



## Importing Personal Property Into

# SINGAPORE

### IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

#### DUTY-FREE ENTRY IS PERMITTED IF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS ARE MET:

- Goods belong to the shipper and are not for commercial purposes.
- The goods have been in the continual use by the shipper for at least 3 months.
- The shipper is taking up residence in Singapore for at least 12 months.
- One major electrical appliance of each type is duty-free.
- If the shipper is a returning Singapore Citizen, then the goods have been used abroad for at least 6 months

#### **Notes:**

- The shipper's presence in Singapore may not be required at time of Customs clearance if documents are properly completed in advance. Circumstances may vary depending on the shipper's employment and residence permit status.
- The household goods shipment must arrive within 6 months of the shipper's arrival in Singapore.
- The goods must not be disposed of within 3 months of importation.
- All shipments are inspected by Customs.
- One air and one surface shipment are allowed importation.

#### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ✓ Photocopy of passport
- ✓ Employment Pass for a minimum of 6 months or a letter of Guarantee of Stay in Singapore from the sponsoring company along with shipper's application for a residence permit.
- ✓ Two copies of the detailed packing list in English for goods to be imported.
- ✓ Customs Declaration of Facts Form (may be found on [www.customs.gov.sg](http://www.customs.gov.sg))
- ✓ Entry Permit

#### REQUIRED DOCUMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD GOODS (CONTINUED)

- ✓ Original Bill of Lading or Air Waybill
- ✓ Resident Visa
- ✓ Residence permit
- ✓ Letter from shipper's employer to Director of Customs and Excise verifying employee's designation and anticipated length of stay in Singapore.

#### RESTRICTED/DUTIBALE ITEMS

- Tobacco and tobacco products (chewing tobacco is not allowed)
- Plants and vegetables
- Ornamental swords and knives
- Animals
- All new furniture is subject to duties.
- Antiques are allowed duty-free entry, but require a detailed inventory and a certificate of antiquity.
- Prescription drugs require a valid prescription.
- Alcoholic beverages are subject to very high duties and taxes. Shipments including alcohol require an Alcohol Declaration Form, which is a detailed list including number of bottles, type, price, origin, etc.
- Recorded tapes/films (except for ballet, opera, classical, jazz, folk, country, instrumental music, sports, documentary, and children's cartoons) will be censored upon arrival to Singapore. Shipper will be assessed handling and screening fees.
- Certain stuffed birds, animals and agricultural products require an import license.

#### PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Animals and animal products on the Endangered Species List.
- Toy coins and toy currency notes.
- Cigarette lighters of pistol or revolver shape

## **PROHIBITED ITEMS; IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES AND PETS**

- Plants and vegetable products
- Firearms, toy guns, weapons, ammunition and firecrackers are **strictly** forbidden. If smuggled in a shipment, the shipper will be subject to severe punishment.
- Narcotics, controlled drugs and psychotropic substances.
- Chewing gum and chewing tobacco
- Pornographic materials
- Politically controversial, subversive, seditious or treasonable materials.
- Copies of materials protected by copyright including publications, videotapes, DVD, compact discs, laser discs, records, cassettes.

### **IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

- Current customs duties and registration fees applicable to the private importation of motor vehicles is currently over 25% of the locally assessed market value.
- Recreational boats are duty-free if imported for the sole use of the owner and not for re-sale.
- Left-hand drive vehicles are prohibited.
- All motor vehicles in Singapore must be registered with the Land Transport Authority (LTA).
- Only vehicles that are less than 3 years of age may be imported and registered for use in Singapore.
- All imported cars must comply with the Road Traffic Act Rules.
- The Ministry of Environment (ENV) requires all petrol-driven vehicles to be registered in Singapore to comply with the exhaust emission standards as specified in either the European Directive 91/441/EEC or Article 31 of the Japanese Safety Regulation for road vehicles.
- You are advised to consult the car manufacturer and seek approval from LTA before carrying out any modifications to your car.
- The Ministry of Environment (ENV) requires all newly registered vehicles to have asbestos-free brake and clutch linings and air-conditioner installed to use CFC-free refrigerant.

- Your car will be required to pass a mechanical inspection at the LTA before it can be registered.
- Your car must be fitted with approved front and rear safety belts.

### **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS VEHICLES**

- ✓ EEC Certificate of Compliance on Exhaust Emission Standards with Test Report and Safety Glass Certificate.
- ✓ Document to prove that the car is new or has never been registered for use (for a new car) or foreign vehicle registration document (for used cars).
- ✓ Technical specifications of the car if it is a new make or model previously not imported into Singapore.
- ✓ Declaration Form for Asbestos-free brake and clutch lining.
- ✓ Inward Cargo Clearance Permit
- ✓ Car Registration Application Form
- ✓ COE (issued by LTA) as Temporary Certificate of Entitlement
- ✓ NRIC for Singapore Citizens and Malaysians or Passport for Foreigners.
- ✓ Original Insurance Cover Note or Certificate of Insurance.
- ✓ Notification of PARF benefit/ COE rebate 9 (if any)
- ✓ Successful bidding letter for vehicle number, if any.
- ✓ Check payable to "Land Transport Authority" for total registration fee, additional registration fee, road tax and surcharge, if applicable.

### **IMPORTATION OF PETS**

- Pets are permitted into the country after 14 days from date of approval from the veterinary authorities.
- A 30-day quarantine is mandatory for animals from anywhere other than the UK, Australia or New Zealand. The shipper must make arrangements with the quarantine facilities in advance.
- An Import Permit must be obtained in advance of the pet's arrival in Singapore. Absence of this permit could result in immediate exportation or the animal could be destroyed.
- Pet must be at least 4 months old.

## IMPORTING PETS

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### **IMPORTING PETS (CONT.)**

- No more than 3 dogs per household.
- Pregnant and incapacitated animals are prohibited.
- Breeds of dogs prohibited importation include Pit Bull, Neapolitan Mastiff, Tosa, Akita, Dogo Argentino, American Bulldog, American Staffordshire Terrier, Fila Brasileiro or any hybrid of the above mentioned breeds.

### **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

- ✓ Import License (Form AHS/39) obtained 2 weeks prior to importation, from the Director of Primary Products, Singapore.
- ✓ Health and vaccination certificate stating vaccination was given between 30 and 180 days prior to the pet's departure date.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

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- Singapore Customs, <http://customs.gov.sg>, 2004.
- Interport Executive Movers, 2002
- Consular Homepage, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Singapore, Customs Guide for Transfer of Residence, <http://www.gov.sg/>, April 2000.

**The information presented herein is based on customs data available at the time of printing and is frequently subject to change without notice. It is the responsibility of the owner or importer of the household goods to comply with the current customs restrictions, regulations, and duties of the country to which the goods are imported. We strongly advise customers to contact the consulate or embassy of the destination country for the most current information on customs regulations, restrictions and duties for importing household goods, personal effects and vehicles.**