

# Moving to Italy: Your Relocation Guide



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

# ABELS™

THE ART OF MOVING

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STANDARD TIME:	GMT +1 hour
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	220, 50 hz
INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:	No special requirements
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Jan 1, Jan 6, Easter Monday, Apr 25, May 1, Aug 15, Nov 5, Dec 8, 25/26. Many local holidays on feast day of patron saint of each locality.
OFFICE HOURS:	Variable but generally 08.30-18.30 with 1-2 hour lunch break
BANK HOURS:	08.30-13.30 15.00-16.00
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	112 & 113 Police / 118 Ambulance
UK EMBASSY:	UK Embassy Via XX Settembre 80A, 1-00187 Roma Tel: (6) 422 00001
TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION:	Ente Nazionale Italiano per il Turismo Via Marghera 2, 1-00185 Roma Tel: (6) 497 11 Web: <a href="http://www.italiantourism.com">www.italiantourism.com</a>
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## Customs

**Italy is part of the EU and as such, no official documents are required to import personal effects and household goods duty free if originating from another EU country. However, should you be from outside the EU the following applies:**

### Customs Regulations

#### Currency

The Sanitary Division at all Italian port / airports have implemented a new requirement on all inbound shipments. Importers will need to certify that their shipments do not include any product against the mould and humidity or moisture absorbing bags.

If these were included in the shipment, this will need to be declared and declaration will need to be accompanied by analysis certificates with the composition of the product, certifying that this does not contain Dimethyl Fumarate. The certification must be provided by an accredited UNI CEI EN ISO / IEC 17025 Laboratory and a legalized translation into Italian language might be required. Of course, this also applies to the “anti-mould” bags / sachets that are placed in containers / lift vans by the movers to inhibit mould during transit. It is the responsibility of the origin agent to provide the required certification together with the bill of lading.

Declaration forms will be provided by your Italian Agent.

Examination of luggage, passports and hand baggage takes place on both entering and leaving Italy at airports, ports and frontiers. On railway services the formalities are carried out on the train.

## Household Goods

Italian Citizen returning:

- Consular declaration issued by the nearest Italian consulate stating the length of the stay abroad (at least 12 months), names of family members and the returning date. This has to be accompanied by the Inventory of the goods in Italian signed by the shipper and visased by the consulate. No values have to appear on this list
- Copy of passport
- Photocopy of the Italian fiscal code
- Italian fiscal code
- ‘Usmaf’ Declaration (related to the anti-mould products)
- Declaration to confirm that imported goods are not among the ones whose importation is forbidden (Dichiarazione di libera Importazione)
- Autocertificazione (important document which implies the penal responsibility of the owner) in which customer declares:
  - your transfer of residence from abroad to Italy, the status of your family and the value of the goods and the features of the audio visual items if included.

- Copy of the residence application – Italian returning citizen will need to re-apply for residence upon return and before the arrival of the shipment at the port / airport. A copy of the residence application will be required by the customs authorities. Some customs offices still require an original document.

As a general rule the Italian Customs authorities grant free entry to household removal goods and vehicles that have been used by the importer for more than 6 months. A duty free importation can be allowed within 12 months from the date of residence registration in Italy.

It is highly recommended to obtain the green light from your Italian agent before forwarding a shipment to Italy.

Some customs offices require the declaration of the freight value at the time of the clearance (and if shipment were dutiable, this would be a component on which duties/taxes will be calculated on, in addition to the customs value attributed to the goods). Your origin agent could be required to provide this information.

\* In case consular paperwork is not available or could not be obtained (some Italian consulates/embassies – particularly in USA - are no longer willing to provide the consular declaration since they state this is no longer needed), an Italian returning citizen will need to give evidence of the period of stay in the country where the shipment is originating from. Proof can be provided through the AIRE (Anagrafe Italiani residenti all’Estero), with a historical residence certificate issued by the Italian city hall or submitting a declaration issued by the company the importer has worked for.

Tobacco in any form, spirits, wine, food or firearms, ammunition, weapons (including swords, hunting knives) should not be included in the shipment.

All audio-visual items such as TV, radio, stereo, video-recorder, DVD player, personal computers are to be listed with serial number, trademark.

Only audiovisual sets that are marked “CE” can enter Italy. If they do not have the CE logo, they can only enter if they were purchased before January 1996.

