



Czech Republic (Czechia)

CAPITAL Prague	OFFICIAL LANGUAGE Czech	CURRENCY Czech koruna (CZK)
--------------------------	-----------------------------------	---------------------------------------

Last verified: June 2026 | Guide version: 2.0

Disclaimer

This Country Guide reflects information believed to be correct at the time of publication. Regulations, procedures and charges are subject to change. IAM does not accept liability for errors, omissions, inaccuracies or misinterpretations in this guide. The information provided should not be considered as having been provided or sanctioned by the customs authorities of the country or territory concerned.

Overview

Duty-Free Eligibility

Duty-free conditions (non-EU origin): Personal effects and household goods may be imported free of customs duty and VAT provided the shipper has lived outside the EU continuously for more than 12 months, the goods were in use by the shipper for at least 6 months before departure from the country of prior residence, and the goods are intended for personal use only (not commercial). This relief is granted under EU Council Regulation (EC) No 1186/2009.

New items (non-EU origin): Items owned and used for less than 6 months are considered new and are subject to customs duty and VAT (currently 21%). New items must be declared separately.

VAT rate: The standard Czech VAT rate is 21%.

Documents

From non-EU countries (transfer of normal residence)

- Copy of passport photo page
- Copy of visa (for non-EU citizens)
- Inventory list
- Pro forma invoice
- Packing list
- Original bill of lading (OBL) or air waybill (AWB)
- Proof of residence in origin country: at least 2 documents as evidence the shipper has lived outside the EU for at least 12 months (rental contract, company statement, bank statements, health insurance documents, utility bills)
- Proof of residence in Czech Republic: EU residence permit, Czech ID card, employment contract, or rental/ownership contract for residence in the Czech Republic
- Copy of lease agreement or proof of accommodation in the Czech Republic
- Letter of employment (if applicable)
- Request for duty and tax-free importation (original format required)
- Power of attorney (if the shipper is not present at customs clearance)
- Customs import declaration provided by the local embassy (diplomats)

Household Goods — Specific Information

Intra-EU moves: No customs procedures. Goods moving from another EU member state to the Czech Republic are not subject to import duty, VAT, or inspection. The Czech Republic joined the EU on May 1, 2004 and the Schengen Area on December 21, 2007.

Digital customs portal (2026 update): Czechia launched a fully digital immigration and customs portal in early 2026. Move managers should ensure inventory and declarations are uploaded correctly to this system to prevent border delays.

ISPM 15: As an EU member state, the Czech Republic requires all solid wood packing materials from non-EU origins to comply with ISPM 15, bearing the IPPC mark with registration and treatment codes.

Currency: Czech koruna (CZK). The Czech Republic has not adopted the euro. Cash amounts of EUR 10,000 or equivalent must be declared when entering or leaving the EU.

Landlocked country: The Czech Republic has no seaport. Sea freight shipments arrive via ports in Germany (Hamburg, Bremerhaven), Poland (Gdynia), or the Netherlands (Rotterdam) and are transported by road or rail to the Czech Republic. This affects transit times and may involve customs clearance at the EU port of entry.

Prohibited / Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Narcotics and controlled drugs — strictly prohibited
- Meat and dairy products from non-EU countries (with limited exceptions for Andorra, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, and small amounts of specific products from other countries)
- Products from protected species (CITES, Washington Convention), including ivory, tortoise shell, coral, reptile skin, and wood from Amazonian forests `CITES`
- Counterfeit goods
- Items that pose a risk to public health, safety, or the environment (per EU regulations)

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Traveler Allowances (from non-EU countries)

Alcohol (over 17 years, by air or sea):

- 1 litre of spirits exceeding 22% volume, or 2 litres of alcohol not exceeding 22% volume
- 4 litres of still wine
- 16 litres of beer
- Combinations permitted provided total does not exceed 100%

Alcohol (over 17 years, by land): Reduced quantities apply; the VisaHQ and Czech customs sources list frontier-zone rules at 0.5 litre of spirits over 22%.

Tobacco (over 17 years, by air or sea):

- 200 cigarettes, or 100 cigarillos, or 50 cigars, or 250g smoking tobacco

Tobacco (over 17 years, by land):

- 40 cigarettes, or 20 cigarillos, or 10 cigars, or 50g smoking tobacco

Other goods:

- Personal items of non-commercial nature up to EUR 430 (air/sea) or EUR 300 (land)
- Travelers under 15: up to EUR 150 (per Czech Customs Administration, may be EUR 200 per some sources; confirm with customs)
- Medication for personal use only
- No restrictions on amounts moving between EU countries for personal use, except cash amounts of EUR 10,000+ must be declared

Restricted Items

- **Coats, furs, leather shoes made of animal products from protected species** — authorization required `PERMIT REQUIRED`
- **Medication** — personal use quantities only; prescription drugs in quantities corresponding to personal need
- **Firearms and ammunition** — permit from Czech police required; persons permanently residing outside the Czech Republic may import up to 1,000 hunting shot cartridges and 50 bullets with a permit from the Czech Embassy or Consulate `PERMIT REQUIRED`
- **Food products** — may be permitted if in original sealed containers; check with destination agent
- **Live farm animals, plants, produce, coffee, and tea** — may not be imported without permits; household pets are an exception with proper documentation
- **Cultural property** — export from the Czech Republic requires a permit from the Ministry of Culture

Intra-EU Moves

No customs duties apply to goods moving within the EU. However, excise goods (alcohol, tobacco) may be subject to limits if quantities suggest commercial intent.

