

UK Customs Documentation Checklist

For International Removals to Worldwide Destinations

BAR Overseas Certified | Established 2010

SECTION 1: UK Export Documentation (Required for All Moves)

- Detailed inventory list with item counts and approximate values in GBP.
- Proof of UK residency (minimum 12 months utility bills, council tax, or tenancy agreement).
- Passport copy (photo page and visa page if applicable).
- Full destination address with contact number.
- Bill of Lading (provided after container loading).
- Proof of ownership for high-value items (over £1,000).
- Vehicle log book (V5C) if shipping a car.
- Pet documentation if relocating pets (passport, health certificate, microchip details).
- Antique export licence if items are over 100 years old.
- Commercial goods declaration if shipping business items.

SECTION 2: Destination Import Requirements (Overview)

- European Union: Proof of 12+ months UK residence and residency visa.
- United States: Form 3299, valid visa, inventory in USD.
- Canada: BSF186 form, valid permit, inventory in CAD.
- Australia: Form B534, timber declaration, strict biosecurity checks.
- United Arab Emirates: Residence visa, Emirates ID, inventory in AED.
- Singapore: Valid work pass, GST may apply unless exempt.
- Japan: Work visa and detailed electronics declaration.
- Hong Kong: Employment visa and inventory.

SECTION 3: Prohibited and Restricted Items

- Firearms, explosives, illegal drugs, counterfeit goods.
- Endangered species products (ivory, coral, protected materials).
- Food, plants, seeds (especially restricted for Australia and New Zealand).
- Alcohol and pork products (prohibited in UAE and some Middle East countries).
- Chewing gum restricted in Singapore.
- Prescription medication requires doctor's letter and original packaging.

SECTION 4: Customs Clearance Timelines (Typical Sea Freight)

- European Union: 5–9 days door-to-door.
- USA East Coast: 21–28 days total.
- USA West Coast: 37–45 days total.
- Canada: 22–30 days total.
- Australia: 46–57 days total.
- UAE: 34–44 days total.
- Singapore: 38–48 days total.

FINAL PRE-SHIPMENT CHECKLIST

- Inventory completed with item counts and values.
- 12+ months UK residency proof gathered.
- Passport and visa copies sent to mover.
- Destination address confirmed.
- All prohibited items removed.
- Restricted items declared.
- Destination-specific forms completed.
- All documents submitted at least 10 days before pack date.

Last Updated: February 2026

Complies with UK Border Force export requirements and standard destination customs regulations.