



# BERMUDA

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## Customs Regulations - Bermuda



### CUSTOMS TRAVELLER DECLARATION



Every traveller arriving in Bermuda must complete a Customs Traveller Declaration (Customs Form 98-p). Travellers must declare all goods, including gifts, that will be left in Bermuda. Duty is payable on any imported goods not covered by a duty free allowance (see below for information on duty rates and duty free allowances).

If members of the same household are travelling together as a group then a responsible person may complete one declaration form for the whole group. Household groups of five or more may use additional declaration forms to identify their members and declare goods.

The value of imported goods must be declared in Bermuda dollars. Exchange rate information is available from H.M. Customs. For visitors from the United States the U.S. dollar is at par with the Bermuda dollar.

Please note that the Customs Traveller Declaration is not intended for use to declare goods for resale, commercial samples, or goods bought on commission or as an accommodation for any other person. Travellers importing such goods should ask a Customs officer for a Commercial Declaration Form (BCD).

### BAGGAGE EXAMINATION



H.M. Customs has a duty to protect Bermuda from drugs, firearms and other harmful goods, and to stop smugglers evading taxes that fund vital public services. To do this Customs carries out checks on some travellers.

Travellers are asked to cooperate should Customs ask questions or inspect a visitor's baggage. Bermuda needs help from visitors and residents alike in order to prevent smuggling.

### DUTY FREE ALLOWANCES FOR VISITORS



Visitors arriving as passengers by air or sea are entitled to the following duty free allowances:

**Personal effects** - Visitors (persons not ordinarily resident in Bermuda) may import their accompanied personal baggage and other articles of sports or recreation equipment duty free provided that the imported items are for the visitor's personal use for purposes connected with his visit and not for sale or disposal. All baggage and other articles belonging to visitors must be exported within six months from its importation.

**Gifts** - Visitors may also import gifts to a total value of \$30.00 duty free provided that the goods accompany them on arrival and provided further that the goods are intended as a gift for another person and not for resale.



This personal 'gift' allowance may not be used for alcoholic beverages or tobacco in excess of the duty free allowances described below. Visitors may only claim their 'gift allowance' once in every 31 days. Please note that individuals travelling together may not pool their allowances to import a gift item worth more than \$30.00 duty free – duty must be paid on the value in excess of \$30.00.

**Tobacco and alcoholic beverages** - Every passenger (regardless of age) may import duty free accompanied alcoholic beverages not exceeding one litre of spirits and one litre of wine; and accompanied tobacco not exceeding 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars and 0.5 kilograms of tobacco. Please note that duty must be paid on beer (approximately 30¢ per can or bottle).

**Unaccompanied baggage** - Visitors retrieving lost luggage after their arrival in Bermuda will be permitted to claim the duty free allowances above.

It is possible to apply for authorization to deliberately import bona fide visitor's baggage before or after a visitor's arrival in Bermuda. Please contact Customs at least ten working days before importing baggage in advance or arrears in order to make the necessary arrangements.

Please note that the above duty free allowances do not apply to commercial goods.

#### DUTIABLE GOODS IN TRAVELLERS' BAGGAGE



**Duty rates** - Goods (including foodstuffs and beverages) in excess of the duty free allowances above are subject to duty. Most goods imported by air or by sea in accompanied passenger's baggage are dutiable at 22.25% of their value. A few exceptions are listed below:

Books, newspapers and magazines - duty free

Televisions and radios - 33.5%

Cigars and smoking tobacco - 33.5%

Sodas – 33.5%

Cigarettes - \$31.00 per carton (200)

Beer - 90¢ per litre

Wine - \$2.68 per litre

Spirits - \$24.15 per litre of alcohol

Fruit juices - 5%

**New residents** - Household effects imported by new residents (persons travelling to Bermuda to take up residence), are subject to duty. New residents may telephone Customs at (441) 295-4816 for more information regarding declaring their household effects to Customs.

## BUSINESS TRAVELLERS

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**Conventions and conferences** - Goods for conventions or conferences are generally duty free. It is important that arrangements are made ahead of time with the hotel concerned for the proper clearance of such goods prior to importation.

**Meetings** - Visitors travelling to Bermuda for business meetings are permitted to import duty free, as a part of their baggage, business equipment such as laptop computers. Such items must accompany the business traveller on their departure from Bermuda.

**Visiting technicians** - Technicians not ordinarily resident in Bermuda may import equipment and tools for their sole use for specific jobs. A refundable cash security must be given to Customs (150% of the estimated duty). The equipment and tools in question must be re-exported on completion of the job.