Vehicles

Vehicle Documents

- **Passport or Czech residence card**
- **Vehicle title/registration certificate from the country of origin (if not in Czech, an official translation may be required)**
- **Purchase invoice**

- **Vehicle operations manual/technical specifications**
- **Original OBL or AWB (if shipped)**
- **Certificate of Conformity (COC) for new vehicles or to simplify the STK process**
- **Customs declaration and proof of purchase (for non-EU imports)**
- **Valid insurance (Green Card / zelená karta)**
- **Packing list/inventory list**

Specific Information

Technical inspection (STK): All imported vehicles must pass a Czech technical inspection (Stanice Technické Kontroly, STK). For non-EU imports, this is an import technical inspection (Dovozová STK), which is more detailed than a standard periodic inspection. It covers roadworthiness, emissions compliance, headlights, exhaust system, and dashboard. The STK certificate cannot be older than 30 days at the time of registration. Cost is approximately CZK 3,000-5,000.

EU-origin vehicles with valid inspection: If the vehicle has a valid technical inspection from the EU country of current registration, only an evidenční kontrola (record check) may be required, which is cheaper and faster than a full STK.

Registration requirement: All owners of imported vehicles must register their vehicles at the local Municipal Office with Extended Powers (ORP) if they reside in the Czech Republic for 185 days or more. The administrative fee is CZK 800 for vehicles with 4+ wheels, CZK 500 for motorcycles over 50cc.

Emission fees (environmental levy): For vehicles of category M1 or N1 that do not meet at least the EURO 3 emission standard, additional fees apply: CZK 10,000 (EURO 0), CZK 5,000 (EURO 1), CZK 3,000 (EURO 2). These fees support vehicle recycling programs.

Duty-free import (non-EU, transfer of residence): An older baseline source cites an import tax of CZK 10,000, which is not required if the owner has resided abroad for at least 12 months and has used the vehicle within the 6 months prior to importation. Per the Czech Embassy in New Delhi, vehicles imported as personal effects by persons returning from a stay abroad of over 12 months are duty-free if the vehicle was in use for at least 6 months before departure.

VAT on vehicles: Per Czech Ministry of Transport guidance, proof of VAT payment is required when registering a vehicle within 6 months of its first registration anywhere, or if the mileage is less than 6,000 km. This applies to both EU and non-EU imports.

Vehicle age: An older baseline source states vehicles must be less than 5 years old for some types and 8 years old for others. Current sources do not confirm a blanket age restriction;

however, vehicles not meeting EURO 3 emission standards face additional fees. Non-EU vehicles over 5 years old may face additional scrutiny during the import STK. Confirm with the destination agent.

Temporary import: Vehicles imported temporarily (e.g., by foreign visitors) are duty-free if they will be exported within 6 months.

Registration timeline: Vehicles should be registered promptly after the STK inspection, as the STK certificate is valid for only 30 days for registration purposes. Confirm current validity with the destination agent.

Driving: Driving is on the RIGHT-hand side of the road.

Pets

Requirements

- **EU Pet Passport issued by an authorized veterinarian in the origin EU country**
From EU member states:
- **ISO 11784/11785 compliant microchip (implanted before rabies vaccination)**
From EU member states:
- **Current rabies vaccination (pet must be at least 12 weeks old; 21-day wait after primary vaccination)**
From EU member states:
- **ISO 11784/11785 compliant microchip**
From non-EU listed countries (including USA, Canada, Australia, etc.):
- **Current rabies vaccination (primary: at least 21 days before travel; booster: no waiting period if continuous coverage is documented)**
From non-EU listed countries (including USA, Canada, Australia, etc.):
- **EU Health Certificate issued by a USDA-accredited veterinarian (for U.S. origin) and endorsed by USDA APHIS**
From non-EU listed countries (including USA, Canada, Australia, etc.):
- **The Czech Republic requires a bilingual version of the EU health certificate; request from LAIE@usda.gov**
From non-EU listed countries (including USA, Canada, Australia, etc.):
- **All of the above, plus**
From non-EU unlisted countries:

- **Rabies antibody titer test at an EU-approved laboratory; result must be at least 0.5 IU/ml; pet cannot travel until at least 3 months after the blood sample date**

****From non-EU unlisted countries:****

Specific Information

The Czech Republic follows standard EU pet import regulations under Regulation (EU) No 576/2013.