Customs might inspect these items to check whether they meet requirements. Proof of purchase before January 1996 might be required.

### Foreign Citizen:

- Copy of the residence application showing the last residence country (this has to correspond to the origin of the shipment). Some customs offices still require the official certificate of residence in original
- Photocopy of passport
- Photocopy of the Italian fiscal code registration released by Agenzia delle Entrate
- Working declaration from the Italian company the importer works for with the starting date (whenever applicable)



- USMAF Declaration (related to the anti-mould products)
- Declaration to confirm that imported goods are not among the ones whose importation is forbidden (Dichiarazione di libera Importazione)
- Autocertificazione (important document which implies the penal responsibility of the owner) in which importer declares

Your transfer of residence from abroad to Italy, the status of your family, the value of the goods and the features of the audio-visual items, if included.

Official proof of a minimum 366 days stay in the country where the shipment is coming from has to be provided.

Evidence can be given, submitting a declaration from the importer's consulate, if applicable, or submitting an employer's declaration (preferably in Italian language). If none of these are available, copies of utilities/lease contracts might be accepted by the customs.

### **EC Citizen or with EC Citizenship:**

Same documents as above plus:

- Declaration from your Consulate stating that you have been living outside the EU for more than 12 months. In case these were not available and importer is relocating for business reasons, an employer's statement is usually accepted

### **Diplomats Removals**

Documents required:

- Foreign diplomats and personnel coming to Italy to join an official international organization or, consulate/embassy will need to obtain the "Diplomatic Franchise" (duty free import authorization) through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome. Before being in the position to apply for this, the diplomat has to obtain a special ID and be accredited as a diplomat in Italy. The process can take several weeks to be completed and it has to be initiated by the importer's organisation.

In addition to the original import authorisation, the following documents need to be submitted to the customs:

- Shipper's passport copy.
- Shipper's Italian codice fiscale copy.
- Dichiarazione di libera importazione (declaration to confirm that the imported goods are not among the ones whose importation is forbidden).
- "USMAF" declaration (related to the inclusion of anti-mould products)
- Importers need to submit the same paperwork described under "Italian returning citizens". A certificate from the Administration to which they belong (Foreign Ministry or National Defence etc.) will also assist

It is highly recommended to obtain the green light from your Italian agent before forwarding a shipment to Italy.

Shipments belonging to members of the Italian Diplomatic and Consular Corps, as well as civil servants and service personnel returning to Italy on completion of their mission abroad, are not usually travelling under a diplomatic status.

Import of alcohol is allowed for diplomats but limited to an annual quota agreed by the local Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the respective embassies in the country.

Firearms and ammunitions should not be included in the removal.

### **Wedding Trousseaux**

The applications should be accompanied by the list of objects comprising the trousseau, the wedding certificate and the certificate of residence in Italy of the married couple.

Each present must not cost more than EUR 1000.

Customs Office authorises import in franchise of trousseaux and wedding presents belonging to women of Italian or foreign nationality who as a result of their marriage with an Italian citizen, are electing residence in Italy. Application should be addressed to the customs office which performs the import operations.

For Italian or foreign women who settle in Italy as a result of their marriage with a non-Italian, the authorisation for import in franchise is issued, in each individual case, by the Directorate-General of Customs of the Ministry of Finance.

Wedding trousseaux are not admitted duty-free into Italy. However, they can enter duty-free as removals if they are used and importation is connected with a transfer of residence.

Motorcars are not considered as part of wedding trousseaux and therefore are not granted duty-free entry.

### **Inheritances**

Documents required:

- Translated legalised copy of the Will / notary act proving that the importer is the only heir having the right on the imported goods

Importation of used household goods and personal effects is authorised if importation is connected with a transfer of residence (in this case the requirements previously described under "removal goods" apply) or when the importer can prove to be designated as the only heir having right on the imported household goods.

The importation has to take place within 2 years from the date the heir becomes the official possessor of the goods.

### **New furniture household items presents and souvenirs**

Document required:

- Original invoices

In general presents and souvenirs are liable to payment of duty and VAT.

In case of false declarations (items declared as used while they are brand new), a fine will be assessed by customs, in addition to the payment of duties and taxes.

### Works of art & antiques

Detailed list and accurate description of the art pieces and antiques is required. A legalisation of list from the Italian consulate at origin is advisable. 2 photos for each piece need to accompany the documentation.