Local employers of visiting technicians arriving with equipment and tools in their accompanied baggage are encouraged to arrange for the completion of a commercial entry and give security for the equipment and tools in advance of the technician's arrival in Bermuda. When requested, Customs will hold the release documentation for the equipment in tools in the Baggage Hall Control Office in anticipation of the technician's arrival. This helps expedite Customs clearance particularly where flights arrive outside of normal business hours.

**Travelling salesmen** - Non-Bermudians require a permit in order to promote products on behalf of an overseas agent or business. Permits are not issued to commercial travellers who propose to sell goods in competition with identical goods already available for sale in Bermuda. There are two classes of permits:

1. Sole agent's permits for those persons who are sponsored by a local agent:
  - application must be made by the local agent to the Chief Immigration Officer of Bermuda at least five days prior to the intended date of arrival;
  - a sole agent's permit is valid for one year; the fee is currently \$293.
  
2. Salesperson's permits for persons without a local agent:
  - the application may be made either in writing or in person to the Bermuda Chamber of Commerce.
  - the cost of a monthly permit is \$370, and the cost of an annual permit is \$550.

The grant of such permits is subject to the recommendation of the Bermuda Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber screens each application to determine if the products in question are already represented by one of Bermuda's business firms and whether or not the grant of permit will threaten that firm's interests.

## IMPORT AND EXPORT PROHIBITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS



### ANIMALS

**Live animals** - The importation of all live animals (including pets) must be supported by an Import Permit issued by the Bermuda Department of Environmental Protection, together with a Health Certificate which is less than 10 days old (any extension to the 10 day period will be noted on the Import Permit). The importer should contact the Department of Environmental Protection, or visit their website, [www.animals.gov.bm](http://www.animals.gov.bm), as far in advance as possible to learn more about import requirements for pets. Refer also to the “Animals - Import into Bermuda” information sheet on [www.bermudatourism.com](http://www.bermudatourism.com).

**Endangered species (live or dead, including parts)** - With the exception of common livestock and ordinary (not exotic) domestic pets such as dogs and cats, most animals are subject to CITES regulations.

The importation and exportation of endangered species must be supported by the relevant CITES Certificate. Travellers should consult with the Department of Environmental Protection regarding import/export requirements for endangered species.

**Prohibited animals** - The importation and exportation of any of the following animals (living or dead; whole or in part, including meat) is prohibited except where supported by a licence issued by the Department of Environmental Protection:

Marine turtles of all species (Reptilia, Cheloniidae and Dermochelyidae);  
Marine mammals of all species (Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises);  
Corals of all types, (including stony corals, sea rods and seafans);  
Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*);  
Harbour conch (*Strombus costatus*);  
Bermuda cone (*Conus bermudensis*);  
Netted olive (*Oliva reticularis*);  
Bermuda scallop (*Pecten ziczac*);  
Calico scallop (*Argopecten gibbus*);  
Atlantic Pearl Oyster (*Pinctada imbricata*);  
Helmets and Bonnets of all species (Mollusca Cassididae);  
Calico clam (*Macrocallista maculata*);  
West Indian top-shell (*Cittarium pica*), formerly known as *Livona pica*);  
Parrotfishes of all species.

### FIREARMS, WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES



**Armaments and weapons of war** - Arms, ammunition and weapons of war of any description including their components are prohibited from being imported or exported.

**Explosive substances and fireworks** - Importations of explosive substances and fireworks are prohibited except where the importer possesses a valid licence issued by the Commissioner of Police.

**Firearms** - The importation and exportation of firearms, their parts and ammunition, is prohibited except where the importer possesses a valid firearm licence issued by the Commissioner of Police.

In Bermuda “firearms” include all lethal barrelled weapons, as well as flare guns, pepper sprays, spear guns, airguns/pistols rifles and electric stunning devices.

## DRUGS



**Controlled Drugs** - The importation of controlled (illicit) drugs of any kind (including marijuana) is strictly prohibited. Customs officers are authorised to conduct personal searches of persons suspected to be smuggling controlled drugs.

**Methadone Maintenance** - Visitors who are on a methadone maintenance programme may enter Bermuda without having to declare themselves as such. However, supplies of methadone are prohibited to be imported into Bermuda. Treatment is available in Bermuda at the Mid-Atlantic Wellness Institute. To enquire about receiving treatment while in Bermuda, visitors should telephone the Programme Manager of “Turning Point” at the Mid-Atlantic Wellness Institute (441) 236-5770.

