



Importing Personal Property Into El Salvador

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

- **Non-Salvadoran Citizens** are required to pay import duties and taxes on CIF value, but may arrange for a bank guarantee.
 - If a foreign citizen is working in El Salvador, he/she may import their household goods under a “Temporary Importing Permit.” A letter should be obtained from the employer verifying the type of work and duration of the contract.
- **Returning Salvadoran Citizens** are permitted to import household goods and personal effects duty-free, provided the following conditions are met:
 - Shipper is returning to El Salvador after living abroad for at least 3 years.
 - Shipper did not remain in El Salvador for more than 30 consecutive days during visits during the last 3 years.
 - CIF value does not exceed US \$15,000—as evaluated by Customs.
 - Shipment originates in the country in which the shipper has been residing.
 - Shipment arrives within 90 days of the shipper’s arrival in El Salvador.

Note: *All shipments may be physically inspected by Customs, except for diplomatic removals.*

Required Documents:

Non-Salvadoran Citizens:

- ✓ Original and copy shipper’s passport
- ✓ Original NIT (Número de Identificación Tributaria de El Salvador) obtained by the shipper at the office of the Ministry of Finance of El Salvador, registered as “importer.”
- ✓ Original and copy of Bill of Lading or Air Waybill
- ✓ Original and copy of valued inventory in Spanish, which lists make, model and serial numbers for all large electrical appliances. Customs accepts depreciated values for used items.

Returning Salvadoran Citizens:

- ✓ Original passport
- ✓ NIT obtained by the shipper at the office of the Ministry of Finance of El Salvador, registered as “importer.”
- ✓ Original and copy of inventory list, including make, model, and serial numbers for all large electrical appliances.
- ✓ Extra copy of packing list with reasonable values listed for Customs.
- ✓ Certificate of Migratory Movement obtained at the Immigration General Office in El Salvador. Shipper must request and obtain this document in person upon arrival in El Salvador.
- ✓ Original and copy of Bill of Lading or Airway Bill

DIPLOMATIC SHIPMENTS:

- Diplomatic removals are granted duty-free entry and will not be subjected to Customs inspection.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Diplomatic franchise
- ✓ Original and copy of Bill of Lading or Air Waybill
- ✓ Original and copy of packing list, including make, model and serial numbers of large electrical appliances
- ✓ NIT obtained by shipper at office of Ministry of Finance of El Salvador, registered as “importer.”
- ✓ Original passport

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Pornographic materials
- Subversive matter
- Illegal drugs
- Military clothing and equipment
- Firearms are prohibited unless a special permit is first obtained from the Ministry of Defense.
- Ammunition
- Cleaning chemicals

RESTRICTED ITEMS

- New household goods and furniture are subject to duties and require original invoices for Customs purposes.
- Plants require a phytosanitary certificate and permit from the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Medicines, narcotics and drugs require a permit from the local drug administration office and are subject to import duties.
- Tins and food require certificates verifying the items are for human consumption and a phytosanitary certificate for fresh fruit and vegetables.
- Alcoholic beverages will create delays and extra charges since special permits are required.

MOTOR VEHICLES

- Only diplomats are allowed to import motor vehicles duty- and tax-free.
- Foreigners and returning citizens will pay duties and taxes based upon the vehicle’s make, model, year and features.
- Vehicles must be less than 8 years old, based upon the date of manufacture.

Required Documents for Motor Vehicles:

- ✓ Original passport or Diplomatic Franchise
- ✓ Original and copy of Bill of Lading (separate from the household goods Bill of Lading)
- ✓ Original commercial invoice
- ✓ Certificate of title proving ownership
- ✓ New vehicles: a certificate of compliance with anti-pollution standards issued by the manufacturer and authenticated by the Salvadoran Embassy/Consulate at the country of origin, translated into Spanish.
- ✓ Used vehicles: a certificate of emissions control authorized by a mechanical shop in the country of origin, issued at least 90 days before importation.
- ✓ Certificate of origin
- ✓ Driver's License
- ✓ Legal Residence Permit
- ✓ Certificate issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles or Police Department verifying that the vehicle was not stolen.
- ✓ Diplomats need a NIT, registered as "importer"

DOGS AND CATS

- Cats and dogs may be imported duty-free if they are not to be resold, but they are subject to an import tax of approximately 10% of the CIF value.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Special permit issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Stockbreeding
- ✓ Certificate of Health issued by a licensed Veterinarian.
- ✓ Certificate of vaccination
- ✓ Certificate of pedigree issued in country of origin.
- ✓ Proof of ownership
- ✓ Commercial invoice or pro forma invoice with estimated value of the pet(s) being imported.

ART AND ANTIQUES

- ✓ Works of art and antiques are subject to duties, except when part of a diplomatic removal.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Original and copy of Bill of Lading or Air Waybill
- ✓ Original invoice
- ✓ Original and copy of packing list

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- COMCA International, 2008.
- Mudiza, January 2006.
- LACMA, 2004.

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.