Additional declarations to be provided. Forms can be supplied by the Italian agent. It is highly recommended to consult the Italian agent before packing and shipping.

Fine art inspection is required and this will imply additional costs as well as a delay in the customs process.

Duties and taxes might be payable.

### Precious metal objects

Objects made by silver (i.e. photo frames, cutlery, trays etc.) within a normal move of household goods are allowed duty free on the same basis and under the same conditions as furniture and other articles. For other precious metal objects, please contact your Italian agent for verification.

### Radios, VCR, Stereo, Camcorders, Televisions, Computer

Importation of audiovisual appliances which are not marked "CE" (unless purchased before 01.01.96) are Forbidden.

If shipments include TV, copy of the payment receipt for the TV annual subscription ("canone radio/TV") is to be submitted to the Italian customs.

Proof of purchase for items declared being purchased before 01.01.96 might be required.

Related receipts/invoices are to be kept handy (not to be packed in the shipment).

Audiovisual items (meeting customs requirements) are to be loaded close to container door to allow customs inspection.

No more required for radios.

### Motor Vehicles

Returning Italian Citizens:

- A consular declaration from the Italian embassy stating the length of stay abroad (non EC country for at least 12 months) and the date of return to Italy
- Inventory list indicating vehicle plate, chassis, model etc and all other relevant details)
- Photocopy of the first two pages of passport
- Photocopy of Italian Fiscal code
- Proof that the car was continuously used and owned abroad for more than 6 months and that the member had a permanence abroad longer than 12 months. The car has to

mention all its specifications on the Italian inventory with all details legalised and attached to the consular declaration

### For All Importers

Documents required:

- Importers passport copy
- Importers Italian fiscal code
- Copy of the residence application showing the last residence country which must correspond to the origin where the vehicle is coming from. Some customs offices might require the original official certificate of residence
- Copy of the invoice
- Original vehicle title (certificate of ownership / logbook of the vehicle) accompanied by a legalised translation into Italian done by the Italian consulate at origin (and in some countries like USA also from the Secretary of State / Public Notary)
- If title were withdrawn at origin, the above translation will still be required

Additionally, the Italian consulate will have to certify that the copy of the title is a true and accurate copy taken from the original. Local authorities will have to provide an original document stating that title has been withdrawn.

This declaration will need being submitted at the customs and at the Motorisation office and will have to be accompanied by an original legalised translation done by the Italian consulate at origin.

- Vehicles must meet Italian requirements to be registered and driven in Italy or will need to be converted. Conversions are not always possible thus it is highly recommended that the shipper checks this issue before exporting the car
- 2 originals will have to be obtained for each document (one original used for customs purposes and one original used for registration)

If the vehicle cannot be imported duty free, the above documents will still be needed for clearance and for the registration process.

The forms ("autocertificazione", "dichiarazione di libera importazione" and "Usmaf declaration") required for the importation of household goods will also be needed as originals for the importation of vehicles.

Duty free entry if vehicle has been in possession of importer abroad for more than 6 months.

Importers need to prove to have lived in the country where the shipment is coming from for a period longer than 12 months.

Official proof of a minimum 366 days stay in the country where the shipment is coming from has to be provided. Evidence can be given submitting a declaration from the importer's consulate, if applicable, or submitting an employer's declaration (preferably in Italian language). If



none of these are available, copies of utilities/lease contracts might be accepted by the customs.

Before the vehicle is handed over for shipping, customers should be encouraged to verify with the manufacturer whether it is possible to have the vehicle converted to meet Italian/EU requirements in Italy.

Vehicles must have been owned and used by the importer for more than 6 months prior to shipping to Italy.

Vehicles cannot be sold or otherwise, disposed of for one year after date of importation.

- If the procedure to apply for residence has not been completed yet when the shipment arrives at the customs, duties and taxes will have to be paid.

In order to nationalize the car, a Technical Data Sheet issued by the manufacturer stating car features and declaration of conformities with EU requirements will be required. Better to obtain a legalised translation.

It is highly recommended to obtain the green light from the Italian agent before forwarding vehicles into Italy.

### Caravans and Trailers

Same as Motor Vehicles.

### Narcotics and Drugs

Importation prohibited.