**Prescription drugs** - Visitors may import prescription medication for their personal use of a visitor provided that the medication has been prescribed by that person’s own doctor and the medication accompanies the visitor. To avoid any misunderstanding, prescription medications should be contained in the original pharmacy packaging bearing the prescription label. Supplies should be sufficient only for the duration of the visitor’s stay.

## FOODSTUFFS



**Fruits and vegetables** - Canned, preserved or frozen fruits and vegetables may be imported by travellers in any quantities.

Importations of fresh fruits and vegetables must supported by a valid Release Form issued by the Department of Environmental Protection. Importers may contact the Department of Environmental Protection regarding exceptions to this requirement.

Importation of the following fresh fruit and vegetabels is prohibited:

- Carrots (raw or untreated);
- Citrus fruit from Florida;
- Corn or maize;
- Sweet potatoes (yams);
- Potatoes from potato wart or golden cyst nematode areas (Great Britain; Ireland; Europe; Long Island, NY; St. Pierre, Quebec; Miquelon, Canada; Newfoundland, Canada).

**Meat** - The following meats and meat products may be imported by travellers in any quantities without official certification:

- meat cooked or otherwise prepared (i.e. smoked hams, bacon);
- meat in airtight containers (i.e. canned meats);
- rendered animal fats;
- pies, sausages, or other prepared or manufactured articles of food containing any meat or cooked or dried meat;
- poultry, game, either whole or predressed and packed.

As a special concession, persons arriving in Bermuda by ship or aircraft are permitted to import as a part of their accompanied passenger baggage up to 50lbs of other meats (e.g. fresh beef, lamb, beef, etc.) for their own consumption without an “Official Certificate”. Other meats in excess of 50lbs. must be accompanied by an ‘Official Certificate’ provided by the Official Meat Inspection Authority of the exporting country, and recognised and accepted by the Chief Medical Officer of Bermuda.

**Seafood** - The importation of live seafood (e.g. lobsters, crabs, oysters, etc. ) by travellers is prohibited. However, prepared fresh, frozen or cooked fish and shellfish can be imported, provided that the packaging is free of any algae or seaweed.

The importation of any Caribbean spiny lobster (Bermuda/Florida/Bahamian lobster) is prohibited during the closed season (1st April through August 31st each year). The minimum size permissible is a carapace length of 3 5/8 inches (92mm) as measured from the end of the carapace to the ridge at the base of the horns. In the case of frozen spiny lobster tails, the minimum weight is 12 ounces (340 grammes).

#### HISTORIC ARTICLES



Any articles relating to Bermuda that are over 50 years old and are of national, historical, scientific, artistic or literary importance are considered “historic articles”. Historic articles may only be exported under licence from the Minister responsible for Archives (the Premier of Bermuda).

#### OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS



All indecent or obscene articles, including indecent or obscene magazines, books, video tapes, films, laser discs or computer discs are prohibited from being imported or exported.

#### PLANTS, PLANT MATERIAL AND SEEDS



**Live plants** - Importations of most plants, plant material, fruits and vegetables must be supported by a valid Release Form issued by the Department of Environmental Protection. Importers may contact the Department of Environmental Protection regarding exceptions to this requirement.

For your convenience here are the contact details of the agencies listed in this Information Sheet:

**H.M. Customs Bermuda**

P.O. Box HM 2084  
Hamilton HM HX, Bermuda  
Tel: (441) 295-4816  
Fax: (441) 295-5392  
Email: customs@gov.bm  
Web: www.customs.gov.bm

**Department of Environmental Protection**

P.O. Box HM 834  
Hamilton HM CX, Bermuda  
Tel: (441) 236-4201  
Fax: (441) 236-7582  
Email: agfish@ibl.bm

**Bermuda Department of Tourism**

P.O. Box HM 465  
Hamilton HM BX, Bermuda  
Tel: (441) 292-0023  
Fax: (441) 292-7537

**Commissioner of Police**

Police Department  
P.O. Box HM 530  
Hamilton HM CX, Bermuda  
Tel: (441) 295-0011  
Fax: (441) 299-4459

**Bermuda Chamber of Commerce**

P.O. Box HM 655  
Hamilton, HM CX, Bermuda  
Tel: (441) 295-4201  
Fax: (441) 292-5779  
Web: www.bermudacommerce.com

**Department of Immigration**

P.O. Box HM 1364  
Hamilton HM FX, Bermuda  
Tel: (441) 295-5151  
Fax: (441) 295-4115  
Email: mbrewer@gov.bm

**Note:** All fees and conditions are subject to change without notice. Information correct at the time of production, October 2005.  
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