



Importing Personal Property Into China

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Customs Security Increases April 1st as Shanghai, China Hosts the World Expo

Shanghai, China will host the [World Expo](#) this year from May 1st through October 31st resulting in heightened security. Beginning April 1st, it is expected that all air shipments (inbound and outbound) will be inspected. There will be zero tolerance for prohibited items in air shipments and heavy fines and penalties will be imposed. Major delays in customs are being anticipated. Updated customs information should be requested prior to sending air shipments to ensure compliance with changing rules and regulations during this period. More detailed information can be found on the Department of State website link in the “Acknowledgements” section.

Customers must arrive into China before shipment in order to complete import formalities. Personal registration of owner of the goods and employer’s registration must be approved before arrival of the shipment. Used household goods and personal effects are dutiable for Chinese persons holding a foreign passport and foreigners entering China for an extended period (not holding a Residence Card).

Shipments are subject to physical inspection by Customs

China officially announced emergency quarantine regulations effective January 1, 2000. China will be requiring USDA certification of heat treatment for all conifer (i.e. pine, spruce, hemlock or fir) solid wood packing material (SWPM) OR exporter certification that none of the packing material in the shipment is conifer wood. The regulations apply to both air and sea shipments. SWPM includes but is not limited to, dunnage, crating, pallets, packing blocks, drums, cases, spools and skids.

Improperly certified shipments are subject to one of three actions:

1. The shipment can be returned to origin.
2. The shipment can be separated from the packing material, at the importer's expense. The packing material would be destroyed.
3. If the shipment cannot be separated from the packing material and is not returned to origin, then both the shipment and packing material would be destroyed.

For additional information concerning this topic visit Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service from the USDA at www.aphis.usda.gov and look under "hot Topics" on the home page.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Original Passport and Authorization letter
- ✓ Original Residence Card/Permit
- ✓ Original Work Permit – valid for 1 year
- ✓ Letter of Employment Certification (preferable in Chinese) from employer’s registered office or Chinese host organization attesting that customer will be either personnel of Foreign Resident Office or Foreign Expert
- ✓ Customs Permit (must be approved prior to arrival of goods)
 - Customs Permit and Inventory list must match exactly!

- ✓ Application for Customs Sealed Letter (three copies)
- ✓ Application for Import of Personal effects (Import Permit)
 - List of goods and quantity to be imported must be in Chinese
 - Must list ALL items planned for import within six (6) months from the date of approval of the application, even if not contained in the first shipment
- ✓ Ocean bill of Lading/Air Way Bill – Prepaid and fax copy in advance
- ✓ Health Certificate – Full examination with blood tests to prove absence of communicable diseases
- ✓ Packing List – Detailed list of inventory, “PBO” and “Misc.” are not acceptable. Fax a copy to service agent in advance
- ✓ Arrival Customs Declaration – to be completed by customer on arrival at port of entry
- ✓ Certificate of Origin may be required

Diplomat Status:

Household goods, automobiles and motorcycles may be imported duty and tax-free. Diplomats must be physically present in China prior to their shipment’s arrival in China to process Customs clearance. Clearance ordinarily takes approximately 10 working days.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Letter from the Embassy certifying diplomatic status
- ✓ Copy of Diplomatic Passport & China Diplomatic card
- ✓ Import Permit obtained from the Embassy
- ✓ Diplomatic card issued by the Embassy
- ✓ Notification letter from the steamship line (available once the vessel arrives in port)
- ✓ Original ocean bill of Lading and/or Airway bill
- ✓ Clear, detailed inventories in English

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS	
Dutiable Items	Dutiable Charges
Alcohol content – under 12%	RMB 50.00 per bottle
Alcohol content – over 12%	RMB 250.00 per bottle
Furniture	10% on declared value
Electrical items	20% on declared value
Cigars	RMB 10.00 a piece
Cigarettes	RMB 0.5 a piece
CD’s	First 300 pieces no charge, RMB 6.00 each after that
VCD, DVD’s & tapes	First 100 pieces no charge, if port of entry is Shanghai RMB 10.00 each after that First 200 pieces no charge, If port of entry is Guangzhou, Xiamen, Xinfeng or Yantian RMB 10.00 each after that
Clothing	Duty free

NOTE: Tax and duty rates are subject to change and often vary depending on port of entry and the Customs officer handling the shipment.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Firearms & Ammunition of any kind including Firecrackers
- ✓ Controlled drugs and Psychotropic Substances
- ✓ Obscene articles, publications, videos & software
- ✓ Reproduction of copyright publications & videos
- ✓ Seditious & treasonable materials
- ✓ Cigarette lighters of pistol or revolver shape

- ✓ Chewing tobacco & imitation tobacco products
- ✓ Chewing gum, toy coins & toy currency notes
- ✓ Live animals on Endangered species list
- ✓ Grand pianos
- ✓ Motorcycles
- ✓ Copy machines

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Importation of dogs into China is complicated and strict. Please discuss with your service agent for the latest requirements. One pet is allowed per household. Veterinary exam will need to be arranged by the owner upon arrival. Pets are subject to quarantine for thirty (30) days in Beijing and seven (7) days in Shanghai. The following documents must be presented for the importation of pets.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Health – 7 days before departure
- ✓ Vaccination Records – including rabies vaccine, must be over 30 days and under 1 year
- ✓ Entry Recorder – within 2 weeks

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Privately owned vehicles are considered a luxury item and are dutiable up to 200%. Restrictions and taxes depend on size and type of vehicle. Documentation must prove age and value of the automobile.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Written application to Customs Office
- ✓ Import Cargo Declaration
- ✓ Invoice

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

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Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/pdf/Expo_2010_Shanghai_Fact_Sheet.pdf

Transworld Moving Ltd 2009

Visa HQ.com 2009

US Embassy 2009

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.