



Importing Personal Property Into HONG KONG

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

DUTY-FREE ENTRY IS PERMITTED IF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS ARE MET:

- Hong Kong is a free port and does not levy any Customs tariffs or taxes on imports.
- The shipper can import personal and household goods by air, sea, or both only once within the first 6 months after the Import Permit is issued. Any subsequent shipments are subject to greater import tax and duty and/or seizure.
- Returning local residents who have spent less than 24 hours outside Hong Kong and persons under the age of 18 are not eligible for duty-free concessions.

Notes:

- All shipments from South East Asia will be inspected.
- All other air shipments will be inspected, and surface shipments are inspected randomly.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Residence Visa
- ✓ Work Visa
- ✓ Detailed Inventory—avoid using the term “miscellaneous” to describe items
- ✓ Original Bill of Lading or Air Waybill
- ✓ Copy of the shipper’s passport, re-signed by the shipper
- ✓ Letter of authorization to Customs and Excise Department (Power of Attorney)
- ✓ Completed and signed *Application Form for Import/Export of Personal Effects*
- ✓ Destination contact information (address, telephone and fax numbers, email address)

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Narcotics (such as Opium, Morphine, Heroin, Cocaine, Cannabis, Methadone, etc.)
- Psychotropic drugs including most stimulants, hypnotics, tranquilizers and sedatives
- Antibiotics
- Controlled chemicals (such as Acetic Anhydride, Ephedrine, etc.)
- Perishable food items
- Pornographic or politically subversive material
- Endangered species, including animals and plants or parts or derivatives of such species.
- Counterfeit goods or infringing copies of computer software, compact discs or music cassette tapes. You will be subject to criminal prosecution if you import these items.

RESTRICTED ITEMS

A license is required for the importation of any of the following items:

- Alcohol—import duties range from 10 to 100%—if imported, should be packed together and clearly declared on the packing list.
- Tobacco products
- Firearms and ammunition
- Weapons, such as Chinese-style throwing dart, knuckle-duster, gravity knife and gravity-operated baton.
- Fireworks
- Personal computers (import permit required for machines with a power level higher than Pentium III)
- Plant and vegetable products require an Import License issued by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, and a valid *Phytosanitary Certificate*. Shipper must also provide the following documents: Original Purchase Invoice, Certificate of Registration, and Insurance Certificate.

MOTOR VEHICLES

- All motor vehicles are subject to a *First Registration Tax* assessed on the published retail price of the vehicle, age of the vehicle, and cost of materials and labor necessary to bring vehicle into compliance.
- All right-hand drive vehicles (including private cars and motorcycles) must comply with environmental requirements, including exhaust and noise emissions standards. An exemption may be granted for the emission requirements if the following conditions are met:**
 - Vehicle has been owned and used for at least 6 months prior to application
 - Owner has had a driver's license, issued in the country in which the vehicle was last registered, for at least 6 months
 - Owner resided in country where vehicle was last registered for at least 6 months
 - Owner has obtained a work visa or student visa, or is a permanent resident of Hong Kong
 - Owner has not received this exemption within the previous 5 years
 - Also, exemptions may be granted for classic motor vehicles manufactured at least 20 years prior to date of application, powered by their original engines and unleaded fuel.
- Left-hand drive and diesel vehicles are restricted. For additional information, contact the Environmental Protection Department (www.epd.gov.hk, enquiry@epd.gov.hk, phone: (852) 2835 1018) and the Transport Department (www.td.gov.hk, tdeng@td.gov.hk, phone: (852) 2804 2631).

Required Documents:

- ✓ An Import Return CED 336A must be filed with the Motor Vehicles Valuation Group, Customs and Excise Department within 30 days of importation. (Failure to file this form is punishable by 12 months of imprisonment and a fine of HK\$500,000.) The owner will receive a *Notification of Motor Vehicle Provisional Taxable Value* from the Customs and Excise Department; this notification must be produced on first registration at the Transport Department. A Certificate of Roadworthiness must also be obtained in order to register and license a vehicle in Hong Kong.
- ✓ Import license Form 3 for right-hand drive vehicles
- ✓ Purchase invoice
- ✓ Original motor vehicle registration documents
- ✓ Bill of Lading or Air Waybill
- ✓ Passport
- ✓ Valid insurance certificate
- ✓ Exhaust emission test report, issued within 6 months by a recognized motor vehicle emission testing laboratory
- ✓ Completed Noise Emission Certificate General Approval (NECGA) Form certified by a noise testing laboratory or a competent person
- ✓ Certificate of conformity issued by the manufacturer of the motor vehicle

Required Documents for Motor Vehicles (continued):

- ✓ ** For exemption from emission requirement:
 - ✓ Copy of motor vehicle registration showing owner's name
 - ✓ Copy of driver's license
 - ✓ Proof of residence for more than 6 months
 - ✓ Documentation showing owner's residential status in Hong Kong, such as permanent resident, working visa, student visa, etc.

FIREARMS

- A license must be obtained from the Trade Department for importing firearms and ammunition.
- Strategic Commodities Section of the Trade Department, Room 516B, 5/F, Trade Department Tower, 700 Nathan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong, Phone: (852) 2398 5575 (for licensing advice), Phone: (852) 2398 5582 (for technical assessment), Fax: (852) 2396 3070

DOGS AND CATS

- You must obtain a permit from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) prior to importing mammals, birds and/or reptiles. Quarantine may be required and the length depends on type of pet and country of origin.
- Dogs and cats must be at least 8-weeks-old and fitted with a microchip. The microchip number must be recorded on the Health Certificate.
- All animals must be transported by the quickest and most-direct route to Hong Kong

Required Documents:

- ✓ Veterinary Health Certificate dated no more than 14 days prior to departure, endorsed by a Government-approved Veterinarian. A combined Veterinary Health, Residence and Vaccination Certificate is acceptable, and only applies to 1 animal.
- ✓ Other Major Infectious Diseases Vaccination Certificate is required certifying animal has been fully vaccinated against infectious diseases for not less than 10 days and not more than 1 year prior to departure.
- ✓ Residence Certificate to certify animal has been continuously residing in country of origin during the previous 6 months, or since birth, prior to importation
- ✓ Anti-rabies Vaccination Certificate certifying animal has been vaccinated against rabies for less than 1 year and more than 30 days prior to departure.
- ✓ Import License
- ✓ Airline Certificate or Captain's Affidavit certifying animal has traveled entire journey on 1 aircraft.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Asian Express International Movers, 2008.
- Asian Tigers/K.C. Dat, 2008.
- Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, www.afcd.gov.hk, 2008.

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.