

Moving to Cyprus: Your Relocation Guide



By Appointment To
Her Majesty The Queen
Removals and Storage Contractor Abels

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TELEPHONE:	Country code (357) + Area code
STANDARD TIME:	GMT + 2 hours
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	240v AC, 50Hz
INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:	No vaccinations or inoculations required if EU citizens
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Jan 1, 6, Feb 27, March 25, Apr 1, 14, 17, May 1, Jun 5, Aug 15, Oct 1, 28, Dec 25, 26
OFFICE HOURS:	0800-1300 1430-1730 Winter 0800-1300 1600-1900 Summer Monday – Friday (Orbit 0800-1800 no break)
BANK HOURS:	0815-1230 Monday – Friday Additionally opening Monday 1515-1745
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	112 – Police, Fire, Ambulance 141 (+ Area code digit) – Local night Pharmacy 143 (+ Area code digit) Local on call doctor
BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN CYPRUS:	Alexander Pallis Street PO Box 21978 1587 Nicosia Cyprus Tel: 00357 2286 11 00 Fax: 00357 2286 11 25 Web: http://ukincyprus.fco.gov.uk/en/
TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION:	Cyprus Toursim Organisation PO Box 4535 Lefkosia (Nicosia) CY-1390 Tel: 02 337715 Fax: 02 334696
CYPRIOT HIGH COMMISSION	13 St Jame's Square IN LONDON: London SW1Y 4LB Tel: 020 7321 4101 Fax: 020 7321 4165 Web: http://cyprus.embassyhomepage.com/

Customs

Cyprus is part of the EU and as such, no official documents are required for personal effects and household goods if originating from another EU country. If however your effects originate from outside the EU then the following applies.

To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import household goods and personal effects into Cyprus from outside the EU. It is advisable to check with the authorities that documentation is in order, prior to despatch.

Wharfages

All customers pay wharfages regardless of their status

- This is a Port Authority charge and not a Customs charge
- Wharfages are approximately EUR 110-150 for a 20' container and approximately EUR 130-200 for a 40' container with household goods and personal effects. For LCL shipments it can vary from EUR 50-100
- Wharfages are charged based on the weight of the shipment on all import and export shipments and is even charged on Diplomatic shipments
- For cars, wharfages are approximately EUR 60-130 if car is less than 2000 kgs and EUR 180-250 if car is over 2000 kgs
- For motor bikes, it can range from EUR 50-100 per bike

Shipments coming from EU member countries – Household Goods & Personal Effects – regardless of client's nationality

Documents Required:

Sea Shipments:

- Original T2L (page 4) signed by Origin Customs or Status C Bill of Lading
- Packing list
- Original Way bill or Express Waybill
- Original registration documents of cars, motor bikes and boats if any. You must attend Limassol customs if shipping a car, bike or boat. For more information see Motor Vehicles section

Client must attend Limassol Customs if shipping a car, bike or boat. See below information on importing cars or bikes into Cyprus.

Air Shipments

- Airway bill must show C Status
- Packing List
- Pre-Alert must be sent at least 48 hours before the arrival of shipment at Larnaca airport.

All shipments coming from EU countries will be randomly

inspected and any fees from inspection will be charged to the client's account.

It is important to let your Destination Agent know if you are importing pianos, alcohol, shotguns, air rifles or other abnormal items not associated with "normal" household goods and personal effects.

Shipments coming from Non EU countries – Household and Personal effects only – regardless of client's nationality

Documents Required:

- Sale agreement of your property sale at origin country before your move to Cyprus or termination of rental agreement at origin country
- Termination of employment contract at origin
- Bills of the house at origin, i.e electricity or phone bills
- You must provide proof of house ownership or rental agreement in Cyprus
- If you will be working in Cyprus, you must provide your employment contract
- Letter from employer at origin country confirming your employment there and your transfer of residence to Cyprus permanently (your Destination Agent can provide a sample of this letter when required)
- Registration of your children at local schools
- Bank statement confirming you have funds in Cyprus
- Original passport and presence at Customs

Air shipments:

- Airway bill must show C Status
- Packing List
- Pre-Alert must be sent at least 48 hours before the arrival of shipment at Larnaca airport
- Copy of ticket OR boarding pass of flight to Cyprus

All shipments from NON EU member countries are inspected. LCL and Air shipments are inspected at the port / airport. FCL shipments are inspected at the residence after 3.30pm as Customs officers can only attend inspection then.