### Plants and vegetable products

Documents required:

- Phytosanitary certificate

Normal house plants are admitted duty free as part of a removal, provided a certificate of freedom from Disease is available from the authorities of the country of origin of the removal (Phytosanitary certificate) otherwise importation prohibited.

Among some European countries (i.e. Italy/Switzerland) there is a special agreement that allows free circulation of plants with the exception of some species.

It is recommended that such items should not be included in removals.

### Pets: Dogs, Cats and Birds

Documents required:

- Original international vaccination book
- Rabies vaccination certificate: all pets must have an original Rabies Certificate signed by the vet. The rabies vaccine must be at least 21 days old at the time of the final health exam

It is also suggested that all pets have full vaccinations, as well:

- **Dogs:** Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza and Parvovirus (DHLPP) and Bordatella.

- **Cats:** Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus and Panleukopenia (FVRCP).

These should be valid at the time of import and administered no less than two weeks before export date for maximum effectiveness.

**EU Health Certificate:** this is the standard Health Certificate to be filled in by an accredited veterinarian and must be signed in a different color than that of the certificate's printing (normally blue ink). This certificate is valid for 10 days from the date of issue by the official veterinarian until the date of the checks at the EU point of entry.

USDA Endorsements for the below referenced forms:

- Microchip Implantation Record
- Rabies certificate
- Vet letter
- EU Vet Health Certificate

These must be sent to the local USDA for their stamp of approval.

- **International Health Certificate:** The vet should have this in stock. This is an international health certificate that needs to be completed by the vet within 10 days of departure

- EU passport for pets travelling within Europe

All original documents listed above have to travel with the pet.

All dogs including those imported temporarily must wear a leash and a muzzle.

**Microchip:** each pet shall be identified by means of a microchip. No other form of identification is acceptable.

The microchip must be implanted before the rabies vaccine is administered.

- **Rabies Vaccination and Certificate:** all pets must have an original Rabies Certificate signed by the vet. The rabies vaccine must be at least 21 days old at the time of the final health exam

### Animals Skins and Furs

Importation prohibited.

### Dangerous goods, Firearms

Documents required:

- A special permit for their importation must be obtained from the Police Office (Questura Centrale) and from Explosives Department Office, but these CANNOT BE INCLUDED in household goods shipments

Firearms and ammunitions cannot be included in the removal, but must be shipped in a separate crate.



## Wine, beverages, alcohol and food

These are not to be included in the shipment with household goods.

Import of alcohol is allowed for diplomats but limited to annual quota agreed by the local Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the respective embassies in the country.

These are subject to sanitary inspections and need to be accompanied by sanitary analysis as well as customer's declarations. Taxes and duties to be paid. Shipment of these items is highly discouraged.

## Products against the mould / humidity or moisture absorbing bags

Documents Required:

Declaration forms ("Usmaf declaration") will be provided by the Italian Agent.

Importers will need to certify whether their shipments do or do not include products against the mould and humidity or moisture absorbing bags.

If these were included in the shipment, they will need to be declared and declaration will need to be accompanied by analysis certificates with the composition of the product, certifying that this does not contain Dimethyl Fumarate. The certification must be provided by an accredited UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17025 Laboratory and a legalized translation into Italian language might be required.

This also applies to the "anti-mould" bags/sachets/absorbing poles that are placed in containers/lift vans by the movers to inhibit mould during transit.

The Sanitary Division at Italian port/airports have implemented this requirement on all inbound shipments.

Your origin agent would provide the required certification together with the bill of lading.

## General Information on the Italian Republic

### Background

Italy became a nation-state in 1861 when the city-states of the peninsula, along with Sardinia and Sicily, were united under King Victor Emmanuel II. An era of parliamentary government came to a close in the early 1920's when Benito Mussolini established a fascist dictatorship. His disastrous alliance with Nazi Germany led to Italy's defeat in World War II. A democratic republic replaced the monarchy in 1946 and economic revival followed. Italy was a charter member of NATO and the European Economic Community (EEC). It has been at the forefront of European economic and political unification, joining the Economic and Monetary Union in 1999. Persistent problems include illegal immigration, organised crime, corruption, high unemployment, sluggish

economic growth, and the low incomes and technical standards of southern Italy compared with the prosperous north.

### Geography

Italy is a peninsula in the Mediterranean Sea. Its most prominent feature is its boot-like shape kicking the island of Sicily.

