
CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR IMPORTS

HOUSEHOLD GOODS REMOVAL – EXEMPT FROM DUTY

A. Documents Required

Non-Diplomat

- Original passport
- Original one-year work permit
- Airway bill / Bill of lading
- Packing list

Diplomat

- Original passport
- Diplomatic exemption
- Airway bill / Bill of lading
- Packing list

Citizen

- Original passport
- Old passport (in certain cases)
- Copy of a house certificate
- Copy of Thai ID card
- Airway bill / Bill of lading
- Packing list

B. Specific Regulations

- Shipment must originate from same country as owner's last place of residence or place of work.
- Shipment must arrive in Thailand not earlier than 1 month prior to owner's arrival/return to Thailand.
- Shipment must arrive in Thailand not later than 6 months after owner's arrival/return to Thailand.
- Thai customs allow only one sea and one small air shipment.
- Must contain used items (not new).
- Only one of each type of electrical appliance is allowed
- Duplicate appliances will be charged full duties.

Non-Diplomat

- Only a full 1-year work permit will be considered for duty exemption.
- No other work permit or retirement visa will be considered.
- Original passport and original work permit must be presented to customs during inspection.

Thailand

- Without the one-year work permit, shipment will be dutiable.
- Only original passport is required during customs clearance.

Diplomat

- Diplomatic paperwork takes approximately 10 days to obtain.
- Documentation must be received well in advance of shipment arrival to avoid port storage and demurrage charges.

Citizen

- Returning Thai residents who have been abroad for one year or longer, for the purposes other than touring, are eligible to bring in household effects acquired abroad duty and tax free.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS REMOVAL – NON-EXEMPT FROM DUTY

A. Specific Regulations

- Customs clearance typically takes 3-5 business days.
- High duties are placed on all goods. Particularly high duties apply to electrical goods, plasma/LCD TV, carpets and luxury goods.

Recommended: It is recommended that most electrical goods, baby toys, and golf clubs travel via sea shipment if possible. Shipments containing a large number of household goods via airfreight will be inspected thoroughly.

Note: Toys, baby items, foodstuff, alcohol, office items including files, bicycle, exercise equipment, sport equipment, golf set, and luxury items including crystal glasses and Porcelain vases, and fax machines are dutiable and will not be considered for duty exemption, especially when sent via air.

MOTOR VEHICLES

A. Specific Regulations

- Import permits are required for both cars and motorbikes. Import permits are very difficult to obtain.
- Vehicles should not be sent until shipper can confirm they have obtained an import permit.
- Vehicles are also subject to high duties:
 - Motorbikes = 94.38 %
 - Cars = 213% - 309 %
- Only a foreign diplomat may import a vehicle into Thailand duty free. He or she must obtain a letter from the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs verifying his/her status and requesting that Thai customs permit duty-free import.
- For all other foreigners and returning Thai nationals, it is almost impossible to import a vehicle into Thailand. The procedures for a non-diplomat to import a vehicle are time consuming and tedious. The duty assessed can be as high as 300% of the new purchase value of the vehicle.

Thailand

PETS

A. Documents Required

- Health certificate (not more than 7 days old)
- Current vaccination card

B. Specific Regulations

- Most pets, including dogs, cats, and birds can be brought into Thailand with no quarantine period.
- If pets are sent as cargo, duty will be assessed as high as USD 400.00 per animal, depending upon the type and size of the pet. If pets are brought as excess baggage, no duty is normally assessed.

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- Wine and spirits
- Foodstuff
- Buddha statues

A. Specific Regulations

- Import permits are required for food, wine, and liquor.
- These items should not be sent until shipper can confirm they have obtained an import permit.
- These items are subject to high duty.
- These items should **NOT** be included in a household goods shipment
- Buddha statues require special import licensing and should not be included in the shipment without prior consultation.

Note: Consult with local agent prior to shipping these items.

CONSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Non-Diplomat / Thai Citizen

Consignment Party:

Consignee
C/O (name of agent)
Agent address
Fax:
Attn:

Notify Party:

Same as Consignment



Thailand

Diplomat

Consignment Party:

Name of Diplomatic Organization
Address
Attn: Name of Shipper

Notify Party:

Shipper
c/o (name of agent)
Phone:

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

Note: All shipments must be consigned to the shipper's full name exactly as shown in passport. Diplomatic shipments must be consigned to embassy or mission/organization with full name and address.

Helpful Tips

- Mark the AWB / BL very clearly as "Used personal effects." Do not declare as household goods or household effects.
- Original AWB / BL is needed if BL is not surrendered (express released).
- 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, and shipping schedule should be sent well in advance.
- Any failure to comply with shipping requirements may result in delays and higher import fees to the owner/shipper.

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.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Firearms
- Ammunition
- Pornographic literature
- Short-wave radios
- Medical equipment
- Buddha heads (some)
- Gold and silver