



Importing Personal Property Into Philippines

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Customer must be present for Customs clearance. Shipments must NOT arrive before the visa is approved. The shipment should arrive within 6 months of the owner's arrival. All shipments are subject to inspection. All Household goods and personal effects must be in the possession of the shipped at least 6 months. Additional charges incurred for storage or customs delays will be the customer's responsibility.

Required Documents: Returning Filipinos

- ✓ Original Passport showing last arrival and departure date
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill (express B/L is acceptable) Send vessel/flight arrival date in advance
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory list in English- each item should be labeled "Used"
- ✓ Work Permit – for air shipments
- ✓ Residence Visa – or Letter from attorney and a copy of the Residence Visa petition
- ✓ Affidavit of legal ownership

Required Documents: Foreigners

- ✓ Original Passport including photo page
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill (express B/L is acceptable) Send vessel/flight arrival date in advance
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory list in English - each item should be labeled "Used"
- ✓ Work Permit/or certificate from an attorney – provide a copy prior to arrival
- ✓ Visa – Obtained upon arrival and are necessary for ocean shipments and as an affidavit of ownership. Application should be stamped "Received" by the Bureau of Immigration. Without the visa household goods will NOT be duty and tax free.

*** Some Visas require a Bank Guarantee. Additional documents may be required, depending on Customer's immigration status.**

**** PLEASE SEE NOTES ON PAGE #3 FOR ADDITIONAL CUSTOMS INFORMATION**

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats, UN and government personnel are granted duty free entry. Only one ocean and one air shipment is allowed per family. Usually there is not a physical inspection of diplomatic goods. Customer does not need to be present.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Endorsement from Philippine Department of Finance,
- ✓ Tax Exemption Certificate from the Embassy
- ✓ Passport
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory list in English – fax copy in advance to service agent
- ✓ Original Bill of Lading, Air Waybill or Express release

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ New appliances are discouraged and will be heavily taxed
- ✓ Wine and Liquor need to be on a separate list. State the number of bottles, volume, type and % of alcohol content. Duties and taxes are assessed by Customs. Load alcoholic beverages last.
- ✓ Animals, fish and plants
- ✓ Films, videos and discs
- ✓ Telecommunication equipment and color copiers
- ✓ Motor vehicle parts
- ✓ Medicines
- ✓ Jewelry and coins

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics, Opium, and opium smoking paraphernalia, adulterated or misbranded medications
- ✓ Pornography, politically sensitive material, obscene publications, videos & software
- ✓ Counterfeit, altered or imitated coins, paper money and bank notes
- ✓ Gold, silver and precious metal bullion
- ✓ Weapons, swords, Firearms including air guns, ammunitions and realistic toy guns
- ✓ Satellite equipment
- ✓ Commercial quantities of foodstuffs, used clothing and rags
- ✓ Gambling machines and articles

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Pets are subjected to duty and require an Import Permit. The permits are obtained from the Bureau of Animal Industry. The Important Permit must be issued prior the pets arrival. The application for the Import Permit should be made 2 weeks prior to arrival into Manila. The following information is needed for the Import Permit.

- Breed, sex, age, color and pet's name.
- Address in Manila
- Intended arrival date
- Copy of owner's passport, and current health and vaccination certificates

Note: Import requirements may change and "Exotic" pets may be restricted. Check with your service agent prior to shipping for current information.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination –Including rabies must be issued 60-180 days but not over 1 year
- ✓ Health Certificate –Must be issued 10 days prior to arrival
- ✓ Import Permit

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Currently only Diplomats and returning citizens are allowed to import motor vehicles. All vehicles must be left hand drive. Application of Authority to import should be processed and submitted to the Bureau of Import Services prior to departure. Customs clearance can take up to 15 business days. The owner's presence is required.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Copy of Certificate of Title and Registration
- ✓ Import Authority
- ✓ Commercial Invoice, including chassis and engine numbers

Updated July 15, 2009

NOTES:

Returning Filipinos receive limited exemption: Tax free allowance of \$170.00USD for used household goods. Any excess of that will incur additional taxation and 10% VAT

Non-resident/Retiree: All household goods not exceeding \$7,800.00 are allowed entry tax and duty free.

Immigrant/Permanent resident: All used household goods and personal effects are allowed full tax and duty-free entry on ONE shipment (air or sea)

Individuals, whose intended visas are not yet approved by the Commission on Immigration and Deportation, could request a temporary tax and duty-free release of their cargo with the Department of Finance by providing a cash bond, as well as a Letter of Request for the change of visa status that was already submitted to the Commission on Immigration and Deportation. The Cash Bond could be acquired through payment of a certain premium, which would be based on 150% of the appraised value as assessed by the Bureau of Customs. The same is only valid for a period of 90 days from the date of filing of the Customs Permit with the Bureau of Customs from which it could be extended only for another 90 days. If the said Cash Bond remains unconcealed after the prescribed period, penalties shall be levied by the Bureau of Customs against the consignee up to the forfeiture of the Cash Bond.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Vanpac GroupAsia 2009

IAM 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.