

United States *Customs Information*

Documents Required

- Goods and personal effects can be imported into the United States of America duty free subject to the following requirements:
 - Household goods and personal effects should be used, and have been in the owner's possession for at least 12-months. Household goods must not be for resale or for use by another person
 - Shipment must be cleared at the first port of arrival unless arrangements have been made to move shipment in-bound to a port of entry
- Professional equipment which was owned and used abroad is also generally imported duty-free

Customs Regulations

- Following documents are required for import of household goods and personal effects into the United States:
- ✓ Passport (copy) showing personal data and photo page
 - ✓ Visa (copy)
 - ✓ [Customs Form 3299 "Declaration for Free Entry of Unaccompanied Articles"](#)
 - ✓ Supplement Declaration for Unaccompanied Personal and Household Effects
 - ✓ Power of Attorney Form authorizing Destination Agent to act on Customer's behalf in liaisons with U.S. Customs
 - ✓ Inventory/Packing List in English. Items listed as "PBO" (packed by owner) or "Misc" (miscellaneous) are not acceptable)

Motor Vehicles

- Import of automobiles/motor vehicles are subject to import duties and taxes unless previously exported from the United States provided the customer can supply the export Ocean Bill of Lading and can prove that no modifications have been made to the vehicle since it was exported. Import is also subject to the following requirements and documents:
- ✓ **All automobiles imported must meet both the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) requirements.** If the required conversions are not performed prior to shipping the customer is required to post a significant bond (approximately 50% of the value of the auto) in order to have the necessary conversions performed in the U.S. Information on emission standards can be obtained from the EPA. Any costs for exam, testing, or modifications of auto are payable by the Customer.
 - ✓ Customer must provide, EPA Form 3520-1, the purchase invoice, title, and a copy of Drivers License.

Pets

- There are strict controls and restrictions on the importation of animals, which is regulated by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and U.S. Public Health Service. Import regulations for pets may include the following, depending on the country of origin:
- Original Certificate of rabies vaccination showing proof that the vaccination was administered more than 30 days prior to the flight, but not more than 180 days.
 - Health Certificate from a veterinarian must be issued within 15 to 10 days prior to animals departure.
 - Dogs and cats are not normally quarantined, but birds require 30 days quarantine and an Import Permit

Dutiable / Restricted Items

- Restricted items in a shipment will create delays and additional charges. The following items are restricted and subject to additional requirements, duties or taxes:**
- New items (less than one year old), inheritance items, and gifts are subject to duties and taxes and sales receipts are required on new items.
 - Antiques (Certificate of Authenticity is required).
 - Medicines must be declared and must not exceed normal quantities required by an individual with a health problem. The customer must have a prescription or a written statement from doctor stating that the medicine is required for physical well-being.
 - Biological materials of public health or of veterinary importance require an Import Permit.
 - It is recommended that alcohol should not be imported with household goods into the United States. Federal, state, and local regulations apply and certain U.S. ports are considered "Dry Ports" where alcohol cannot be imported. If the customer chooses to import alcohol, they should be loaded together, clearly marked on the inventory/packing list and easily accessible for inspection. In addition the customer is required to complete a full list of each bottle of alcohol or wine providing the name quantity, size of bottle, alcohol content, value per bottle, date purchased and origin of the bottle.

Prohibited Items

- The following items are prohibited:**
- Liquor filled candy
 - Lottery tickets
 - Narcotics and dangerous drugs (violation will result in severe penalties)
 - Obscene or pornographic material
 - Unlawful or treasonable material
 - Hazardous articles (e.g. fireworks, combustible, corrosive, flammable or explosive items and toxic or poisonous substances)
 - Switch blade knives
 - Pirated books or articles (e.g. cassettes and computer programs) will be confiscated and destroyed
 - Foodstuff is strictly controlled and subject to inspection and confiscation by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
 - Firearms and ammunition (automatic and heavy military weapons are strictly prohibited) and other firearms are subject to many restrictions. Import licenses are required before shipping from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF)
 - Animals or plants (e.g. furs, skins, ivory tusks, tortoise shells, wood carvings, etc.) subject to the U.S. Endangered Species Act