

# United States Via Houston

---

**Ports:** Houston  
**Prohibited:** Drugs, Firearms, Explosives, Plants, Fruits, Alcohol  
**Cont:** None

## Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco

---

**Required Documents:**

**Customs Regulations:** Alcohol is prohibited thru the Port of Houston. Importation can only be achieved by a licensed Liquor Importer.

**Clearance:**

**Remarks:** This applies to wine as well.

## Diplomatic Removals

---

**Required Documents:** (1) US Customs Form 3299 (2) Inventory (3) Diplomatic clearances must be requested through US Consulate and US State Dept. and be so stipulated on OBL or AWB.

**Customs Regulations:** US Customs has right of inspection but no duties or confiscation apply if valid diplomatic privileges have been granted by US State Dept.

**Clearance:** If approved by US State Dept, no delay if Foreign Embassy has submitted requests/copies of OBL/AWB at least 1wk prior to arrival. Customer presence required for clearance? No

**Remarks:** Requests for Diplomatic privileges should be made at origin through US Consulate and/or agreed by them.

## Firearms and Weapons

---

**Required Documents:** (1) Proof of ownership (2) Various registration certificates/ licenses (3) If weapon was originally purchased or owned by shipper in US proof of sale and date of sale

**Customs Regulations:** Various federal and state regulations make dealing through a licensed weapons broker essential. Automatic small arms and heavy weapons are prohibited

**Clearance:** At least one week. Customer presence required for clearance? may

**Remarks:** Must have proper documents at least 3 days before shipment arrives. Shipper must have a gun permit issued by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. This permit takes about 6 to 8 weeks after application to the ATF.

## Household Goods and Personal Effects

---

**Required Documents:** (1) US Customs Form 3299 (2) OBL or AWB (3) Inventory of Household Goods (4) Dept. of Treasury Supplemental and Power of Attorney.

**Customs Regulations:** Used household goods are duty free if they have been in the owner's possession and utilization for at list one full year and are for owner's continued use in USA.

**Clearance:** Free entry clearance 3 to 4 days after ship arrives in port. Customer presence required for clearance? No

**Remarks:** Must have required documents at least 3 days before ship arrives. Form 3299 must be completed prior to shipping overseas and must accompany shipping documents.

## New Furniture

---

- Required Documents:** (1) Inventory (2) Sales invoices indicating price of items, date and year of purchase, and place of purchase.
- Customs Regulations:** Items purchased within one year of import are subject to customs duties.
- Clearance:** 4 to 5 days. Customer presence required for clearance? No
- Remarks:** Must have required documents at least 3 days before shipment arrives

## Pets and Animals

---

- Required Documents:** (1) Proof of inoculation (2) Need export and import permit for endangered species (i.e.: certain birds)
- Customs Regulations:** Animals may be subject to quarantine by US Dept. of Agriculture, but dogs and cats will have no quarantine period. Endangered species and 'exotic' animals can inhibit importation.
- Clearance:** Depends on type of animal being imported. Customer presence required for clearance? Yes
- Remarks:** Check with US Customs and agriculture at port of entry regarding any inoculations/quarantines and/or restrictions

## Vehicles

---

- Required Documents:** (1) DOT/EPA Form to be completed and signed by owner (2) Must have vehicle plate indicating compliance with US emission standards and safety standards (3) Proof of ownership
- Customs Regulations:** Return of US autos are duty free if owner can supply copy of bill of sale in Us and prove no modifications have been made to vehicle.
- Clearance:** 1 to 2 weeks. Customer presence required for clearance? may
- Remarks:** Failure to meet US Emission standards can lead to cost prohibitive conversion costs as well as bonding/detention expenses

## notes

---

- Required Documents:**
- Customs Regulations:**
- Clearance:**
- Remarks:** Shippers should be cautioned about random Customs inspections at U.S. ports, which can result in fees from \$300 to \$1,000 if all necessary clearance and documentation procedures have not been followed.

## Valuables

---

- Required Documents:** (1) Proof of ownership and date of purchase and purchase price or evaluation (2) Sales receipts
- Customs Regulations:** Varies depending on items
- Clearance:** Depends on item being imported. Customer presence required for clearance? No
- Remarks:** Valuables such as jewelry should be hand carried by owner. Recommend antiques and paintings be evaluated prior to shipping

Please note:

The information on this page is intended as a guide and **NOT** as a complete or definitive resource.  
The information on this page should not be used as an authoritative reference.