

Ecuador Customs Information

Prohibited and Restricted Goods

- Drugs, narcotics, food, pornographic material, live plants, firearms and ammunition are strictly prohibited.
- Alcohol, cigarettes are restricted.

Customs Regulations

Effective January 25th important changes in Customs Regulations affecting importation of household goods to Ecuador:

1. Stamp of inventory at origin by Ecuadorian Consul is now optional; the list can now be sealed by Public Notary at destination.
2. Inventory must be valued (reference reduced value for Customs; please do not declare insurance values).
3. The maximum time that returning citizens can stay in Ecuador during last year of abroad residence to remain eligible for a duty free importation of household goods is now 60 calendar days.
4. The guaranty amount in case of not having the proper visa stamped by the time of the arrival of shipments is now 120% of eventual duties & taxes.
5. Shipments must arrive within 2 months before and six months after the arrival of the consignee.
6. If shipment arrives after the consignee, he must not leave the country for more than 30 calendar days during this period.
7. In order to import household goods duty free more than once, consignee must stay living in Ecuador for a minimum of 5 years, not having left for more than 150 calendar days during this period.

Since 23 October 2007 important amendments to the Customs Law affecting the importation of Household Goods have been applied:

1. For shipments arriving in Ecuador after March 2008 verification at origin will no longer be required. Therefore, any value under \$4,000.00 will not be necessary for those shipments. However, shipments arriving before March 2008 must be compliant with current regulations.
2. Consularized inventories must be very detailed (quantities and nature of contents).

Please instruct all personnel involved with household goods traffic to Ecuador to be aware of the new rule.

Phytosanitary Regulations for Wood packaging materials used in International Commerce NIMF No. 15 in effect since September 30th in Ecuador

The Ecuadorian Phytosanitary Institution SESA, will enforce since Sept 30th, the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures ISPM, according to NIMF No.15 that regulates wooden packages for the International Commerce.

These rules apply to Import and Export Shipments to and from Ecuador, in that event all shipments using wooden materials for crates and pallets must be sealed in different parts following the ISPM seal model that will indicate that the wooden material has been Heat Treated or fumigated with Methyl Bromide.

The following kind of packing materials must be treated:

- Pallets, bailing wood, cages, blocks, barrels, crates, boards, collars, wedges, etc.

Material excluded:

- Crates, pallets and crating materials made totally with products derived from treated wood under heat, pressure or using industrial glues such as: Plywood, agglomerated wood, etc. - Sawdust and shaving wood; barrels that transport liquor, wood cut in pieces less than 6 mm thickness, wooden wool.

▪ If the packing material does not comply with the regulations, shipment will be re-embarked to Origin country and costs will have to be assumed by Shipper.

▪ For more information visit following Web Pages:

- SESA Ecuador: www.sesa.mag.gov.ec
- FAO (United Nations): www.fao.org/documents/show_cdr.asp

- New Customs Law issued by the Ecuadorian Congress, and published at the Official Register On May 3rd 2003, verification at origin for shipments whose value for customs is equal or greater than US\$ 4000= is mandatory.
- The issuance of a Marine or Air Transport Insurance for the international transportation leg of the shipment by Companies Established in Ecuador is being enforced in this law to determine the CIF value of the shipment and is one of the documents to be obtained in Ecuador to request the verification at origin.
- Contact will be made with the Ecuadorian Insurance Company or broker to obtain the local Insurance Policy, costs to be informed and billed, including handling fees, to customer in Ecuador or Origin Agent, accordingly.
- Once the previous steps are fulfilled a "GREEN LIGHT" will be given to proceed with the embarking of shipment.
- In the event of a shipment arriving to Ecuador without the Inspection Certificate the Customer has 15 Working days upon the arrival date of the shipment to request Ecuadorian Customs Authorities at Port/Airport of shipment's arrival: re-embarkation, in this case Customer's presence is needed to sign personally this request and present additional obligatory documents, as per Customs Procedures valid at that time. If in this period of time, Customer does not apply for it, Customs will confiscate the shipment.

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Customs Regulations (continuation)

Only the following imports are exempted of Verification at Origin:

1. Imports destined for the Diplomatic and Consular Sector
 2. International Transit Regime
 3. Traveler's accompanied baggage
 4. International Mail Traffic and Courier
 5. Border Traffic
- It is important to differentiate between [Declared Value For Customs] and [Declared Value for Insurance]. Also it is recommended that these figures are not indicated on MAWB, HAWB, MBL or HBL.-The process of assessing values to the shipment based on the consularized list is a careful coordination between Customer, Origin Agent, Customs Broker and INSA.
- In any case, the Door-to-Door Insurance, purchased by the Customer is a different document, not requested by Customs. Please inform if by OMNI Insurance Program, there would be an insurance conflict regarding this matter to prevent any confusion and misunderstandings with claims arising under the Door-to-Door Insurance in the event a complete loss during international transportation arises.

