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Customs on online purchases from abroad: what changed in Türkiye in 2026?

The €30 exemption is gone. Does every parcel now pay a flat 30% or 60%? What the official sources say, and what the courier collects.

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Online interactive version: **https://ozgurkonakci.com/en/guide/personal-imports-customs/**

SHORT ANSWER

Since 6 February 2026, the €30 exemption and the simplified procedure for general goods no longer apply to personal orders arriving in Türkiye by post or express courier. According to the Ministry of Trade, the flat 30% (EU) and 60% (other countries) rate now applies only to prescribed or medically documented medicines and food supplements worth up to €1,500; books for personal use are at 0%. For other personal purchases the courier files a full declaration and import taxes are paid.

This page is not about commercial freight

This page covers the customs rules for goods you order from abroad for personal use and receive by post (PTT) or express courier. This is not a freight forwarder process: the courier or PTT files the customs declaration and collects the payment. Freight forwarders organise the carriage of commercial cargo; for how taxes are calculated on commercial imports, see the guide's "How are import duties calculated in Türkiye?" topic.

A short history: €150 → €30 → abolished

Period	Rule	Legal basis
Until 21 August 2024	Value limit for non-commercial shipments **€150**. Flat tax 20% from the EU, 30% from other countries	Implementing Decision No. 2009/15481
21 August 2024 – 5 February 2026	Limit cut to **€30**. Rates raised to **30%** for the EU and **60%** for other countries	Presidential Decision **8787** (Official Gazette 06.08.2024)
Since 6 February 2026	**€30 exemption and simplified procedure for general goods abolished**	Presidential Decision **10813** (Official Gazette 07.01.2026, No. 33130)

In both earlier periods, 20% was added for goods on excise list (IV). The rates and decision details in the table are based on KPMG and Alomaliye summaries; the 6 February 2026 date also appears in the Ministry's circular amendment. Some news sites give different effective dates for Decision 10813; disregard them.

The most common myth: "30% or 60% on every parcel"

In January 2026 many news reports said that from now on **all** personal shipments would pay a flat 30% from the EU and 60% from other countries. The Ministry of Trade's guidance, updated on 5 March 2026, paints a different picture:

Shipment	Treatment (Ministry guidance)
General personal purchase (under €1,500, non-commercial, under 30 kg gross)	The express courier may file a **full declaration** on the recipient's behalf. **Import taxes are paid.**
Prescribed or medically documented medicines and food supplements (under €1,500)	Flat tax: **30%** when shipped directly from the EU, **60%** from other countries; **+20%** for goods on excise list (IV). Limit of 5 shipments and 30 kg gross per person per calendar month
Books and printed matter for personal use (under €1,500)	Flat tax **0%**
Shipment over €1,500	The import taxes in force apply

So the flat rate now applies only to medicines and food supplements. For general purchases the Ministry uses the phrases "full declaration" and "payment of import taxes" without listing the individual taxes.

Our reading: On the official texts, ordinary personal orders of any value are cleared on a full declaration and are subject to the **normal import taxes set by the goods' tariff code (GTİP)**: customs duty, additional customs duty and excise where they apply, and VAT. This is our interpretation of the Ministry's guidance and the amending decision; the exact amount is shown on the declaration your courier gives you.

Freight is part of the value

Tax is not charged on the product price alone. According to the Ministry:

- The **cost of carriage** from the country of dispatch to the point of entry into Türkiye **is added to the value**.
- The invoice, receipt or proof of payment should **show the product price and freight separately**.
- If freight is not shown separately, a **standard €3 freight** is added to the value.

Who collects the taxes and fees?

- **The Ministry of Trade collects only the taxes.** Carriage, storage and service fees go to the carrier.
- Under a full declaration, the express courier may charge **storage, brokerage and similar service fees** from the arrival notice onwards.
- For shipments declared under indirect representation (such as medicines and supplements), the courier or PTT tells the recipient the tax. If the recipient accepts, the tax is **collected on delivery**.

- Under simplified declarations the company may not charge brokerage, delivery order or terminal fees, and no storage fee is charged for the first 3 days after the arrival notice.

Tracking: The Ministry does not track shipments. Contact PTT or the courier concerned about your parcel.

Beware of scams: The Ministry has issued a warning about fraudsters who demand payment by SMS or email under the pretext of a courier or postal shipment. Verify any payment request through the courier's or PTT's own official channel.

What cannot come by courier

According to the Ministry:

- **Mobile phones** cannot be imported by post or courier; if sent, they are not delivered to the recipient.
- **Tobacco and alcohol** cannot be sent.
- **Cosmetics** covered by Law No. 5324 cannot be sent under the exemption.
- **Footwear, toys, leather or imitation-leather bags and suitcases** cannot be declared by post and express courier under the relevant clause of the Implementing Decision. Check with the courier before ordering these.

The traveller allowance does not apply to parcels

Goods you bring back with you from a trip and goods ordered by courier fall under **separate regimes**.

- The allowance for gifts and personal items carried by a traveller is **€430** per person, **€150** for under-15s.
- The Ministry states clearly that this allowance **does not apply to postal and express courier shipments**.
- Non-commercial traveller goods above the allowance and up to €1,500 pay a flat 30% from the EU and 60% from other countries (+20% for excise list IV). That rule is for travellers' goods, not online orders.
- One mobile phone carried by a traveller is exempt every 3 calendar years; registering it requires a "traveller mobile phone usage permit fee", which the Ministry's page puts at **TRY 54,258** for 2026.
- Personal items left behind or sent on separately can be brought in by courier or post free of tax between 1 month before and 3 months after arrival; the arrival date is proven with the passport.

Do you owe anything?

If an **unpaid** customs tax or penalty has been assessed in your name, you can check it with your e-Devlet password through the Ministry of Trade's **Customs Tax and Penalty Debt Query System**. We could not confirm any e-Devlet service specifically for checking tax on a postal shipment.

Test yourself

1. In March 2026 you ordered a €25 T-shirt from the US. Does the €30 exemption apply? *(Answer: No. The exemption was abolished on 6 February 2026; general personal purchases are cleared on a full declaration*

and import taxes are paid.)

2. You bought a €40 book from abroad for personal use. What is the flat tax rate? *(Answer: 0%.)*
3. Can a friend abroad send you a mobile phone by courier? *(Answer: No. Mobile phones cannot be imported by post or courier and are not delivered to the recipient.)*

Frequently asked questions

Does every parcel from abroad pay a flat 30% or 60%?

No. According to the Ministry of Trade's March 2026 guidance, these flat rates apply by post and courier only to prescribed or medically documented medicines and food supplements worth up to €1,500. For other personal purchases a full declaration is filed and import taxes are paid; our reading of the official texts is that these are the normal import taxes set by the goods' tariff code.

When was the €30 exemption abolished?

By Presidential Decision 10813, published in the Official Gazette of 7 January 2026 (No. 33130) and in force from 6 February 2026.

Who do I pay the customs taxes to?

The Ministry of Trade collects only the taxes; carriage, storage and service fees go to the courier or PTT. For shipments declared under indirect representation (such as medicines and supplements), the courier or PTT tells you the tax and, if you accept, collects it on delivery. For a full declaration, ask your courier how payment works.

Does the €430 traveller allowance apply to online orders?

No. The Ministry states clearly that the €430 gift allowance does not apply to postal and express courier shipments. It covers only goods that travellers bring with them.

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