

**General Instruction**  
**BAHRAIN (BA)**

**PPCIG-OL**

*Print Date: October 27, 2010*

## 1. SHIPMENT INSTRUCTIONS

ALL HHG and UB shipments for DOD Members assigned to American Embassy, Bahrain will be consigned to: Director, PP Shipping Office, PPSO Regional Support Office FISCO BAH, PSC 451, Box 0480, FPO AE 09834-0480, GBLOC is SGNK.

### a. WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

In accordance with governing regulations.

### b. CONTAINER/CRATING REQUIREMENTS

No restrictions identified.

### c. HARD LIFT AREA

No restrictions identified.

### d. UNACCOMPANIED BAGGAGE

No restrictions identified.

## 2. CUSTOMS CLEARANCE PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND RESTRICTIONS

It is extremely important to forward all relevant documents in advance and to attach to the #1 container all relevant shipping documents; (i.e., commercial bill of lading, government bill of lading and packing list). These procedures are required by the Government of Bahrain and are used to facilitate the Bahrain customs clearance process. This document package allows the Bahrain Customs inspectors to determine if the shipment should be more closely inspected. Shipments without proper documentation are normally opened with all inner containers either being opened or x-rayed causing extensive delays, excess costs and increased possibility of damage and pilferage.

## 3. CONSUMABLES

No restrictions identified.

### a. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Alcoholic beverages cannot be shipped to and/or from Bahrain.

### b. CIGARETTES/TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Shipments of cigarettes/tobacco products between CONUS and overseas or within overseas countries may be shipped subject to host country requirements/restrictions identified. When undefined or in doubt, the Personal Property Shipping Office will request clarification from the responsible transportation authority at destination.

### c. COSMETICS

Products made in Israel are prohibited.

#### d. FOOD STUFFS AND MEATS

Pork products are prohibited.

#### e. MEDICATION (NARCOTICS)/PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

Certain products are prohibited. The Personal Property Shipping Office will request clarification from the appropriate authority.

### 4. ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

No restrictions identified.

#### a. HOME COMPUTERS

No restrictions.

#### b. TVs/VCRs

No restrictions. However, voltage used in Bahrain is 220volts/50Hz.

#### c. OTHER (i.e. COMPATIBILITY, ETC)

No restrictions.

### 5. FURNITURE, OVERSIZED

Some apartments have very small elevators. Be cautious with oversize furniture. Most apartments are fully furnished.

### 6. PETS/QUARANTINE

a. Members assigned to Bahrain may bring their family pets. Pets are defined as dogs and cats only. Only 2 pets can be imported.

b. Pets will be home quarantined for one month. Boarding, kennel and veterinary facilities are available on the local economy.

c. Health documents required to accompany pets in Bahrain are:

(1) Dogs: Certification the dog has been vaccinated twice with a canine parvovirus vaccine at least 2 weeks apart, with the first vaccination at least 20 days prior to shipment.

(2) Cats: Certification the cat has been vaccinated against feline panleucopenia.

(3) For both dogs and cats, a current rabies vaccination certificate over 3 months of age.

(4) A copy of member's orders.

d. Document processing for pets requires:

(1) Members must fax to their sponsor copies of the pet's health record with an official rabies and health

certificate thirty days prior to arrival. The rabies vaccination is required to be 30 days old but no more than one year old upon arrival with a copy of military orders or assignment instructions. The member must ensure the sponsor is aware of the flight itinerary.

(2) The member's sponsor must take these documents to the Army Veterinarian Office to obtain the Bahrain government importation certificate (cost \$15.00). Your sponsor should also contact personal services representative to arrange pickup and customs clearance at the airport.

(3) The member must arrive in country with an original health and rabies certificate for each pet. The health certificate must be no more than ten days old. Upon arrival, the owner should contact the base Army Veterinarian, at 72-4651. The Veterinarian may be reached from CONUS by dialing 011-973-72-4651.

e. Pets transportation guidelines require a veterinary health certificate before making reservations. Pets must fly on board AMC flights. Commercial transportation will not be authorized based on the lack of pet space. If pets can not be accommodated on AMC, member will be responsible for arranging onward transportation.

## 7. PRIVATELY OWNED FIREARMS (POF)

No restrictions identified.

### a. HAND GUNS

Extremely prohibited.

### b. RIFLES/SHOT GUNS

Extremely prohibited.

### c. TOY RELATED GUNS

Toy guns and other types of guns are prohibited.

### d. OTHER (i.e. AMMO, EXPLOSIVES, ETC)

Sharp knives other than kitchen knives and swords are also prohibited.

## 8. PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES (POVs)

**PROHIBITED VEHICLES:** Willy's jeeps are prohibited from importation in POV Bahrain, all other jeeps are allowed.

**POV LICENSE PLATES:** Local Bahraini Customs Agents are confiscating all foreign license plates from inbound POVs at the Port of Khalifa, Bahrain. All license plates should be returned to service members prior to shipping a POV to the Kingdom of Bahrain. Packing license plates in the vehicle accessory box is prohibited.

### a. POVs (includes data on prohibited vehicles, colors, etc.)

a. Authorized DOD personnel may import free of duty no more than one privately-owned vehicle for the personal use of the member. However, you may import a second or third vehicle, but member is liable to pay the 20 percent import tax and local port handling. The legwork to complete the customs processing is the member's responsibility. The local Ministry of the Interior defines a motor vehicle as either automobile or motorcycle with engine power exceeding 1.5 HP and engine size exceeding 50 cc. Personnel must be 18 years old and possess a valid permit to operate automobiles and motorcycles. POV will be inspected by local traffic directorate for compliance and thus requires registration according to Bahrain traffic law.

