

Dominican Republic *Customs Information*

General Information for Customs Clearance

Except diplomatic, military or official shipments that are exempted: All HHG shipment and vehicles are subject to payment of taxes/duties.

- According to the Law 14-93 for HHG, all person moving to the Dominican Republic is permitted to introduce all of the goods that have been in use for two years or more at his residence abroad, for which shipper can obtain an important reduction or full exemption on taxes/duties depending on the criteria of the authorities.

Law 168 for Automobiles:

- Always pay taxes, but according to the Law 168, (if applicable) shipper can obtain from 20% to 60% reduction on taxes depending on the time that the auto has been in his legal use, with a minimum of one year.
- But if automobile is considered luxury is a or model of the current year or if the car has been in possession of the shipper less than one year; regardless the model, make and year, if client cannot apply for the Law 168, would pay full taxes/duties. Autos older than five (5) years of fabrication cannot be imported.

To apply the above-mentioned Laws shipper needs to have Dominican residency and not having visited The Dominican Republic for more than 90 days accumulated during the two years before moving. Consignee should be in the country prior the arrival of the goods or automobile, in reason that Customs Authority requires his presence.

- ✓ Foreigners: must possess their Dominican residency.
- ✓ Dominican Citizens: need to present their valid passport and prove that they are legally living abroad.

Taxes/duties: Household goods: In normal conditions, HHG shipments pay taxes/duties, mainly completely new items, and electrical appliances, furniture, etc. Importation of firearms, weapons, ammunitions. Explosives pornographic material, narcotics drug, is absolutely prohibited

In case of the firearms: Once in Santo Domingo, client must arrange with proper authorities for permit and legal importation, BUT MUST NEVER BE INCLUDED IN HHG SHIPMENT.

- **Automobile and HHG** clear customs separately regardless if included in same B/L and same container or consular invoice. The Consular Invoice is absolutely necessary to clear out an automobile from customs. If missing, Client will have to pay penalties, demurrage and will have a lot of problems with customs.
- **The benefits of the Laws 14-93 and 168** is granted only once for one HHG shipment and one car, if client brings more than one car or HHG shipment will pay full taxes/duties for them after the benefits of the laws has been used.
- In normal conditions, the estimated time for customs clearance under the Laws 14-93 is approximately 15 working days for HHG and 45 working days for cars, after customs physical inspection of the shipment.
- When client pays taxes/duties, shipment is cleared in approximate 5 to 6 working days and doesn't need any of the above-mentioned documents only the Consular Invoice, Original B/L and inventory.
- If client wants to pay all taxes the working time is shorter.
- **To obtain the Laws 14-93 and 168**, after customs physical inspection of the shipment or vehicle we make an appointment in behalf of the client at the main office of General Direction of Customs, in Santo Domingo City, where client has to personally present his personal documents. In case that shipper lives out of the Santo Domingo City, will have to come to the city at least three times.

Documents needed for the appointment at General Direction of Customs

- ✓ Copy of marriage Certificate or divorce (whichever applicable)
 - ✓ Copy of birth certificate for kids
 - ✓ Original and copy of complete passport
 - ✓ Original and copy of the Dominican residency and
 - ✓ Originals and copies of shipment's documents (B/L, Consular Invoice, titles and registrations for vehicles, etc.)
- Once we have all the above-mentioned documents we accompanied client to his appointment at the General Direction of Customs main office in order to assists him with the procedure.
- This documentation is verified by Customs and, if it is correct, they proceed to apply the Laws and the personal documents will be returned directly to client. After this, is when shipper proceeds to pay the taxes/duties, if applicable, and shipment can clear out from customs.
- Shipping lines only gives 10 to 14 calendar days free of charges since the date of arrival of the container, after that, US\$20.00 per day will be charged additionally, including the day when the container is returned empty to the port. Ned Lloyd, Hapag Lloyd, CGM, Laser and Hamburg Sud charge US\$25.00 per day for the chassis.
- Also there are other charges for T.H.C., Customs inspections fees, Port authorities, etc., that every shipment has to pay additionally by shipper amounting USD 300.00 to USD 400.00.
- The above regulations do not apply to the following shipments: Diplomatic, and military personnel, members of foreign embassies, consulates, United Nations, O.A.S, N.G.O s'
- IF CLIENT DOES NOT HAVE HIS DOMINICAN RESIDENCY WILL PAY FULL TAXES/DUTIES ON HHG AND VEHICLE.

August 2004

Updated on 8/20/2009 1:37:58 AM