

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR IMPORTS

HOUSEHOLD GOODS REMOVAL

A. Documents Required

- Copy of shipper's passport
- Packing list
- Copy of airway bill / express release bill of lading
- Weight ticket
- Completed **Original** C5360 unaccompanied articles customs form.

Foreign Nationals

- Copy of shipper's passport. This should include clear copies of the following:
 - The picture and information page of the shipper's passport
 - The shipper's most recent entry stamp into Japan.
 - The shipper's Japanese visa (Work Visa)
- A clear copy of the shipper's visa from the country of origin.
 - Required only if the shipper does not hold a passport from the country of origin.
 - Tourist visas are not accepted.
 - This visa must have covered the shipper for the entire duration of their stay in the country of origin.

Diplomat

- Copy of shipper's passport. This should include clear copies of the following:
 - The picture and information page of the shipper's passport
 - The shipper's most recent entry stamp into Japan.
- Diplomatic clearance document

Returning Citizens

- Copy of shipper's passport. This should include clear copies of the following:
 - The picture and information page of the shipper's passport
 - The shipper's most recent entry stamp into Japan.
 - The shipper's departure stamp from Japan to the country where the shipment originated.
 - The shipper's entry stamp into the country where the shipment originated.
 - The shipper's departure stamp from the country of shipment origin to Japan.
- A clear copy of the shipper's visa from the country of origin.
 - Tourist Visas are not accepted.

B. Specific Regulations

- The entry stamp on the shipper's passport must match the date stamped on the C5360 form.
- The entry stamp should also be within 6 months from the shipment's arrival date.
- If shipper is arriving into Japan from country other than the shipment's origin, he / she must display proof that the impending shipment contains used household goods and is being shipped from the origin country. (e.g. entry/departure stamp tracking back to origin country)
- The C5360 unaccompanied articles customs form can be obtained and completed during the flight to Japan or in the baggage claim area after arrival.
- All persons who enter Japan must complete a copy of the C5360 form.
- **However, when shipping unaccompanied articles, the shipper must complete two copies and present both copies to the customs officer during their entry. The customs office will stamp both and return one copy to the shipper and it is this original copy which is required.**
- If the shipper does not yet have a Japanese visa or should they fail to receive the C5360 form during their entry, apology letters can be used. Unfortunately only one apology letter can be used per shipment so the shipper will need at least one of the two items.
- Please also note that the C5360 form is the shipper's protection against duties so using this document for clearance purposes is greatly preferred.
- The shipper must be in Japan during customs clearance.

Foreign Nationals

- Household good shipments for non-Japanese citizens are duty-free.
- If a visa is unavailable, a letter to Customs prepared by the company in Japan can be used in lieu of an actual work visa (original copy required).
- This letter should be prepared for each shipment.

Diplomat

- There are no restrictions on shipments or contents.
- Diplomats qualify for duty-free exemption.

Returning Citizens

- Household goods will be allowed duty free entry under the following conditions:
 - If the household goods are for the shipper's continued use in his new residence.
 - If the shipper's visa is valid for more than 1 year after importing household goods into Japan.
- All brand new items are subject to taxation.

Consolidated Shipments

- Effective May 01, 2007, Japanese Customs has changed the procedures for how consolidated shipments for multiple shippers are handled.
- Prior handling requirements allowed the inbound container to be taken from arrival direct to Customs for clearance processing. The new requirements call for the freight

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to be deconsolidated at a separate location, normal declarations filed, and the clearance procedure will then proceed.

- This new procedure will increase the amount by which individual shipments are handled.
- Increased handling may result in added costs, more damages, and delays during the clearance and release of consolidations
- Contact the local agent in Japan for specific details and charges for consolidated shipments.

