

# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO TO: BAHRAIN

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## WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS:

Navy personnel there are No restrictions identified

## PROHIBITIVE ITEMS:

DO NOT ship any type of weapon, such as uniform swords, military professional gear, handheld radios, bullet vest, handcuffs, live ammunitions, fire arms, military knives, empty bullet shells & magazines etc. in any Coded shipments. All mentioned items will be confiscated by the Bahrain Customs upon arrival at the port of entry in Bahrain and the owner of the shipment will be prosecuted in accordance with the law of Bahrain. Remote controlled toys: chopper, planes, and gambling devices, such as Poker chips, etc.; Military toys: pellet guns, rubber guns, paintball guns, etc., are PROHIBITED in Bahrain.

## CONSUMABLES:

- A. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Cannot be shipped to and or from Bahrain.
- B. **CIGARETTES/TOBACCO PRODUCTS:** Shipments of cigarettes tobacco products between CONUS and overseas or within overseas countries may be shipped subject to host country requirements restrictions identified. When undefined or in doubt, the Personal Property Shipping Office will request clarification from the responsible.
- C. **COSMETICS:** Products made in Israel are prohibited

- D. **FOOD STUFFS AND MEATS:** Pork products are prohibited.
- E. **MEDICATION (NARCOTICS)/PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS:** Certain products are prohibited. The Personal Property Shipping Office will request clarification from the appropriate authority

### **ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT:**

- A. No restrictions. However, voltage used in Bahrain is 220volts 50Hz.
- B. Cordless phones are permitted; however, high range cordless phones are prohibited. High range equipment will be detained by customs and a custody receipt will be issued. Upon final departure from Bahrain, arrangements can be made with customs, once you produce the custody receipt, the phone will be returned at the airport upon departure. Members should contact their sponsors before deciding disposition of cordless phones.

### **FURNITURE/OVERSIZED:**

- A. Most homes and apartments in Bahrain are fully-furnished; complete home appliances & amenities are provided in most Flats & Villas. Some apartments have very small elevators.
- B. Anyone moving to Bahrain should seek the advice from their sponsor when determining suitable furniture.
- C. **Bahrain PPSO has no NTS facility.**
  - 1) Any HHG inbound shipment that needs storage will be at the member's expense.
  - 2) Only SIT (Stored-in-Transit) is available if member is unable to receive his/her goods due to Temporary Duty or still house-hunting.
  - 3) **SIT is only for 90 days.**

### **SEXUALLY EXPLICIT/PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL:**

The importation of pornographic material is a strict violation of Bahrain law. Those items determined to be pornographic will be confiscated, destroyed and the importer will be prosecuted. **Examples are:** sex toys, nudity magazines, DVDs, movies etc.

### **FIREARMS:**

Any type of weapon or parts of weapons, imitations of weapons, military wireless devices are prohibited. **Example of confiscated items:** include ammunition, empty casings, plaques with knives incased, knives, body armor, holsters, magazines, handcuffs, toy guns, starter pistols, paint guns.

### **PETS/QUARANTINE:**

- A. Service Members should contact the NSA Bahrain Veterinary Treatment Facility as early as possible to give the most time to review the records and update any necessary vaccines. Please call DSN 318-439-4295, commercial 011-973-1785-4295. Questions and Records can be scanned and emailed to [NSA.VETCLINIC@ME.NAVY.MIL](mailto:NSA.VETCLINIC@ME.NAVY.MIL)
- B. Members assigned to Bahrain may bring their family pets. Pets are defined as dogs and cats only. There is no limit to pets in Bahrain; however, only 2 pets can be imported on an AMC flight. Import requirements are the same for AMC and commercial flights.

- C. **Pets will be home quarantined for one month.** Boarding, kennel and veterinary facilities are available on the local economy.
- D. Health documents required to accompany pets in Bahrain are:
  - 1) 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.
  - 2) 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.
  - 3) 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.
- E. The pet must be at least 18 weeks old to ship to Bahrain
  - 1) A pet can only be shipped this young if the first vaccinations, including rabies, are given at 12 weeks of age and then a booster shot at 14 weeks of age. The vaccination must then be 30 days old before shipping.
  - 2) Most pets are given rabies at 16 weeks of age and then can be boosted 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.
- F. A copy of member's orders.
- G. Document processing for pets requires:
  - 1) Members must fax to their sponsor copies of the pet's health record with an official rabies certificate thirty days prior to arrival. 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. The member must ensure the sponsor is aware of the flight itinerary.
- H. The member's sponsor must take or email these documents to the Army Veterinarian Office for review (NSA.VETCLINIC@ME.NAVY.MIL DSN 439-4295). Once the records are found to be in compliance with Bahrain's regulations, an import memo will be issued. 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). The Bahrain importation certificate is valid for 30 days. 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 members arrival. Your sponsor should also contact personal services representative to arrange pickup and customs clearance at the airport.
- I. **The member must arrive in country with an original health and rabies certificate, and vaccine records for each pet.** The health certificate must be no more than ten days old. 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). The Veterinarian may be reached at DSN 318-439-4295 Comm. 1785-4295 or from CONUS by dialing 011-973-1785-4295.e. Pets transportation guidelines require a veterinary health certificate before traveling. Pets must fly on board AMC flights. Commercial transportation will not be authorized based on the lack of pet space. If pets cannot be accommodated on AMC, member will be responsible for arranging onward transportation.

