

# Moving to France: Your Relocation Guide



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

# ABELS™

THE ART OF MOVING

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Memb No: A001



FS 23942



198656



TELEPHONE:	Country code: 00 + 33 + Area Code
STANDARD TIME:	GMT + 1 hour
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	220/240v, 50Hz
INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:	No special requirements
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Jan 1, 2, Easter Friday to Easter Monday, May 1, 8, 25, Jun 5, Jul 14 (Bastille Day), Aug 15, Nov 1, 11, Dec 25
OFFICE HOURS:	8.30-9.30 to 17.30-1900 with 1hr lunch break 35 hour working week. Hours vary on corporate culture, size and location in France.
BANK HOURS:	09.00-17.00 Monday – Fri General Hours 10.00-16.00 Saturday and certain evenings Hours do vary from town to town and depend on branch size
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	112 or 17 – Police 15 – Ambulance and Emergency 18 – Fireman
UK EMBASSY:	UK Embassy 35/37 Rue du Faubourg Saint Honore 75383 Paris - France Tel: + 1 44 51 31 00 Fax: + 1 44 51 32 34 Web: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/world/france">https://www.gov.uk/government/world/france</a>
FRENCH EMBASSY IN LONDON:	58 Knightsbridge Road London SW1X 7JT Tel: 02070 731 000 Fax: 02070 731 004 Web: <a href="http://france.embassyhomepage.com/">http://france.embassyhomepage.com/</a>
TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION:	Grand Arch-la Defense, F-92055, Paris, C-04 Tel: 01 43 23 81 81 <a href="http://www.paris-touristoffice.com">www.paris-touristoffice.com</a>



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## Moving to France from the UK – Information and Advice: Abels Relocation Guide

### Customs

**France is part of the EU and as such, no official documents are required for personal effects and household goods if originating from another EC country.**

**If removal goods originating outside the EU the following is required.**

#### **Household Goods for the principal residence (from countries outside the EU)**

Documents Required:

- Passport copy
- Detailed inventory list in French, valued in EUR, dated and signed
- Certificate of non resale
- Certificate of change of residence by the French Consulate stipulating the date of arrival in the country and the date of change of residence (during the last 12 months)
- Certificate of transfer done on a letterhead by the employer with date of employment in the origin country and date of transfer (during the last 12 months)
- Proof of residence in France (electricity, phone bills)
- Two originals (three in case of transit) of the form (Cerfa No 10070\*01); declaration of duty exemption entry of personal effects coming from a country outside the EU
- Standard copies are available at the French customs offices or on the internet

Duty free entry, provided that:

The importer has had their domicile for at least one year outside the EU.

Personal effects and vehicles have been used by the importer for at least six months.

Goods must be imported within twelve months of the date of transfer of residence.

If goods come in separate consignments, they must all be shown the first inventory list deposited with Customs.

Goods must remain in the importer's possession for at least twelve months from the date of importation.

#### **Household Goods or furniture for a secondary residence (from countries outside the EU)**

Documents Required:

- Authorisation certificate from the Regional Customs Directorate of the secondary residence area, upon request in triplicate, together with a detailed inventory in French, valued in EUR, dated and signed
- Evidence of ownership or renting
- Evidence of the normal residence abroad
- Certificate of non resale

Duty free entry, provided that:

Personal effects have been used for at least six months in a country outside the EU.

The importer owns the (secondary) residence or has rented it for a minimum period of 24 months if the principal residence is not in the EU.

Customs and taxes are due if the secondary residence or the furniture are let or sold within a period of two years after importation of goods from a non EU country.

For the goods imported from a country outside the EU, duties (amount depends on the origin country and the value of the belongings) and VAT (19.6%) are due in any case.

Goods must not leave the importer's possession for at least two years from the date of importation (ten years for objects of great value).

#### **Wedding trousseaux, and presents**

Documents required:

- Marriage certificate (or family record book)
- A copy of the form (Cerfa No 10070\*01)
- Detailed valued inventory in duplicate which must be dated and signed

Duty free entry for:

Trousseaux and household effects including new items.

Presents received by the person transferring residency:

Customs duty free for items with a unit value less than 1000 euros.

The required documents for the duty free entry must be remitted within two months before and four months after the date of the marriage.

Deposit of a guarantee may be required.

#### **Inheritance**

Documents required:

- Certificate from an official authority or a notary stating that the imported goods are obtained by inheritance and giving the inventory
- Detailed and valued inventory in duplicate, which must be dated and signed
- Documents showing that the importer has their residence in France
- A non-resale form signed by the importer

Duty free entry for inheritance goods.

The goods must be imported within two years of becoming the possession of the importer.

