
CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR IMPORTS

HOUSEHOLD GOODS REMOVAL

A. Documents Required

- Original passport
- Packing list
- Copy of airway bill / bill of lading
- Authority Letter
- Baggage declaration form

Non-diplomat

- Valued inventory
- Valid visa

Diplomat

- Duly attested copy of passport
- Duty free exemption certificate issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

B. Specific Regulations

- Indian and foreign nationals (including those of Indian origin) who are transferring their residence to India or coming to India on employment may import their personal effects and household goods into India duty free subject to the following conditions:
 - The transferee must have lived overseas for at least 2 years and must be transferring his/her residence to India.
 - The transferee must not have visited India for more than 180 days in the preceding two years.
 - Foreign nationals must have obtained a relevant visa:
 - Resident
 - Business
 - Work
 - Entry
 - Person of Indian Origin (PIO) Card
- Authority Letters and Baggage Declaration Forms will be provided by the local agent in India.
- Sea shipments must be exported within one month of the owner's arrival in India.
- Air shipments must be exported within 15 days of the owner's arrival in India.
- Shipments may arrive at the Indian airport or sea port of entry no more than 2 months prior to the owner's arrival in India (Subject to detention and demurrage charges).
- Owner's personal presence in India is required.
- Non-diplomatic shippers must provide the local agent in India with their original passport until clearance is completed.

India

- Completed customs forms should be duly signed and attested to ensure smooth custom clearance.
- All import consignments are physically inspected as per Indian customs regulations.
- To ensure smooth clearance at customs, it is suggested that all major electronic appliances be loaded in one lift van or toward the front of the container. The make, model number, serial number and quantity should be noted in the inventory.
- Clearance procedures vary at each port. It is advised to contact the local agent in India prior to shipping to determine the applicable process at the preferred port of entry (POE).
- As a result of procedural changes regarding the clearance of personal effects and household good, costs have increased, especially for LCL shipments.
- All shipments must contain required ISPM-15 markings; non-conforming wood packaging material shall either be re-exported, destroyed, or may be allowed to be locally treated if possible.
 - For more information on ISPM-15 guidelines, please see the [Wood Packing Material](#) Shipper Guide on the IAM website.

Diplomat

- A diplomat's personal or household effects may be cleared duty free against a duty exemption certificate issued by the Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- This provision is subject to the presence of contraband or prohibited items and compliance with the requirements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- It does not matter whether the items are old or new.
- The diplomat's mission in India will have to apply to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a complete list of items being imported.

Note: *With recent changes in import regulations, it is strongly advised to contact the local agent in India prior to export to ensure all requirements have been met.*

Transfer of Residence status

- The following consignees may import household goods under *Transfer of Residence* benefits:
 - Indian nationals
 - Foreign nationals including those of Indian origin
- *Transfer of Residence* rules are subject to the following conditions:
 - Owner of the goods must have lived and stayed abroad for a minimum period of 2 years
 - Owner of the goods must be transferring his or her residence to India.
 - Indian nationals must not have visited India for more than six months in the preceding two years.
 - Foreign nationals must have a valid visa
 - Goods must be shipped out within 30 days of arrival of the owner into India. If there is a delay then goods can be cleared only if the delay is condoned by the customs authorities. Every case is decided on its merits.
 - Owner or his or her family members should not have obtained *Transfer of Residence* concessions in the preceding 3 years.
- Under *Transfer of Residence* rules, the following items can be imported free if used:

- Personal effects and house-hold goods like clothes, books, kitchenware, furniture, small appliances like mixer, juicer, iron etc. are allowed to be imported duty free if these goods are old and are used by the shipper.
 - Video cassette recorder / video cassette player / video television receiver / video cassette disk player
 - Washing machine
 - Electrical or liquefied petroleum gas cooking range
 - Personal computer (desk top computer)
 - Laptop computer (notebook computer)
 - Domestic refrigerators of capacity up to 300 liters or equivalent
- Under a *Transfer of Residence* duty, the import duty for the following items has been reduced to 15%:
 - Color television or monochrome television
 - Digital video disc player
 - Video home theater system
 - Dish washer
 - Music system
 - Air conditioner
 - Domestic refrigerators of capacity above 300 liters or its equivalent
 - Deep freezer
 - Microwave oven
 - Video camera or the combination of any such video camera with one or more of the following goods:
 - Television receiver
 - Sound recording or reproducing apparatus
 - Video reproducing apparatus
 - Word processing machine
 - Fax machine
 - Portable photocopying machine
 - Boat
 - Aircraft
 - Cinematographic films of 35 mm and above
 - Gold or silver, in any form, other than ornaments
- Concessional customs duty rate of 15% of the value is allowed only on the first unit imported.
- If the owner has two or more similar units or the combined value of the appliances & personal and household effects exceeds Rs. 500,000, then customs duty will be assessed at 35% with an ancillary 3% surcharge for Education cess on the additional units or the additional value.