## **PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES (POVs):**

- A. **PROHIBITED VEHICLES:** Willy Jeeps are prohibited from importation in Bahrain, all other jeeps are allowed.
- B. **LICENSE PLATES:** "NO LICENSE PLATES are allowed on or in the POV to Bahrain, because foreign license plates are prohibited completely in Bahrain." Local Bahraini Customs Agents are confiscating all foreign license plates from inbound POVs at the Port of Khalifa, Bahrain. All license plates should be returned to service members prior to shipping a POV to the Kingdom of Bahrain. Packing license plates in the vehicle accessory box is prohibited.
- C. **FUEL:** The Island of Bahrain does not have Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel, Diesel fuel in Bahrain is 500ppm.
- D. **VISA and CPR CARD:** All POVs are required to be registered with the government of Bahrain prior to being picked up from the VPC. Before members employees can register their vehicles they must obtain their VISA and CPR Card. Country VISAs are applied for once the member employee arrives in country and requires a GOVERNMENT PASSPORT, NOT THE TOURIST. Once the VISA is received the member employee will then apply for their CPR Card. A CPR Card is a personal identification number issued by the Kingdom of Bahrain to all personnel assigned to NSA Bahrain. It will take approximately one month to receive both VISA and CPR. Both documents are processed by the Base Immigration Office, therefore it is imperative that members employees apply for their VISA as soon as they arrive on Station. Vehicles left at the VPC for more than 20 days are subject to storage fees borne by the member.
- E. POVs: (includes data on prohibited vehicles, colors, etc.)
  - 1) Authorized DOD personnel may import free of duty no more than one privately-owned vehicle for the personal use of the member. However, you may import a second or third vehicle, but member is liable to pay the 20 percent import tax and local port handling. The legwork to complete the customs processing is the members responsibility. 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. Personnel must be 18 years old and possess a valid permit to operate automobiles and motorcycles. POV will be inspected by local traffic directorate for compliance and thus requires registration according to Bahrain traffic law.
  - 2) **Tinted windows:** Local motor law allows the importation of vehicles with FACTORY TINTED windows. Vehicles cannot be registered unless the windshield and front side windows allow at least 70% of light to pass through. The front windshield may have a sun strip as long as it is the original manufactured windshield. All windows behind the front driver and passenger side windows can be tinted as long as it is the FACTORY TINTED windows. 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. Vehicles already imported will be allowed until November 2005 to change their windows should they not comply. Vehicles that are in transit at this time with non-conforming tinted windows may not be allowed to be registered. After market tinting is not allowed.
  - 3) **Right handed steering wheel:** Vehicle with right-handed steering wheel (right hand driven) is not permitted.

- 4) **Paint scratches dents:** Vehicles with badly faded paint, dents, widely visible scratches, rust, or any other damage will not pass the inspection. Normal dings and scratches are acceptable. Loose or hanging body parts are not acceptable. Major body damage or twisted and bent frame is not acceptable. 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.
  - 5) **Tires:** All tires will be in good condition. Tires extending partially beyond the fender are prohibited.
  - 6) **Lights:** All installed lights must be operational. Headlights cannot be modified. The taillight or a separate light must illuminate the rear license plate. Backup lights must function when the transmission is engaged in reverse gear. Vehicles must be equipped with directional signals. Roof rack light systems are prohibited.
  - 7) **Windshield Wipers:** Must be operational.
  - 8) **Brakes:** Vehicle must have two separate means of applying brakes. The failure of one braking system will fail registration.
  - 9) **Color:** There are no restrictions as to color. **However, no weird painting or art on vehicle is permitted.**
  - 10) **Exhaust System:** Faulty or excessively loud exhaust systems are prohibited.
  - 11) Salvaged vehicles as stated on the certificate of title are not permitted.
  - 12) **After market hydraulic systems are prohibited.** 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)
  - 13) **Other:** Vehicles must meet operational and safety standards. 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. Stickers, drawings, advertisements, or writing on the vehicle are not allowed.
  - 14) **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. Vehicles shipped under this exemption will not be allowed to be re-registered if sold to another party. Furthermore 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.
- F. **MOTORCYCLES/MOPEDS:** Mopeds and motorcycles require registration according to Bahrain traffic law.
- G. **GASOLINE/CATALYTIC CONVERTERS:** Unleaded gasoline is available throughout Bahrain, removal of catalytic converters is no longer required.
- H. **INSURANCE AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS:**
- 1) Insurance and traffic registration expiration dates must coincide with one another, (i.e., last day of the month). 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.
  - 2) Automobile insurance for the Bahrain area is reasonable. Cost depends on make, model, year of vehicle and the total value (what is it worth at present) you declare on the vehicle. Insurance is compulsory, and POV cannot be released, registered, and used

without proof of insurance. Once insurance is issued on a vehicle, coverage includes anyone who drives the vehicle. 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.

### **SEPARATEES/RETIREES ENTITLEMENTS/LIMITATIONS:**

Personnel contemplating retirement, separation or relocating dependents to Bahrain should be counseled that all customs entry requirements to include payment of duties and taxes remain the responsibility of the member and is a personal matter between the member and the Government of Bahrain. When processing application and GBL, shipment must be consigned to member's residence in country or to the destination agent facility.

### **BAHRAIN NATIONAL HOLIDAYS:**

- A. January New Year's Day
- B. Feb March Eid holidays (approx 5 days)
- C. April May Eid holidays (approx 5 days)
- D. May Alhijrah Islamic New Year
- E. May June Ashoora
- F. Jul Aug Prophet's Birthday
- G. 16 Dec National Day