New Items: New items arriving from NON EU member countries are dutiable. All items owned and used for less than six months are considered new. This period excludes the shipping time to Cyprus. Customers must declare new items to Customs otherwise they pay penalties as well as duties and taxes.

Diplomatic Shipments from EU Countries

Documents Required:

Sea Shipments:

- Original T2L page 4 signed by origin customs or Status C bill of lading



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- Packing list
- Passport copy
- Original Bill of Lading or Express Waybill

Air Shipments:

- C Status Airway bill
- Packing list
- Passport copy

For Cars, Motorbikes or Motor Boats

An exemption certificate is required from the local embassy prior to arrival of shipment at port.

Diplomatic Shipments from Non EU member Countries

Documents Required:

- For all Diplomatic shipments from non EU countries, an Original Bill of Lading (or Express waybill) or Air waybill
- Packing list
- 1002 form stamped and signed by Embassy (your destination agent will provide this form)
- Exemption Certificate will be required from the local Embassy will be required prior to arrival of shipment at port

Students bringing goods from Non EU Member Countries

All students returning home and bringing their USED personal effects or household goods from NON EU member countries will pay duties and VAT ranging from approximately 18-33% on the current value declared to Customs. New items are dutiable anyway, duties depend on the items being imported.

Motor Vehicles

Documents Required for Registering a car in Cyprus:

- As soon as you arrive on the island you must apply to the Immigration office for the permanent residency
- Sale agreement of your property sale at origin country before your move to Cyprus or termination of rental agreement at origin country
- You must provide proof of house ownership or rental agreement in Cyprus
- If you are going to be working in Cyprus you must provide your employment contract
- Letter from your employer at origin country confirming your employment there and your transfer of residence to Cyprus permanently (your destination agent can provide a sample of this letter when required)
- Registration of your children at local schools
- Bank statement confirming you have an account on the Island
- The insurance policy you had at origin country for the last six months may be required during your car registration in Cyprus

Importing cars from EU and NON EU Member Countries

Documents required:

- Original passport and presence at Limassol customs
- Original log book of the car (registration)
- Valid Driving Licence
- Valid Insurance cover for Cyprus
- Cyprus insurance cover for driving in Cyprus
- Original T2L (page 4) signed by Origin customs or Status C bill of lading
- Express bill of lading

Please make sure that none of the above documents are left inside the vehicle.

Cars from Non EU Countries:

The owner can import one duty free car as long as it's already registered (in their name) and used for more than six months.

The mileage is more than 6000 kms.

Owner should have resided outside Cyprus for a continuous period of twelve months prior to transfer of normal residence.

The car must be imported within six months from owner's transfer of normal residence to Cyprus.

Owner must prove that they are moving to Cyprus permanently (not with work etc).

Owner will pay VAT, value added tax, currently 19% on the current value assessed by the customs.

Registering the car in Cyprus

As soon as you arrive on the island you must apply to the Immigration office for the permanent residency.

Sale agreement of your property sale at origin country before your move to Cyprus or termination of rental agreement at origin country.

You must provide proof of house ownership or rental agreement in Cyprus.

If you are going to be working in Cyprus, you must provide your employment contract.

Letter from the employer at origin country confirming your employment there and your transfer of residence to Cyprus.

Registration of your children at local schools.

Bank statement confirming you have an account on the island.

The insurance policy you had at origin country for the last six months may be required during your car registration in Cyprus.