MOTOR VEHICLES

A. Documents Required

- Original vehicle title
- Original manufacturing invoice
- Insurance certificate
- Proof that the car has been owned and operated for one year
- Certificate confirming that vehicle meets Euro III pollution standards

India

B. Specific Regulations

- Indian citizens or foreign nationals transferring their residence to India are allowed to import one vehicle.
- A car that was in the importer's possession for over one year is allowed.
- Payment for the car must be made prior to the arrival of the owner in India.
- Import of a new car is allowed but must meet pollution standards and be right-hand drive.
- Shipment must be done within 6 months of arrival.
- In lieu of a car, one motorcycle may be imported.
- Only right-hand drive cars may be imported
- Owner must submit certificate from manufacturer verifying that the vehicle meets EURO III pollution standards.
- The speedometer must indicate the speed in kilometers.
- The vehicle must not be older than three years from the date of manufacture.
- The vehicle should have been registered for at least one year in the name of the customer.
- Customs duty for a new car is approximately 114%.
- Customs duty for an old car is approximately 169%.
- Customs duty on a motorcycle is approximately 152%.
- These are subject to depreciation and service tax of 12.36%.
- Contact local agent in India for specific rules and regulations regarding the import of motor vehicles.

PETS

A. Documents Required

- Vaccination certificate
- Health certificate from veterinarian
- Inoculation certificate

B. Specific Regulations

- Two pets (Cat or Dog) may be imported into India without any import license.
- Import licenses are required for other pets.
- Dogs, cats, and birds are allowed in with valid health and inoculation certificates subject to clearance by the Animals Quarantine and Certificate Service.
- Parrots require a special certificate stating that they underwent a negative test for psittacosis within 30 days prior to export.
- Import of pets is extremely complex. It is highly recommended that the local agent in India is contacted prior to export.

RESTRICTED / DUTIABLE ITEMS

Alcohol / Spirits

- Import duties on alcohol, wines, spirits, etc. are very high in India
 - 182% on alcohol and spirits
 - 150% on beer and wine
- It is not advisable to ship wine and liquor into India.

India

- If importing alcohol, an Alcohol Declaration Form must be completed with details of brand, type of liquor, quantity, alcohol content, purchase price, etc.
- It is advisable to separate items and load them at the beginning of the container to enable easy retrieval for customs inspection.

Food Items

- Foreign nationals can import foodstuff in their main household goods shipment duty free up to a limit of 50,000 rupees.
- Indian residents can import foodstuff in their main household goods shipment duty free up to a limit of 100,000 rupees.
- Import of beef or products with beef is not allowed.
- Prior to shipping food, please check with local agent in India as regulations are changing quite frequently.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Firearms, weapons, & ammunition of any type
- Drugs and narcotics
- Obscene literature
- Pornographic material
- No more than 50 firearm cartridges
- No more than 200 cigarettes
- No more than 50 cigars
- No more than 250 grams of tobacco
- Alcoholic liquor or wines in excess of two liters
- Gold or silver, in any form, other than ornaments.

CONSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS AND PORT INFORMATION

Consignee:

Consignee's full name in passport
Full address of consignee in India

Notify:

Name of local agent in India
Full address of local agent
Contact information of agent

Diplomat

Consignee's full name in passport
Full address of Diplomatic Mission in India

Name of local agent in India
Full address of local agent
Contact information of agent

Ports of Entry:

- Mumbai
- Nhava Sheva
- Kolkata
- Chennai

Note: In India, all ports have different rules. For specific information, please contact the local agent in India.

India

Recommended: Once the shipment is booked, please fax your pre-alert to the local agent in India office along with a copy of the Airway bill / bill of lading, packing list, passport copy, and full contact details of the consignee.

Helpful Tips

- Mark the waybills very clearly “Used household goods and personal effects.”
- There is no fixed THC in India. The charges are determined by the shipping company or the NVOCC.
- Packing list should be in English.
- Do not attach the inventory list used for the insurance purposes with the documents enclosed with the shipment.
- Pre-alert along with the copies of the waybill, packing list, valued inventories and shipping schedule should be sent well in advance.

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