#### **Motor Cars**

Documents required:

In addition to the documents mentioned in "Household Goods"



- Original certificate of title at shipper's name (no leasing is authorised)
- Copy of the vehicle purchase invoice

Duty free entry as per "Household goods for the principal residence".

Both additional documents should be issued at least six months before the ETD of the vehicles and the shipper must have lived for at least twelve months in the origin country.

### **Raw materials semi-finished products**

Subject to payment of duties.

### **Tobacco and related products**

Subject to payment of duties.

### **Alcohol**

Subject to payment of duties.

Diplomats are considered as 'private persons' and consequently subject to the same rules. Importation of alcohol is consequently subject to duties.

### **Important cellar provisions**

Subject to payment of duties.

### **Medicine, narcotics**

Authorisation from the Ministry of Health, Direction de la Pharmacie et du Medicament, 1, Place Fontenoy, 75700 Paris.

### **Arms, Ammunition**

Import permit issued by Directorate General of Customs, bureau D3, 23bis, rue de 'l'Universite, 75007 Paris.

### **Pets (dogs, cats, birds)**

Documents required:

- Health certificate issued by an official veterinary surgeon  
Conditions to import animals to France:

Domestic animals originating from EU and / or a country outside the EU.

Wild animals subject to extinction threat.

### **General Customs Remarks**

Personal goods can circulate freely within the European Community. However, some particularly sensitive items remain subject to regulation.

The list of these products has been established to take account of health, security, consumption, environment and cultural considerations.

For moves from outside the EU, if documents are missing and the importer needs his household effects immediately, you can ask the customs office for information on the existing possibilities.

The importer may authorise another person to handle the formalities on his behalf.

The customs duties are to be paid in French cash or with bank or postal cheques. If the payment is made by cheque, the cheque must be certified by your bank.

The customs supplies on request of the importer a free trade card "carte de libre circulation" for example for camera, lens, radio etc.

This document proves the correct condition of the objects during a ten year period.

## **General Information on the French Republic**

### **Background**

France today is one of the most modern countries in the world and is a leader among European nations. It plays an influential global role as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, NATO, the G-8, the G-20, the EU and other multilateral organizations. France rejoined NATO's integrated military command structure in 2009, reversing de Gaulle's 1966 decision to take French forces out of NATO. Since 1958, it has constructed a hybrid presidential-parliamentary governing system resistant to the instabilities experienced in earlier more purely parliamentary administrations. In recent decades, its reconciliation and cooperation with Germany have proved central to the economic integration of Europe, including the introduction of a common exchange currency, the euro, in January 1999. In the early 21st century, five French overseas entities – French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, and Reunion – became French regions and were made part of France proper.

### **Geography**

France lies in southwest Europe, with coastlines on the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean sea, it includes the Mediterranean island of Corsica. Northern and Western regions consist mostly of flat or rolling countryside, the centre-south is dominated by Massif central. In the southwest the Pyrenees mountains form a natural border with Spain and eastwards are the Vosges and Jura mountains and the Alps. Rich soil has given France a substantial and varied agriculture base with major exports in cereal, dairy products, wines and sugar. It relies heavily on nuclear and hydroelectric power and imported fuels. Is one of the worlds major industrial countries in food processing, iron, steel and aluminium production, chemicals, cars, electronics and oil refining. Has a strong service sector and tourism. Trade is predominately with other EU countries.

### **Climate**

Generally cool winters with mid summers in central and northern areas. In the south along the Mediterranean the winters are mild and summers are hot. Occasional strong, cold and dry, North to North westerly wind known as mistral.



## Population

This is estimated at 60,876,000 with 70% living in towns and one sixth of this in Greater Paris.

## 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

All major credit cards and/or eurocheques are accepted by many establishments for a variety of goods and services.

When using a credit card, you will be asked to enter your code (4 numbers) into a machine, advisable to obtain code from your bank prior to departing the UK.

## Economy

The French economy is diversified across all sectors. The government has partially or fully privatised many large companies, including Air France, France Telecom, Renault, and Thales. However, the government maintains a strong presence in some sectors, particularly power, public transport, and defense industries. With more than 84 million foreign tourists per year, France is the most visited country in the world and maintains the third largest income in the world from tourism. France's leaders remain committed to a capitalism in which they maintain social equity by means of laws, tax policies, and social spending that mitigate economic inequality.

France's real GDP increased by 1.1% in 2015. The unemployment rate (including overseas territories) increased from 7.8% in 2008 to 9.9% in the fourth quarter of 2014. Youth unemployment in metropolitan France decreased from a high of 25.4% in the fourth quarter of 2012 to 24.3% in the fourth quarter of 2014.