The car will first be released to you as a "visitor" and the customs officer will give you the temporary importation license (C104 form). You need to check the expiry date of this form and if you will not be able to register within that period you should apply to the Customs office to extend it until you are ready to register the car in Cyprus.

From Non EU Countries:

- The owner can only import one duty free car as long as it is already registered in the owners name and used for more than six months
- The mileage is more than 6,000kms
- Owner should have resided outside Cyprus for a continuous period of 12 months prior to transfer of normal residence
- The car must be imported within six months from owner's transfer of normal residence to Cyprus
- The owner must prove that they are moving to Cyprus permanently
- The owner however will pay VAT, value added tax currently at 17.5% on the current value assessed by the customs

From EU Member Countries

VAT and duties are not payable in Cyprus provided the client meets the above criteria. If you the client do not meet the above criteria you will have to pay excise duty aswell. VAT will only be waived if the age of the car is more than 6 months and the mileage is more than 6000kms.

Motor Bikes

From EU Member Countries

If less than 599cc then no duties or taxes are paid provided age of motor bike is more than six months and mileage is more than 6000 kms.

If over 599cc then the same rules and regulations apply as for Motor Cars.

Customer can import only a car or motorbike under their name to be free of duties and taxes.

From NON EU Member Countries

If the motor bike is less than 599cc owner will not pay excise duty. If owner does not meet all the criteria (see regulations for cars) then duty will be payable between 6-8% plus VAT currently at 15% on the accumulated amount (Duty and VAT).

If the motor bike is over 599cc then the same rules and regulations apply as for Motor Cars.

Guns / Rifles

You must hold a European Firearms Pass or otherwise must obtain an Import License from your local district Police HQ before the Air Rifles / Pistols arrive in Cyprus.

You must be present for registration (a registration fee is payable for each rifle / pistol) at your local police station within 48 hours of arrival of shipment and will only be released against presentation of a valid European Firearms Pass or Firearms Permit issued by the Chief of Police.

The Customs Authorities will keep the guns for inspection and then released to yourself.

Please note that the bore of the guns should NOT exceed 0.177".

Prohibited Items

Drugs, Narcotics, Pornographic Material

Restricted Items – Alcohol & Cigarettes

- In an FCL container:
- Up to 12 sealed bottles are acceptable, this applies from EU and NON EU member countries
- Up to 20 open bottles are acceptable, this applies from EU and NON EU member countries

Duty and VAT on Alcohol:

- Sparkling: EUR 0,32 per litre plus VAT
- Red and white wine: EUR 0,13-0,15 per litre plus VAT
- Spirits : EUR 9.57 per anhydrite ethyl alcohol plus VAT

DIPLOMATS are exempt from duty and VAT on alcohol, provided the Embassy provides them with a Diplomatic Franchise prior to arrival of shipment, otherwise same rules as above.

Do not include cigarettes in your shipment.

Pets

Please contact your Destination Agent on a shipment basis.

Food

EU Member countries:

Dry and canned food only is allowed.

NON EU member countries:

Import license is required from local Ministry of Health.

Wood

All solid wood packing materials used as overcasing, bracing or blocking must conform with EU commission directive 2004/102/EC (ISPM15) and be appropriately and clearly marked with IPPC symbol, registration and treatment codes.

General Information on the Republic of Cyprus (The Turkish Cypriot community (north Cyprus) refers to itself as the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus")

