model vehicles check with US vehicle dealership about the light conversion prior to shipping vehicle. Testing is mandatory and must be performed before a vehicle can be taxed and licensed in the UK. The British Department of Transport will only accept original state title, US Government (DD Form 430) or foreign Government titles as proof of ownership before the vehicle can be taxed and licensed in the UK.

Sexually Explicit/Pornographic Material

- 1) Sexually Explicit Materials are prohibited items that cannot be shipped into the UK.
 - a. Material considered sexually explicit and within the prohibition it must clearly show sex acts taking place (i.e. penetration or oral contact with the genitals must be clearly shown).
 - b. Simulated scenes where the point of penetration etc. is not in camera view are not considered obscene.
 - c. In more unusual areas, such as bondage or sado-masochism, key factors would be tying up in unnatural positions, the use of gags, and the depiction of violence in a sexual context (e.g., graphic torture and rape).
 - d. *NOTE: The restrictions apply to all mediums, videotapes, magazines, cinematography films, computer disks, CD-ROM, laser disk, etc.
- 2) Material depicting violence: This must be visually explicit to bring it within the prohibition.
 - a. Shipments containing articles portraying excessive violence against humans and animals such as scenes of decapitation, excision of limbs, gouging of eyes, cannibalism, garroting, torture, and dog fighting may not be imported.
 - b. In general terms, scenes of mutilation are considered to fall within the prohibition. In particular, graphic scenes of violence against women also fall within the scope.

Stuff Wild Life/Animals and Plant Restrictions

- 1) Wood with bark attached (including such wood in the form of carvings, rough furniture etc.) are restricted items and should not be shipped without consulting the appropriate UK agency or USAFE-UK A4 for further details.
- 2) Animal material: Most animal and bird articles derived from rare species whether alive or dead (stuffed), including fur skins, ivory, reptile leather and goods made from them are restricted
- 3) Wildlife trophies (Deer antlers, moose racks, elk horns, etc)
- 4) *NOTE: Word of caution about the term stuffed animals: The term stuffed animals in the UK means wildlife trophies. Ensure the carrier **annotates stuffed toys** on the inventory for items such as teddy bears and other soft stuffed toys instead of stuffed animals to avoid shipment being delayed while UK customs inspect the items.

Transmitting Equipment

- 1) Walkie-talkie, citizen band radios, etc., capable of operating on certain frequencies are prohibited for use in the UK.
- 2) Amateur/Ham Radios – review licensing requirements
- 3) Dish Antennas
 - a) Personal satellite dishes can be shipped to the UK as long as they are only used for the reception of television programs intended for general reception.
 - b) Installation of a satellite dish cannot cause interference to other users.
 - c) Permission from the local council responsible for zoning restrictions and licenses must be obtained prior to the dish being installed
- 4) Cordless Phones
 - a) The import, manufacture, sale and possession of non-approved cordless telephones which do not conform to the TTE Directive and United Kingdom Interface Requirement IR 2011 is prohibited.
 - b) Cordless phones, including DECT phones purchased outside the European Community, that are not marked with a CE mark, will not conform and will therefore be open to seizure by enforcement officers.

Other

- 1) Counterfeit coins and bank notes are prohibited items that cannot be shipped into the UK.
- 2) Lawn mowers and other garden tools should be shipped; most homes have gardens which require maintenance.
- 3) **BOATS, OUTBOARD MOTORS, BOAT TRAILERS AND OTHER BOAT ACCESSORIES**
 - a. US Forces Military and civilian personnel, on official duty in the UK, may import boats, outboard motors, boat trailers and other boat accessories duty free in household goods.
 - b. Boats and accessories must not be lent, hired, or disposed of in the UK.
 - c. They must not be of UK origin.
 - d. There is no need to register the boat with the Department of Transport unless it will be used for commercial purposes. The boat will have to be registered locally with the water authority where the boat will be used.
 - e. If the boat will be going across the English Channel, it must be registered with the Royal Yachting Association in London.
 - f. After the boat has cleared customs and is ready for pickup, the trailer must have a rear license plate with the same number as the towing vehicle.
- 4) **GOODS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES:** Goods for commercial purposes, such as intended for sale, **are not permitted duty free entry.**