

Van Lines driver. He presents the form to the U.S. customs official at the border along with a copy of your Atlas Bill of Lading and a copy of your descriptive household goods inventory form.

Q. Are there any tips to correctly completing the 3299 form?

A. Yes, here are a few that may prevent any clearance problems:

- Use your full name - not initials
- Only enter the full name of any family members who are accompanying you to the U.S. if they have received their visas. Otherwise, just list the name of the main importer who has a visa.
- Even though there is not a specific box for it on the form, mark your Social Insurance Number or your U.S. Social Security Number on the top of the form.
- Give a copy of your entry/work/study visa (front and back) to your Atlas sales representative.
- Provide a copy of your "offer of employment" letter (with the salary information marked out).
- Provide a copy of all pages from your passport including a clear copy of your photo page. Returning U.S. Residents and people born in Canada do not require a passport. A copy of your birth certificate and one piece of photo identification (i.e. driver's license) is acceptable.
- If your spouse has a different surname, then you should attach a copy of your marriage certificate to your form 3299. Remember not to list your spouse unless he/she has an entry visa.

Q. Must I be present at the border when my goods clear customs?

A. Usually not, you should precede your goods into the United States to ensure your status is approved. If for some reason, the goods cannot be cleared at the border (generally if paperwork is not in order) then U.S. customs will place the shipment "in bond". You will then have to report to a customs office at destination to "personally" clear your shipment. If you are not available, they will request that we put the shipment into storage in a "bonded" warehouse thus incurring extra charges for you.

Importing Automobiles to the United States

Q. What must I do in order to get permission to import my car to the United States?

A. All cars going into the United States must meet U.S. EPA and Safety Standards. Your first step is to contact your automobile manufacturer to obtain a clearance or pre-approval letter. (You can obtain a number for auto manufacturers from your Atlas representative or visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/rules/import.)

You must provide the auto manufacturer with:

- the Vehicle Identification Number
- year, make and model
- a return fax number or a mailing address
- in some instances the manufacturer will charge a fee for this letter - they will ask for a credit card number or certified cheque
- certain manufacturers may request a copy of your work visa or employment letter before issuing a compliance letter
- If you need assistance call: National Traffic Safety Association 202-366-1024 or 1-888-327-4236
- You will be required to complete an HS-7 form from www.nhtsa.gov in the vehicle regulations section.

Q. What happens next?

A. Once you receive the letter back from the auto manufacturer, make a copy and give it to your Atlas representative. You should retain the original as you will need it when you go to register your vehicle in your new state. You should also provide your Atlas representative with a copy of your ownership and proof of insurance.

Q. What happens if my car does not meet standards or if the manufacturer will not issue a letter?

A. In this case, you will need to use a registered importer who will make the necessary arrangements to have the car brought up to standards. A non-conforming car may be imported for a period not exceeding one year. It must however, be exported at the end of that year - NO EXCEPTIONS. Call the U.S. Department of Transportation, (202) 366-9660 for help. A list of Registered Importers can be accessed on the NHTSA website listed in this booklet.

Q. What happens if I sell my automobile after I move to the United States?

A. If you sell your vehicle within one year of importing it to the U.S., you will be required to pay duty before you can finalize the sale.

Q. Do I have to pay duty on my car?

A. Cars manufactured in U.S. and Canada are exempt from duty. Duty on foreign made vehicles is generally at the following rates: Autos 2.5% ; Trucks 25%; Motorcycles 3% of 3.4%. Rates are subject to change.

Q. Are there any other tips relating to shipping a car to the U.S?

A. The U.S. Department of Agriculture requires that all cars that enter the U.S. on a moving van be free from foreign soil before importation so you should have your car cleaned before shipping it on the van.

Importing Restricted Items to the United States

Q. Can I import firearms into the United States?

A. There are a number of restrictions relating to firearms. It is best not to ship these items with your household goods. You must contact the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) to obtain an import permit. Request a copy of Form 6. Some antique firearms are exempt from this requirement but you should speak to the ATF for full information. Contact the ATF at 202-927-7777 or go to www.atf.treas.gov/. Returning residents do not require an import permit but must show proof of prior export, proof of ownership and complete Customs form #4455 which is downloadable from ATF website.

Q. Can I import alcohol?

A. Moving companies are not permitted to ship alcohol on the van with your household goods. If you plan to take alcohol into the U.S. with you it will be restricted to 40 ounces per family member over 18 years of age. If you have a wine collection or larger quantity of alcohol, you will be required to pay all state taxes. Rates vary by state. Contact the specific state liquor control board for more information. A contact list is available on the ATF website at: www.atf.gov/alcohol/permits.htm. For more information call ATF Alcohol Import Branch at 202-927-8110.

Importing Pets or Plants to the United States

Q. Can I take my family pet(s) into the United States?

A. You will be required to produce proof of rabies vaccination and a certificate from a veterinarian stating that the animal(s) are in good health. Birds may require a period of quarantine at the owner's expense for a period of at least 30 days after entry to the U.S. In some instances this requirement is waived, as long as you've owned the bird for at least three months.

Q. Can I move my household plants to the United States?

A. There are no restrictions in the importation of household plants and barerooted outdoor plants. However, customs may require that imported plants must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate. Contact your local customs office for more information.

Importing Food and Food Related Items to the United States

Q. Can I move food items to the United States?

A. You may ship foodstuff to the United States however, your moving company cannot take anything of a perishable nature due to the extremes of heat and cold on the trailer during the summer and winter seasons respectively. Beer, wine and liquor cannot be transported on your moving van.

Summary

You will find that moving to the United States can be as easy as moving around the corner provided you start your planning well in advance of your move date. Your Atlas moving consultant is well versed in the various regulations and will be happy to answer your questions.

Other Helpful Contacts

VEHICLE IMPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA)
Director of Vehicle Safety Compliance (NEF 32)
400 7th St. S. W.
Washington, DC 20590
202-366-4000
Website: www.nhtsa.dot.gov

Environmental Protection agency (EPA)
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20460
734-214-4100
Website: www.epa.gov/otaq/imports/quikover.htm

CUSTOMS INFORMATION

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Service
P.O. Box 7407
Washington, DC 20044
(202) 354-1000
Website: www.customs.ustreas.gov
(click on publications and choose "Visiting the United States #0000-0511")

IMMIGRATION INFORMATION

Immigration and Visa Information
US Citizenship and Immigration Service
4420 N. Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22203
202-514-2000
Website: www.uscis.gov/

Law Office of Joseph Grasmick
Olympic Towers
300 Pearl Street, Suite 200
Buffalo, NY 14202
716-842-3100
Website: www.grasmick.com