Background

A former British colony, Cyprus became independent in 1960 following years of resistance to British rule. Tensions between the Greek Cypriot majority and Turkish Cypriot minority came to a head in December 1963, when violence broke out in the capital of Nicosia. Despite the deployment of UN peacekeepers in 1964, sporadic intercommunal violence continued, forcing most Turkish Cypriots into enclaves throughout the island. In 1974, a Greek Government-sponsored attempt to overthrow the elected president of Cyprus was met by military intervention from Turkey, which soon controlled more than a third of the island. In 1983, the Turkish Cypriot



administered area declared itself the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” (“TRNC”), but it is recognized only by Turkey. A UN-mediated agreement, the Annan Plan, failed to win approval by both communities in 2004. In February 2014, after a hiatus of nearly two years, the leaders of the two communities resumed formal discussions under UN auspices aimed at reuniting the divided island. Talks were suspended in October 2014, but resumed in earnest in May 2015 following the election of a new Turkish Cypriot “president.” The entire island entered the EU on 1 May 2004, although the EU acquis – the body of common rights and obligations – applies only to the areas under the internationally recognized government, and is suspended in the area administered by Turkish Cypriots. However, individual Turkish Cypriots able to document their eligibility for Republic of Cyprus citizenship legally enjoy the same rights accorded to other citizens of EU states.

Geography

Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean with an area of 9.251 sq. kilometres. It has a maximum width of 100km from north to south.

It is situated at the north-eastern end of the East Mediterranean basin at a distance of 380km north of Egypt, 105km west of Syria and 75km south of Turkey. The Greek mainland is some 800km to the west. The nearest Greek islands are Rhodes and Carpathos, 380km to the west.

Agricultural products are: potatoes, citrus, vegetables, barley, grapes, olives, vegetables, poultry, pork, lamb and dairy.

Industries are: food, beverages, textiles, chemicals, metal products, tourism and wood products.

Climate

Cyprus enjoys an intense Mediterranean climate, with long dry summers from mid-May to mid-October and with mild winters from December to February, which are separated by short autumn and spring seasons. Summer is a season of high temperatures with cloudless skies but the sea breeze creates a pleasant atmosphere in the coastal areas. Winters are mild with some rain and snow on Troodos mountains (usually starting before Christmas). In Cyprus there is abundant sunshine, even in December and January there is an average of six hours of bright sunshine per day. The island enjoys almost constant sunshine throughout the year.

The climate in Cyprus is considered one of the healthiest in the world.

Population

Estimated at 788,457.

- 77% Greek Cypriotes 18% Turkish Cypriots, 5% other

Language

Greek is the main language. English is spoken everywhere. Turkish, French and German are also spoken.

Currency

The monetary unit is the Euro.

Notes: 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5 euros

Coins: 2, 1 euros then 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents

Economy

The area of the Republic of Cyprus under government control has a market economy dominated by the service sector, which accounts for more than four-fifths of GDP. Tourism, financial services, shipping, and real estate have traditionally been the most important sectors. Cyprus has been a member of the EU since May 2004 and adopted the euro as its national currency in January 2008.

During the first five years of EU membership, the Cyprus economy grew at an average rate of about 4%, with unemployment between 2004 and 2008 averaging about 4%. However, the economy tipped into recession in 2009 as the ongoing global financial crisis and resulting low demand hit the tourism and construction sectors. An overextended banking sector with excessive exposure to Greek debt added to the contraction. Cyprus’ biggest two banks were among the largest holders of Greek bonds in Europe and had a substantial presence in Greece through bank branches and subsidiaries. Following numerous downgrades of its credit rating, Cyprus lost access to international capital markets in May 2011. In July 2012, Cyprus became the fifth euro-zone government to request an economic bailout program from the European Commission, European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund - known collectively as the “Troika.”

Shortly after the election of President Nikos ANASTASIADIS in February 2013, Cyprus reached an agreement with the Troika on a \$13 billion bailout that resulted in losses on uninsured bank deposits. The bailout triggered a two-week bank closure and the imposition of capital controls that remained partially in place until April 2015. Cyprus’ two largest banks merged and the combined entity was recapitalized through conversion of some large bank deposits to shares and imposition of losses on bank bondholders. As with other EU countries, the Troika conditioned the bailout on passing financial and structural reforms and privatizing state-owned enterprises. Despite downsizing and restructuring, the Cypriot financial sector throughout 2015 remained burdened by the largest stock of non-performing loans in the euro zone, equal to nearly half of all loans. Since the bailout, Cyprus has received positive appraisals by the Troika and outperformed fiscal targets but has struggled to overcome political opposition to bailout-mandated legislation, particularly regarding privatizations. Cyprus emerged from recession in 2015 and its economy grew an estimated 1.6% for the year, setting a positive tone for the scheduled end of the bailout program in March 2016.

