

Commercial Samples

Prior permission to import samples must be obtained from the Director-General of Customs, Riyadh. The written request should include product identification, unit price, date of intended arrival and period of stay. Any duties collected on commercial samples imported for display periods of up to six months (which is renewable), are returned when the samples are re-exported.

Samples of no commercial value are admitted duty free. The accompanying document and the samples themselves should be clearly marked to indicate that they are samples of no commercial value. Samples containing alcohol or pork products (including leather made of pork hide) are prohibited and will be confiscated on arrival.

Advertising material is exempt from duty, provided the duty normally paid does not exceed 50 riyals. Commercial films and videotapes are censored upon arrival in the country which can result in time-consuming delays.

Entry and Warehousing

All imported goods are held in government customs warehouses as there are no private or bonded warehouses. Storage charges begin 10 days after unloading. Goods unclaimed after six months may be sold to defray storage charges.

Unloaded goods remain the responsibility of the shipper until actually received by the customs agent. After clearing customs, the goods become the responsibility of the importer. Goods exempt from duty are generally exempt from wharfage charges as well.