Much of Italy is covered by mountains. The Dolomite mountains which extend across northern Italy are part of the Alps mountain range. The Apennine mountains cut down the centre of Italy, stretching from north to south, dividing the east and west coasts.

The Po Valley, just south of the Dolomite mountains, is the basin of the Po River. It is fertile farm land.

Italy includes two large islands: Sicily and Sardinia. Sicily is the largest island in the Mediterranean, with active volcanoes and earthquakes. Sardinia is basically mountains rising out of the ocean.

Italy also has two independent countries within its borders. Vatican City is the centre for the Roman Catholic Church, and is the world's smallest country. San Marino, on the north east coast of Italy is an independent republic.

### Climate

The climate of Italy is considered to be one of the best in the world. A land of contrast, Italy has a very varied climate, in winter, it is cold and dry on the Alps, mild on the Italian Riviera, and cold and damp in the Po Valley. The summer is hot and dry along the coast, pleasantly cool in the Alps and Apennines. The rainfall is hot and heavy. Natural hazards are regional and include landslides, mudflows, avalanches, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, flooding and subsidence in Venice.

### Population

It is estimated at 58 million with the growth rate being negligible at 0.01% per annum.

### Environmental Issues

Italy has air pollution from industrial emissions such as sulfur dioxide. Coastal and inland rivers are polluted from industrial and agricultural effluents. Acid rain is damaging lakes. There is inadequate industrial waste treatment and disposal facilities.

### Currency

The currency unit is the Euro.

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

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



## Economy

Italy has a diversified economy, which is divided into a developed industrial north, dominated by private companies, and a less-developed, highly subsidized, agricultural south, where unemployment is higher. The Italian economy is driven in large part by the manufacture of high-quality consumer goods produced by small and medium-sized enterprises, many of them family-owned. Italy also has a sizable underground economy, which by some estimates accounts for as much as 17% of GDP. These activities are most common within the agriculture, construction, and service sectors.

Italy is the third-largest economy in the euro zone, but its exceptionally high public debt and structural impediments to growth have rendered it vulnerable to scrutiny by financial markets. Public debt has increased steadily since 2007, topping 135% of GDP in 2015, but investor concerns about Italy and the broader euro-zone crisis eased in 2013, bringing down Italy's borrowing costs on sovereign government debt from euro-era records. The government still faces pressure from investors and European partners to sustain its efforts to address Italy's longstanding structural impediments to growth, such as labor market inefficiencies and tax evasion. In 2014, economic growth and labor market conditions continued to deteriorate, with overall unemployment rising to 12.7% and youth unemployment around 40%, but Italy began to recover in 2015, with marginal growth and a slight reduction in unemployment.

## Education

Every child between the ages of 6 to 14 goes to school in Italy. More than 90% of them attend public schools. Through the Ministry of Education in Rome, the national government sets educational policies and selects the school system's curricula and books. The required schooling is followed by a three year junior high school. After they graduate from junior high school, students often have four or five year programs to study. The biggest group of students go to vocational schools, science schools, classical schools, teacher training schools and language schools.

Any senior high school graduate may attend a university. Italy has 47 public universities. This country also has a few private universities, a lot of which are run by the Roman Catholic Church. Together, the universities enrol more than a million students each year. A lot of university programs last from four to six year.

University enrolment had been very heavy since the late 1960's. The university of Rome, with an enrolment of about 170,000 is the biggest university in Italy. The university of Bologna, which dates from about 1100, is one of the worlds oldest universities.

## Religion

Predominately Roman Catholic with mature Protestant and Jewish communities and a growing Muslim immigrant community.

## Health Service

Since Italy and Great Britain are both members of the EU visitors have the right to claim health services available to Italians. Before leaving for Italy one must obtain form E111 from the department of Health and Social Security.

At every chemist shop there is a list of those open at night and on Sundays.

## Banking Hours

Banks are open in the morning from 08.30 to 13.30, and one hour in the afternoon, generally from 15.00 to 16.00 but check locally as times of opening in the afternoon vary from bank to bank and from city to city.

Banks are not open on Saturdays and Sundays and other National Holidays.

Travelers Cheques and Cheques can be changed at most hotels.

All major credit cards as well as Eurocheques and Travelers Cheques are accepted in Italy in most shops, restaurants, hotels and at some large petrol stations on motorways.

*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.*