In October 2013, a US-Israeli consortium completed preliminary appraisals of hydrocarbon deposits in Cyprus’ exclusive economic zone (EEZ), which revealed an estimated gross mean reserve of about 130 billion cubic meters.

Though exploration continues in Cyprus' EEZ, no additional commercially exploitable reserves were identified during the exploratory drilling in 2014/2015. Developing offshore hydrocarbon resources remains a critical component of the government's economic recovery efforts, but development has been delayed as a result of regional developments and disagreements about exploitation methods.

Economy – overview: Even though the whole of the island is part of the EU, implementation of the EU “acquis communautaire” has been suspended in the area administered by Turkish Cypriots, known locally as the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” (“TRNC”), until political conditions permit the reunification of the island. The market-based economy of the “TRNC” is roughly one-fifth the size of its southern neighbor and is likewise dominated by the service sector with a large portion of the population employed by the government. In 2012 – the latest year for which data are available - the services sector, which includes the public sector, trade, tourism, and education, contributed 58.7% to economic output. In the same year, light manufacturing and agriculture contributed 2.7% and 6.2%, respectively. Manufacturing is limited mainly to food and beverages, furniture and fixtures, construction materials, metal and non-metal products, textiles and clothing. The “TRNC” maintains few economic ties with the Republic of Cyprus outside of trade in construction materials. Since its creation, the “TRNC” has heavily relied on financial assistance from Turkey, which supports the “TRNC” defense, telecommunications, water and postal services. The Turkish Lira is the preferred currency, though foreign currencies are widely accepted in business transactions. The “TRNC” remains vulnerable to the Turkish market and monetary policy because of its use of the Turkish Lira. The “TRNC” weathered the European financial crisis relatively unscathed - compared to the Republic of Cyprus – because of the lack of financial sector development, the health of the Turkish economy, and its separation from the rest of the island. The “TRNC” economy experienced growth estimated at 2.8% in 2013 and 2.3% in 2014 and is projected to grow 3.8% in 2015.

Health

Medical care needs in Cyprus are met through:

- Government General hospitals
- Private Clinics

General Hospitals and private clinics are mostly concentrated in urban areas, while health centers, subcenters and dispensaries function in the rural areas, providing a network to meet the medical needs for the whole population. All General Hospitals as well as some private Clinics have casualty departments for emergency cases.

Almost all brands of manufactured medicines are available in Cyprus. Local newspapers list pharmacies, which are open during the weekends / holidays.

Cyprus is relatively free from epidemic diseases, and even the common infectious diseases are rare.

Education

Overall responsibility for education rests with the Ministry Education and Culture. However, a small number of vocational and post secondary professional institutes come under the Ministries of Labour and Social Insurance, Agriculture and Health. Education is provided through the pre-primary and primary schooling, the later starts at the age of 5 years and 6 months – secondary general and secondary technical/vocational schools, special schools, third level institutes and centers.

Public schools are largely state funded while private institutes raise their income mainly from tuition fees, small state subsidies and, in some cases, from foreign aid given by overseas agencies and religious organisations.

The educational system is highly centralised with the appointments, transfers, promotions and disciplinary matter of teachers controlled by the state. School curricula and textbooks are prescribed by governmental agencies, and schools, at all levels, are visited by the state inspectorate.

Utilities

The electricity in Cyprus is 240 volts, 50Hz. Plugs are usually UK standard BS 1363 – safety screened live / neutral with earth socket, using the familiar 13amp plug. The use of adapters for operating high current rating appliances is not recommended. Adapters can be purchased from electricians, supermarket, grocery stores, etc.

Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Abels Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Abels cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.