Microchip before vaccination rule: The microchip must be implanted before the rabies vaccination. The veterinarian must scan the microchip before administering the vaccination. If vaccination was given before microchipping, it does not count under EU rules.

Primary vs. booster vaccination: The first rabies vaccination after microchip implantation (or after any lapse in coverage) is a "primary" vaccination, valid for only 1 year under EU rules even if a 3-year vaccine was used. A booster must be given within 12 months. Any lapse resets the process.

Minimum age: Pets must be at least 12 weeks old for rabies vaccination. After primary vaccination, there is a 21-day waiting period.

Tattoo identification: Accepted only if applied before July 3, 2011, clearly legible, and all rabies vaccinations kept current since application.

No import permit required: Pet owners entering the Czech Republic with dogs, cats, or ferrets do not need a prior import permit (accompanied pets, up to 5 animals).

Maximum 5 pets: Up to 5 pets may accompany the owner under non-commercial movement rules. More than 5 requires commercial health certificates.

No breed-specific legislation: The Czech Republic does not maintain a list of banned dog breeds at the national level.

CDC rabies status: The Czech Republic is NOT on the U.S. CDC's list of high-risk countries for dog rabies.

Common mistakes: Vaccinating before microchip implantation. Allowing rabies coverage to lapse. Not requesting the bilingual EU health certificate specifically for the Czech Republic. Shipping more than 5 pets without commercial documentation.

Consignment Instructions

Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air/sea/road shipments.

Landlocked logistics: All sea freight must transit through EU ports (typically Hamburg, Bremerhaven, Gdynia, or Rotterdam) and be transported overland. This adds transit time and potentially requires coordination between the port agent and the Czech destination agent. Customs clearance for non-EU goods typically occurs at the port of entry into the EU, though it can be deferred to the Czech Republic using a transit procedure.

Power of attorney: If the shipper cannot be present at customs clearance, a notarized power of attorney must be provided. The destination agent can typically handle customs formalities on behalf of the shipper with this document.

Language: Czech customs documentation is in Czech. All foreign-language documents may require official translation. The destination agent will handle translations as part of their service.

Import timeline: Goods should be imported in conjunction with the shipper's transfer of residence. The 12-month prior residency abroad must be continuous.

Vehicle clearance at Limassol: N/A (Czech Republic is landlocked). Vehicle clearance occurs at the customs office or at the destination agent's facility.

Unpredictable expenses: STK inspection fees (CZK 3,000-5,000), registration fees (CZK 800+), emission surcharges for older vehicles, customs brokerage fees, and storage charges at transit ports.

Cultural & Other Information

- [OpenFactBook — Czechia \(replaces CIA World Factbook\)](#) — verified 200
- [Wikipedia — Czech Republic](#) — verified 403 to bots, works in browser
- [Czech Customs Administration \(Celní správa\)](#) — verified 200
- [Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) — verified 200
- [Czech Ministry of Transport — Vehicle Registration \(EU imports\)](#) — verified 200
- [USDA APHIS — Pet Travel to Czech Republic](#) — verified 200
- [PetTravel.com — Czechia Pet Import Requirements](#) — verified 200
- [EU Pet Travel Regulations](#) — verified 200
- [VisaHQ — Czech Republic Customs](#) — verified 200
- [Trade.gov — Czech Republic Import Tariffs](#) — verified 200

EU membership: The Czech Republic joined the EU on May 1, 2004 and the Schengen Area on December 21, 2007. The EU's Common Customs Tariff applies to imports from non-EU countries.

Currency: Czech koruna (CZK). The Czech Republic has not adopted the euro. As of early 2026, approximately 1 EUR = 25 CZK.

Language: Czech is the official language. English is widely understood in Prague and major cities but may not be sufficient at smaller municipal offices or customs facilities.

Country name: The country's official short name was changed to "Czechia" in 2016 for international use. Both "Czech Republic" and "Czechia" are in common use. The CIA World Factbook uses "Czechia."

Quick Links & Resources

- [Find Movers in Czech Republic \(IAMX Directory\)](https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Czech%20Republic&lat=49.8175&lng=15.4730&range=50&assocs=800&fvw=c&ctry=Czech%20Republic)
<https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Czech%20Republic&lat=49.8175&lng=15.4730&range=50&assocs=800&fvw=c&ctry=Czech%20Republic>
- [Foreign Embassies in Czech Republic](https://www.embassypages.com/czechrepublic)
<https://www.embassypages.com/czechrepublic>
- [Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs](https://www.mzv.cz/jnp/en/index.html)
<https://www.mzv.cz/jnp/en/index.html>
- [OpenFactBook — Czechia \(replaces CIA World Factbook\)](https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/czechia/)
<https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/czechia/>
- [Wikipedia — Czech Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic

IAM Country Guide: Czech Republic (Czechia)