Lower-than-expected growth and high spending have strained France's public finances. The budget deficit rose sharply from 3.3% of GDP in 2008 to 7.5% of GDP in 2009 before improving to 4% of GDP in 2014 and 2015, while France's public debt rose from 68% of GDP to more than 98% in 2015, and may hit 100% in 2016.

Elected on a conventionally leftist platform, President Francois HOLLANDE surprised and angered many supporters with a January 2014 speech announcing a sharp change in his economic policy, recasting himself as a liberalizing reformer. The government's budget for 2014 shifted the balance of fiscal consolidation from taxes to a total of \$24 billion in spending cuts. In December 2014, HOLLANDE announced additional reforms, including a plan to extend commercial business hours, liberalize professional services, and sell off \$6.2-12.4 billion in state owned assets. France's tax burden remains well above the EU average and income tax cuts over the past decade are being partly reversed, particularly for higher earners. The top rate of income tax is 41%. The government is allowing a 75% payroll tax on salaries over \$1.24 million to lapse.

## Education

Children are required to attend school between the ages of 6 and 16. State education is non-denominational and free of charge, but private (fee-paying) schools are also available. Children are accepted in a public school from 3 years old.

There numerous independent pre-primary schools available, for children between 2 and 6 years old with teaching based partly on the Montessori and Decroly theories. Primary education is for children between 6 and 11 years of age. Teachers in both public (state) and private schools are free to choose their teaching methods, provided they cover the required subject areas so when the child leaves primary school, he/she will have acquired a minimum standard in specific subjects.

After the age of 15, Upper Secondary Education (lycees), pupils may take a three-year course leading to the 'Baccalaureat' or a two year course combining vocational training with a general education. Higher education, above the age of 18, is free from state control, but the state has a monopoly in the conferring of degrees and certificates.

Foreign children may join the French educational system, and there are several state schools for which no fees are paid, although a good knowledge of French is required.

Schools for expatriate children in France are listed in the Directory of European Council of International Schools (updated annually) available from ECIS Inc., 21B Lavant Street, Petersfield, Hampshire GU32 3EL, UK (Tel: 01730 268244).

## Religion

A large 83-88% are Roman Catholic with other languages being Protestant, Jewish, Muslim and unaffiliated.

## Driving in France

Drivers must have a valid national or international drivers licence, a national registration certificate for the car, and an international certificate of insurance (green card). While a "green card" is no longer required for drivers from EC countries, it is advisable to obtain one. These documents should be with you at all times whilst driving in France.

Anyone moving from one EC country to live in another can exchange his drivers licence for one in his/her new country of residence without having to take another driving test. Other nationals (i.e. US) have to take a written test after one year's residence. After passing, driving lessons and a driving test is required. Twenty hours of mandatory lessons is standard.

A national drivers licence is valid for one year after which it is required to obtain a French driver's licence. Just apply to the nearest municipal administration; the driver will need to produce his/her residence card and an official translation in French of his/her original driver's licence.

Insurance is mandatory and may be obtained from the local town council. Expatriates are advised to obtain comprehensive insurance cover, which is available through French insurance companies.



## Medical Facilities

Facilities are adequate in both hospitals and private clinics. Under EC regulations, EC nationals who stay temporarily in a Community country are entitled to medical treatment on the same criteria as insured nationals of that country. These regulations do not cover the self-employed.

**Pharmacies:** There is a wide network of pharmacies in most towns (9.00am to 8.00pm, Monday to Saturday).

There is always a pharmacy covering nights, Sundays and on public holidays. This information will always be displayed in the window of all pharmacies for the nearest one in the area.

## Medical Insurance

Within the EC, private medical insurance, which is contracted in one country, is acceptable by the authorities in other community countries.

## Holidays

Despite official efforts to encourage the staggering of holidays, August remains a month in which business and industrial activity are at a low ebb. Many shops and restaurants in Paris and other cities are closed, and it is best not to plan a business visit between the middle of July and the middle of September unless prior appointments have been scheduled.

## Utilities

**Electricity** – The domestic electricity supply is generally 220vAV, 50 cycles, although 110v, 240, 115v and 127v are still supplied to some areas. Plug fittings for small appliances are usually standard European size with 2 round pins. Larger appliances are often fitted with 3 round-pin plugs. Bulbs can be of either bayonet or screw type. Electricity is expensive, hence the dim lights and time switches so often seen in French hotels.

**Water** – Tap water is safe to drink, although the locals usually drink bottled mineral water. By law, the water supply. Which is not safe to drink is marked EAU NON POTABLE. Water supplies are sometimes restricted in the south, and in some rural areas, during the summer.

*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.*