

Vietnam *Customs Information*

Customs Regulations

- Customs clearance of household goods in Vietnam is complicated and customers should seek approval that all documents are in order from the destination office in Vietnam before the goods are shipped. All clients **MUST** be in Vietnam and **MUST** work for a registered company or organization.
- Returning Vietnamese citizens should check carefully before shipping household goods back to Vietnam. It is extremely difficult for returning citizens to import personal effects unless they worked overseas for a foreign company and are returning to continue work for the same company.
- Customs clearance in Vietnam is subject to the following requirements:
 - ✓ The shipper of record must be in Vietnam for customs clearance.
 - ✓ The shipper of record must be working for a registered company or organization in Vietnam.
- All ports/airports require a Work Permit and Arrival/Departure Card (ADC) to guarantee clearance. It may be possible to clear small air consignments without a Work Permit but in all cases shipments should not be sent without approval from the destination agent.
- Customs will inspect all "non-diplomatic" shipments.
- All items must be "used" and be for personal use only. No commercial items should be included in the shipment.
- Duties and taxes must be paid at the time of import and are non-refundable.

Documents Required

- The following documents are required for customs clearance of household goods and personal effects into Vietnam:
- ✓ Passport.
 - ✓ Immigration Arrival/Departure Card (ADC) **, noting that there is unaccompanied baggage to follow within 90 days of issue.
 - ✓ Packing List/Inventory in English. The list must not contain any cartons 'Packed by Owner'.
 - ✓ Work Permit. (Within 12-months of issue)
 - ✓ Letter of Authorization on the shippers' employer's letterhead authorizing the destination agent to handle customs clearance.
 - ✓ Copy of organizations Memorandum of Understanding confirming duty free entry (if applicable).
 - ✓ Diplomatic ID Card (if applicable)
- ** "Original Arrival/Departure (ADC) Customs Declaration Cards" – Upon arrival at the airport in Vietnam the shipper of record must proceed through the RED channel at customs and obtain the ADC from customs authorities stating that they have unaccompanied baggage and have this stamped by customs prior to leaving the airport. **The card will not be automatically provided and it is the shippers' responsibility to obtain this. It is a critical requirement for air and sea imports.**

Motor Vehicles

- Please contact the destination agent regarding the import of a motor vehicle. Import of motor vehicles is a difficult process and can be subject to very heavy duties and taxes. The following requirements also apply:
 - Motor vehicles must be less than 5 years old and left-hand drive.
 - The original sales invoice, vehicle registration & title, are required for clearance together with 3 original Bills of Lading.
 - Diplomats, United Nations officials, and some NGO organizations are permitted to import a motor vehicle duty free providing that they hold a Memorandum of Understanding with the Vietnamese Government or hold an official duty free book.

Pets

- It is permitted to import a pet into Vietnam duty free subject to the following documents:
- ✓ Rabies vaccination papers.
 - ✓ Health Certificate (not more than seven days old).
 - ✓ Sanitary Certificate.
 - ✓ Letter of Authority from the customers' employer authorizing the destination agent to handle clearance.
 - ✓ Document listing the type of animal, name, breed, sex, color, size, weight and age.

Dutiable / Restricted Items

- Application of duties and taxes are not consistent, but luxury goods, including TV's, stereos, computer's, radios, DVD's, VCRs, cassette recorders, motorcycles, automobiles, tobacco and alcohol are subject to duty and taxes.
- The following items are restricted and subject to close examination during Customs Clearance in Vietnam:
- Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products should be declared with the exact number of bottles, type, volume, alcohol percentage and value. Quantities should not exceed two cases.
 - Cultural items such as books, compact discs, video and cassette tapes, computer discs, calendars and document files will be declared to the Cultural Department.
 - Medicine (must provide prescription)
 - Satellite dishes and fax machines require an Import License and must be registered in Vietnam.
 - Vietnamese antiques brought into Vietnam should be photographed at origin and declared to Customs upon arrival to avoid any problems if the items are re-exported from Vietnam.

Prohibited Items

- The following items are prohibited from import and fines will be imposed on the customer by the Vietnamese Government in addition to confiscation:
- Firearms and ammunition
 - Narcotics
 - Pornographic material
 - Cultural or politically sensitive material against Vietnam
 - Radio transmitters