Household Goods

1. Request for tax exemptions for Household Goods has to be signed by the owner (Consignee) and the Customs Broker.
2. The "Declaracion Juramentada" (packing lists): have to meet the following:
 - ✓ Stamp and signature of a Notary Public located at the last domicile of the owner (consignee)
 - ✓ Consularization at the nearest Ecuadorean Consulate.(Authentication)
 Any document pretended to be attached to declaration in Ecuador and produced overseas, needs the same procedure.
3. On the B/L in Section Nature and quantity of Goods should clearly state: Household Goods (Menaje de Casa). If only the wording " Efectos personales" (Personal Effects) is indicated, Customs will not grant exemption on Household Goods

Household goods and personal effects are allowed duty free for:

- a) Foreign diplomats,
- b) Ecuadorean diplomats,
- c) Ecuadorean citizens returning after finishing official assignments in International Organizations recognized by the Ecuadorean Government.
- d) Ecuadorean citizens returning after a minimum of one (1) year of legal residence abroad (resident visa from the country where they return from is required)
- e) Foreigners with immigrant visa, and
- f) Foreigners with non-immigrant working visa.

REMARKS:

- Only one item per article is allowed. Additional items are subject to payment of duties and fines or confiscation
- Returning citizens will not be eligible for duty free importation in they have stayed in Ecuador for more than 30 days during the last year of abroad residence.
- The shipment must arrive up to 60 days AFTER the arrival of the consignee.
- Shipments on which all conditions are not fulfilled will be subject to payment of import taxes (approx. 43% of CIF value, calculated by Customs after inspection)
- The OBL/AWB and cargo documentation must have the consignee's R.U.C. (Ecuador tax contributor unique register, if the consignee is a company)), ID number (if importer is an Ecuadorean natural person) or passport number (if other than Ecuadorean). If the cargo is consigned to THE OTHER, the notifies R.U.C., ID or Passport number must be indicated.

New Regulations in Effect since May '03

- Except for diplomats, household goods and personal effects shipments valued over \$ 4.000,00 (declared value for Customs purposes only, not full replacement value), must be inspected an origin before embarkation. Inspection authorization will be requested by the destination agent in Ecuador. Lack of verification at origin will cause immediate re-embarkation of shipment. Cost of verification is 1% of FOB value (min.\$250,00) and taxes approx. 1 week.
- Transportation Insurance policy must be taken in Ecuador (for Customs purposes only, does not replace regular door to door insurance certificate issued at origin).

Documentation Needed:

- ✓ Original passport with stamped visa
- ✓ The property of goods must be demonstrated by means of the buying documents or with a sworn declaration stamped by an Ecuadorean Consul at origin, in which is evident the detailed and complete list of household goods and working equipment included on the shipment. There will be no exceptions to this requirement.
- ✓ 2 Originals of OBL / 1 original of AWB (please see consignment instructions below)
- ✓ Work contract valid for more than one year (foreigners only)
- ✓ Resident visa from the country they return from (returning citizens only)
- ✓ Migratory Certificate, issued at destination by Migration Police prior to presentation of Customs declaration (not applicable to

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New Regulations in Effect since May '03 (continuation)

- foreign and Ecuadorian diplomats)
- ✓ Verification certificate (issued by Inspection Company)
- ✓ Transportation Insurance policy issued in Ecuador

REMARKS:

- If the visa is not stamped on arrival, a \$2.000,00 refundable guarantee must be presented. If the working visa is not presented to Customs within 90 days, the guarantee will not be reimbursed and Customs duties will be applied.
- Returning Ecuadorians must present the resident visa from the country they were living in.
- Except for diplomats, detailed physical inspection at the port of entry is mandatory
- If non-declared items are found during inspection, this will be considered a felony and will be severely punished.

DOCUMENTATION NEEDED (DIPLOMATIC SHIPMENTS ONLY):

- ✓ Original passport
- ✓ Inventory list (no Consular seal needed)
- ✓ 2 Originals of OBL / 1 original of AWB
- ✓ Official Franchise from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs approved by Customs

If a motor vehicle is included, original invoice.

Motor Vehicles

- Except for diplomatic shipments, importation of used motor vehicles is prohibited.
- To import a motor vehicle, it must be brand new, it must be inspected at origin before embarkation (even if it is sharing a container with household goods) and an import permit must be previously approved in Ecuador.
- Motor vehicles are subject to duties (approx).

Important Notice

Customs clearance process takes approximately 4-5 weeks in Guayaquil and approximately 2 weeks in Quito. Please make sure that consignee is informed.

Please **send Company a copy of the OBL** as soon as it is issued.
 Updated on 31st October 2007

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