(1) Tinted windows: Local motor law allows the importation of vehicles with FACTORY TINTED windows.

Vehicles cannot be registered unless the windshield and front side windows allow at least 70% of light to pass through. The front windshield may have a sun strip as long as it is the original manufactured windshield. All windows behind the front driver and passenger side windows can be tinted as long as it is the FACTORY TINTED windows. The amount of tinting for windows behind the driver and passenger side windows was not address by the Kingdom of Bahrain with the exception of them needing to be FACTORY TINTED. Vehicles already imported will be allowed until November 2005 to change their windows should they not comply. Vehicles that are in transit at this time with non-conforming tinted windows may not be allowed to be registered. After market tinting is not allowed.

(2) Right handed steering wheel: Vehicle with right-handed steering wheel (right hand driven) is not permitted.

(3) Paint/scratches/dents: Vehicles with badly faded paint, dents, widely visible scratches, rust, or any other damage will not pass the inspection. Normal dings and scratches are acceptable. Loose or hanging body parts are not acceptable. Major body damage or twisted and bent frame is not acceptable.

(4) Tires: All tires will be in good condition. Tires extending partially beyond the fender are prohibited.

(5) Lights: All installed lights must be operational. Headlights cannot be modified. The taillight or a separate light must illuminate the rear license plate. Backup lights must function when the transmission is engaged in reverse gear. Vehicles must be equipped with directional signals. Roof rack light systems are prohibited.

(6) Windshield Wipers: Must be operational.

(7) Brakes: Vehicle must have two separate means of applying brakes. The failure of one braking system will fail registration.

(8) Color: There are no restrictions as to color. However, no weird painting or art on vehicle is permitted. Stickers, drawings, advertisements, or writing on the vehicle are not allowed.

(9) Exhaust System: Faulty or excessively loud exhaust systems are prohibited.

(10) Salvaged vehicles as stated on the certificate of title are not permitted.

(11) After market hydraulic systems are prohibited.

(12) Other: Vehicles must meet operational and safety standards. Missing fenders, broken windows, missing side view mirrors, and improper wheel alignment (wheels that cannot be turned from full right to left without jamming or rubbing part of the vehicle) will not be accepted.

#### b. MOTOR CYCLES/MOPEDS

Mopeds and motorcycles require registration according to Bahrain traffic law.

#### c. GASOLINE/CATALYTIC CONVERTERS

Unleaded gasoline is available throughout Bahrain, removal of catalytic converters is no longer required.

#### d. INSURANCE AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

(1) Insurance and traffic registration expiration dates must coincide with one another, (i.e., last day of the month). Insurance and registration must be renewed annually; failure to comply will preclude operation of vehicle and may subject the owner to a penalty in accordance with Bahrain law.

(2) Automobile insurance for the Bahrain area is reasonable. Cost depends on make, model, year of vehicle and the total value (what is it worth at present) you declare on the vehicle. Insurance is compulsory, and POV cannot be released, registered, and used without proof of insurance. Once insurance is issued on a vehicle, coverage includes anyone who drives the vehicle. Not necessary to have each individual driver insured. There are two types of insurance policies available:

(a) Third party (without collision) will run about \$125/160 per annum.

(b) Comprehensive (full cover) will run \$300 and above per annum.

### 9. SEXUALLY EXPLICIT/PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL

The importation of pornographic material is a strict violation of Bahrain law. Those items determined to be pornographic will be confiscated, destroyed and the importer will be prosecuted.

## 10. STUFF WILD LIFE/ANIMALS AND PLANT RESTRICTIONS

No restrictions identified.

## 11. TRANSMITTING EQUIPMENT

No restrictions identified.

### a. CBS

Use of citizen band (CB) radios and personally owned satellite dishes are prohibited.

### b. AMATEUR/HAM RADIOS

No restrictions identified.

### c. MARS EQUIPMENT

No restrictions identified.

### d. DISH ANTENNAS

No restrictions identified.

### e. CORDLESS PHONES

Cordless phones are permitted; however, high range cordless phones are prohibited. High range equipment will be detained by customs and a custody receipt will be issued. Upon final departure from Bahrain, arrangements can be made with customs, once you produce the custody receipt, the phone will be returned at the airport upon departure. Members should contact their sponsors before deciding disposition of cordless phones.

## 12. SEPARATEES/RETIREEES ENTITLEMENTS/LIMITATIONS

Personnel contemplating retirement, separation or relocating dependents to Bahrain should be counseled that all customs entry requirements to include payment of duties and taxes remain the responsibility of the member and is a personal matter between the member and the Government of Bahrain. When processing application and gbl, shipment must be consigned to member's residence in country or to the destination agent facility. Destination GBLOC is IOOI. DO NOT CONSIGN PROPERTY TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, AMERICAN CONSULATE OR MILITARY INSTALLATION.

## 13. OTHER

BAHRAIN NATIONAL HOLIDAYS:

- \*1 January New Year's Day
- \*2 Feb/March Eid holidays (approx 5 days)
- \*3 April/May Eid holidays (approx 5 days)
- \*4 May Alhijrah Islamic New Year

- \*5 May/June Ashoora
- \*6 Jul/Aug Prophet's Birthday
- \*7 16 Dec National Day

\*These holidays are declared upon sighting the moon, using the Islamic calendar.

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