MOTORCARS / MOTORCYCLES / MOPEDS

A. Required Documents

- Original vehicle registration certificate in origin country
- Purchase invoice
- Completed **Original** C5360 unaccompanied articles customs form.
 - The form must mention the automobile and be stamped upon shipper's entry into Japan.
- Original passport with work Visa for Japan
- Alien registration card in Japan
- Declaration letter that shipper will not sell the car within 2 years of import.
- Declaration of customs duty exemption

B. Specific Regulations

- A shipper may import a vehicle duty and tax free as long as they prepare the correct documentation and can prove that it has been owned and used for at least one year at origin.
- The vehicle must be registered under the shipper's name. A 5% consumption tax based on the CIF value (Cost, Insurance, & Freight) will be levied if the vehicle is not. Japanese customs will assess the CIF value.
- Duty will be assessed if the vehicle is not declared on form 5360 upon the shipper's entry into Japan.
- The vehicle may have to be modified to meet Japanese exhaust emission and safety regulations.
- A vehicle cannot be cleared through customs until the work visa and alien registration card have been obtained.

PETS (DOGS / CATS)

- Information on pet importation can be found on the following website:
http://www.maff.go.jp/ags/english/animal/im_index.html

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RESTRICTED / DUTIABLE ITEMS

Alcoholic Beverages

A. Documents Required

- Completed **Original** C5360 unaccompanied articles customs form detailing alcohol contents in shipment.
- Alcohol inventory. The following details should be included:
 - Alcohol type
 - Alcohol name
 - Country of origin
 - Size of bottle (ml)
 - Number of bottles
 - Cost per bottle
 - Total value of alcohol
 - Shipper name

B. Specific Regulations

- Up to 3 Bottles (750 ml x 3) are permitted duty free.
- Duty and Tax:
 - Whisky: 375 yen / bottle (750cc)
 - Gin / Liquor: 300 yen / bottle (750cc)
 - Wine: 150 yen / bottle (750cc)
 - Brandy: 350 yen / bottle (700cc)
- The maximum number of bottles that can be cleared as household goods is 80 bottles in an FCL shipment. (Not guaranteed)
- Alcohol should not be included in an air shipment.

Food

- Customs are strict about the import of food. In particular, food should not be included in an air shipment.
- In case food items are in a shipment, Japanese customs will conduct an inspection during the clearance.
- If food is to be sent in a shipment, it is highly recommended that this is coordinated with the local agent in Japan to avoid complications.

Medicines

- Shippers should avoid sending medicines in either an air or sea shipment.
- If it is necessary to import medicine, the shipper should coordinate directly with the local agent in Japan.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Firearms
- Swords
 - A blade may not exceed 15 cm in length.
- Pornographic materials

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- Narcotics
- Straw or straw products
- Endangered species and plants
- Meat Products

Fumigation of Imported and Exported Wooden Crates

- The Japanese Government observes and enforces the ISPM-15 (International standards for Phytosanitary Measures Publication 15) Guidelines for the Regulation of Wood Packaging Material in International Trade to standardize the treatment of wood packing materials used for the transport of goods.
- An outline of this regulation can be found online at:
<http://www.pps.go.jp/english/woodpack/index.html>
- Please also see the IAM guide on [Wood Packing Material](#) for more information on to comply with these standards.

CONSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Recommended: Once the shipment is booked, please fax your pre-alert to the agent office along with a copy of the airway bill / bill of lading, packing list, passport copy, and full contact details of the consignee. As consignment instructions change from time to time, it is prudent to reconfirm the advised consignment instructions prior to shipping.

Important: Check with the local agent in Japan prior to shipping for differences to confirm consignment instructions.

Helpful Tips

- Mark the waybills very clearly “Used household goods and personal effects.”
- Packing list should be in English or Japanese.
- Do not attach the inventory list used for the insurance purposes with the documents enclosed with the shipment.
- Pre-alert should be sent to the local agent in Japan along with the copies of waybill, packing list, and shipping schedule well in advance of shipment arrival.
- Packing lists completed with bad handwriting will pose a higher risk of inspection.
- The shipper must be in Japan during Customs clearance.
- Since late 2011, customs authorities stationed at Narita Airport have been much stricter about air shipment packing lists. More information can be found on our member's [website](#).

IAM Note: Customs regulations can change at any time with or without notice. This document is provided as a guide and for information only. While IAM has exercised reasonable care in publishing this document, IAM makes no representation, either expressed or implied, as to its accuracy or applicability.