Importing Personal Property Into Spain

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:
Shipment CAN NOT move until ALL documents are in order and customer is in Spain at the time of clearance through Customs.

Used household goods and personal effects are duty free provided goods have been owned and used by the customer for a minimum of six months and customer can prove ownership for the time period. The items cannot be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of for a minimum of 1 year of importation. The items must correspond with the social and economic status of the customer. The goods must be imported within one year of the customer’s securing a Residence and/or Work Permit and NO LATER than three (3) months after the customer’s arrival into in Spain. A special permit is necessary if the shipment is to arrive later. This will result in extra charges and subsequent delays in clearance. Only foreign citizens marrying Spanish citizens or foreigners living in Spain are allowed to import new items of a “reasonable amount”.

Shipments not properly documented will be assessed import duties and taxes at values determined by Spanish Customs Authorities and will be subject to lengthy delays and additional charges.

If clearance procedures are not initiated due to lack of required documents after one month, shipments will be declared “abandoned” and contents may be subject to auction.

Note: Customs clearance into the Canary Islands may vary from Spain. Customers are advised to contact their Destination Agent for specific details.

NOTE: As of 19 August 2010 an EORI (Economic Operators Registration and Identification) number is required for all imports and exports to clear Customs in the European Union.

The requirement was introduced by the European Commission in July 2009 to enhance security. The EORI number must be used in all electronic communications with Customs Offices and other government agencies and departments. This number is valid in all EU member states and replaces ALL Customs identification numbers including the TIN (Traders Identification Number). All business operators and private individuals not established in the EU must obtain the EORI number from the authorities in the respective EU member state wherein the client intends to operate or reside. Please consult with your Destination Agent for further details and assistance.

Required Documents:
- Passport - original or notarized copy by the Spanish Embassy/Consulate at origin
- Residence Visa
- Residence /Work Permit – original, a bank guaranty is required if a Residence/Work Permit is not obtained. The shipment may be released with a deposit of a bank guaranty which must be canceled within one year
- Certificate of Residence Change “Asunto Cambio Residencia” – provided by local city hall, stating customer has resided abroad for a minimum of 12 consecutive months
- NIE number (non EU members) – this is obtained when applying for the Work/ Residence Permit
- Purchase/lease or rental agreement – notarized, stating a minimum of 2 years stay in Spain
- Comprehensive Valued Inventory – 2 copies in Spanish, signed, dated by customer & notarized by Spanish Consulate at origin
- Customs Application - for duty free import of personal goods & effects
Bill of Lading/AWB
Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
Letter from Employer – attesting to customer’s length of stay, employment contract & position
Declaration of Customer – attesting to length of stay

Returning Citizens: additional documents
- Spanish Fiscal Identification Card (NIF)
- Letter from Employer or Consulate – attesting to work contract abroad for at least 12 months
- Registration Certificate – obtained at city Hall upon arrival into Spain

Diplomat Status:
Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted tax and duty free entry of their personal effects and household items.

Required Documents:
- Diplomatic Franchise
- Diplomatic Passport - copy
- Comprehensive Valued Inventory – 2 copies in Spanish, signed, dated by customer & notarized by Spanish Consulate at origin

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS
New Items, furniture, works of art, carpets, antiques, electrical appliances and any other items requiring special permits must be loaded near the container doors in the event a Customs Inspection is ordered. Purchase invoices for appliances may be necessary; customer should be advised to hand-carry those with them.

- Works of Art, Paintings & Antiques – duty free if shipped with HHG, require a Special Permit, antiques must be over 100 yrs old; these items must be clearly classified upon entry to allow for later exportation
- New furniture – subject to tax & duties, requires an Import License if valued over 3,000 EUR, invoices must be stamped by Spanish Consulate at origin
- Sport Guns - require a permit from the Spanish Police approved by the “Direccion General de la Guardia Civil” & valid Spanish Hunting License
- Inheritance – all documents must be translated into Spanish & authenticated by the Spanish Consulate at origin:
  - Death Certificate
  - Testament confirming right to the inheritance
  - Certificate from origin country & Spanish Ministry of Finance confirming payment or confirming exemption of payment of inheritance tax
- Wedding Trousseaux – must provide Change of Residence issued at origin, a marriage certificate or Spanish family book authenticated by the Spanish Consulate at origin
- New items (less than six months old)
- Alcohol – wine; 2 litres per person, spirits; 1 litre per person
- Tobacco Products – incur duty
- Plants – require a Phytosanitary Certificate

PROHIBITED ITEMS
- Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- Pornography and subversive material
Explosives, ammunitions and weapons of any kind (sport guns allowed with permissions)
Cleaning fluids, paints and other toxic materials and/or chemicals

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Quarantine is not required however all pets are subject to a physical examination upon arrival by a Customs Veterinarian. In some cities throughout Spain dogs are subject to an annual tax. Consult with your Destination Agent for the latest requirements.


Required Documents:
- Certificate of Vaccination – notarized by the Consulate at origin, including rabies, dated 30 days to 11 months prior to arrival
- Health Certificate - notarized by the Consulate at origin, dated no more than 5 days prior to arrival by a Veterinarian

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles, including motorcycles & scooters must be in the customer’s possession for at least 6 months prior to importation. Upon entry vehicles are granted a six month stay permit. At the expiration of the permit vehicles must be exported or imported on a permanent basis. Payment of taxes based on CIF value will be due upon final importation.

Required Documents:
- Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original,
- Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- Passport – copy
- Identification Card “Documento Nacional de Identidad”
- Driver License & International Insurance Policy (green card)
- Liability Insurance – current policy at origin
- Valid plates

Additional documents for permanent import
- Change of Residence Certificate – for returning Spanish nationals
- Residence Permit – for foreigners
- Certificate of CIF value of vehicle in Spain
NOTES:

**Sporting Guns:** It is advised to ship hunting rifles separately and not included in household shipment because of the significant delay accumulated for unloading and examination and process of holding. If guns must be sent in HHG container they must be stowed near the container doors. Upon arrival ALL firearms are retained by Spanish Civil Guard for inspection and registration. Guns can be collected once the permits are secured and inspection is passed.

**Works of Art/Antiques:** Works of Art & Antiques can only be cleared at the ports of Barcelona, Madrid and Valencia.

**Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:** As of 2005 Spain enforces ISPM15 requirements for wood packaging material (WPM).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

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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.