

# All the right moves – USA



**Britannia**

REMOVALS, STORAGE AND INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING

## Importing Goods To the USA

### Importing Personal Effects

Shipments of household goods and personal effects are allowed duty free entry, provided that they have been owned and used for at least 12 months prior to importation. Please note that you must be in the country in order to successfully complete all customs clearance procedures.

### Documentation

We will provide you with the correct customs forms that must be completed prior to the goods leaving the UK, however, unless you are a US passport holder (or have a valid Green Card), you must ensure you have the appropriate visa for entry into the USA.

To avoid additional charges it is essential that documentation is completed and returned promptly.

### Prohibitions and Restrictions

In general it is in your interest not to import the following items.

- Firearms & ammunition
- Inflammable goods & substances
- Plants & plant material
- Foodstuffs, perishables or otherwise
- Alcohol, narcotics and dangerous goods
- Offensive or indecent material



### Transit Times

Groupage or shared load consignments usually take 8 to 11 weeks to destinations via the East Coast, and 11 to 14 weeks if going via the West Coast, door to door. However, this can vary depending on volumes being shipped, customs or immigration delays and prevailing weather conditions. Sole use containers usually take 2 weeks to the East Coast and 4 weeks to the West Coast port to port, and there is a weekly service to all major ports.

### Tracking Consignment

All groupage consignments will be bar coded before they are loaded into the shipping container. This will ensure that no items are left at origin and allow Britannia to check the status of your goods in transit.

### Additional Services

Britannia can provide a variety of complementary services to make your moving experience as efficient and easy as possible. From international foreign exchange even helping you relocate your families pets. For further information about Britannia's partner companies please visit - <http://www.britannia-movers.co.uk/additional-services>

### Motor Vehicles

Motor Vehicles are subject to import taxes and duties. All vehicles must meet U.S. emission requirements and any conversions required to the vehicle must be performed prior to shipment.



## Welcome To Britannia in the USA

### Customs clearance

All consignments must be customs cleared within 5 working days of arrival, failing which the goods will be transferred to a Customs Bonded warehouse until custom clearance can be made (minimum charge approx \$200 for the first month). The time taken to clear goods through customs can be affected by Government policy, X-raying of goods, physical inspection, volume of traffic and the levy of any import duties or taxes. Charges raised by customs or Homeland Security officials will be paid for by our Britannia agents, who will seek reimbursement from yourselves prior to delivery.

### Britannia in the USA

Britannia has established a long standing successful relationship with a network of dedicated removers, who will assist you with your destination services. Their full contact details will be provided at the time of the forwarding of your consignment. Our agents are part of our extended Britannia family and we meet with them on a regular basis to ensure high standards of service are maintained.

### Storage

Should you require storage prior to delivery this can be arranged. You should expect to pay a one off storage handling fee, plus a monthly storage charge N.B. these charges are payable locally. It is vitally important that you ensure that your marine insurance policy is extended for the period of the storage.



### Destination Services

Following customs clearance your consignment will be delivered to your home, on a mutually convenient date - please note this is only for customers who have paid for a 'Door to Door' service. Goods will be delivered into your new home and placed in the relevant rooms as directed by you.

Professionally wrapped and packed goods will be unwrapped and cartons unpacked onto a flat surface.

All used packing materials will be removed from site on the delivery day.

Although, there may be insurance implications, you do retain the right not to have some or all items unpacked or unwrapped should you so choose.

### On Arrival

Britannia can offer advice on a variety of issues related to living in the USA.







# Your Moving Guide Checklist

## Three Months Before

- Arrange for a pre-move survey with Britannia
- Have a clear idea what you would like to take with you
- Arrange for quote for the transportation of your family pet

## Six Weeks Before

- Book move date with Britannia
- Agree moving plan with Britannia
- Make a list of items to be moved, which will need particular care
- Book pet transport carrier and confirm logistics
- Advise of new school addresses so that education records can be passed on quickly
- Doctor – de-register. If undergoing hospital treatment, notify a new doctor as soon as possible

## Four Weeks Before

- Advise schools/Day-care centres of movement and obtain records
- Cancel memberships including gym, library etc
- Arrange financial affairs; foreign exchange, pension transfers and bank accounts

## Three Weeks Before

- Confirm childcare arrangements for moving day
- Plan the best way to look after pets on moving day and confirm itinerary for transportation
- Clear out unwanted belongings
- Start using up food from the freezer

## Two Weeks Before

- Contact service providers to arrange final accounts and meter readings
- Telecoms/digital/cable TV provider
  - Electricity supplier
  - Gas/Oil supplier
  - Water Rates
  - Local Council Taxes
  - Credit card/store card or credit card protection companies
  - TV Licence
  - Notify all hire purchase/lease/standing orders or loans companies

## Notify plans of movement:-

- Dentist
- Optician
- Amend insurance cover on buildings, household contents, motor, life etc
- National Insurance
- Child Benefit
- Motor vehicle registration
- Driving Licence (DVLA)
- Pension company
- Redirection of mail through the Post Office to family or friends (visit your local Post Office for details)
- Send out change of address cards to friends, relatives, clubs and organisations
- Organise the disconnection and reconnection of domestic appliances: washing machine, cooker, dishwasher

## Two Days Before

- Defrost the fridge and freezer
- Cancel any regular deliveries (milk, newspapers)

## The Day Before

- Check drawers and trunks/chests for any fragile items
- Place any liquids, oils and paints to be moved in sealed containers
- Take down curtains and blinds
- Put together a pile of 'do not remove' essentials: passports, tickets, itineraries, coats, handbags, snacks, cleaning materials
- Pack small valuables separately and leave with essentials pile e.g. jewellery, watches, money, bonds, coins, stamps etc
- Separate your airfreight consignment from your sea freight

## The Big Day

- Confirm service meter readings and keep a spare copy of readings
- Switch off power and water supplies (if necessary)
- Lock all windows and doors
- Drop keys off with estate agent
- Exchange contact numbers and agree meeting time with removals team
- Confirm you have provided all required documentation for your sea freight/airfreight consignment

**Britannia** Tel: **0845 600661** [www.britannia-movers.co.uk](http://www.britannia-movers.co.uk)

