



Importing Personal Property Into

PHILIPPINES

IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

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

- The goods have been in the shipper's possession for at least 6 months prior to importation and must arrive within 60 days of the shipper
- **Immigrants/Permanent Residents** can import one shipment of household goods/personal effects duty and tax-free.
- **Non-Resident/Retiree** can import up to U.S. \$7,800 of household goods/personal effects duty and tax-free.
- **Temporary visitors** can import household goods/personal effects and vehicles if a re-export bond is filed which expires after 6 months. After 6 months the items must be re-exported or the duties and taxes must be paid.

Notes:

- The shipper must be present for Customs clearance.
- A visa must be obtained prior to the shipment's arrival.
- All shipments are subject to inspection by Customs.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ✓ Original Passport duly stamped with last departure and arrival date.
- ✓ Original Bill of Lading or Airway Bill
- ✓ Residence Visa (obtained after shipper's arrival) or Visa application copy from employer
- ✓ Work Permit
- ✓ Inventory (in English)
- ✓ Letter of Request for Exemption or Tax Exemption Certificate*:
 - ✓ Customs Bond
 - ✓ Letter of Guarantee
 - ✓ Bank Guarantee

***For Foreign Visa holders only (except Diplomats and Returning Residents)**

DIPLOMATIC, U.N. AND FOREIGN AID PERSONNEL SHIPMENTS

- Shipments of household goods/personal effects and automobiles are duty free.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR DIPLOMATS

- ✓ Original Bill of Lading
- ✓ Copy of diplomatic passport
- ✓ Inventory
- ✓ Tax exemption certificate from the appropriate Embassy

RESTRICTED/DUTIBALE ITEMS

- Alcoholic beverages and tobacco can be imported in reasonable quantities for personal use including 3 bottles of wine, 3 bottles of liquor and 3 cartons of cigarettes or cigars.
- Duplicate appliances will incur taxes.
- Firearms, ammunition and explosives must be licensed in advance
- Medications require 3 copies of a visaed health declaration.
- Plants require a certificate of disinfection from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Prohibited drugs, misbranded and adulterated drugs
- Firearms, ammunition and explosives (unless licensed in advance)
- Toy guns
- Foodstuffs
- Any adulterated/misbranded articles of foods in violation of the Food and Drug Act.
- Obscene literature, photographs or films and "politically undesirable" literature
- Gambling machines and paraphernalia
- Transceivers

PROHIBITED ITEMS; IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES AND PETS

PROHIBITED ITEMS (CONTINUED)

- Printed matters advocating treason, rebellion, insurrection, sedition or subversion against the Government of the Philippines.
- Counterfeit, altered or imitation coins, paper money, bank notes or securities, gold/silver and precious metal bullion.
- Articles that infringe upon copyrights, patents or trademarks.

IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

- Regulations on importing motor vehicles are very strict and are subject to change. Please contact the closest Philippine Embassy or Consulate before considering importing your vehicle.
- Only Returning Residents and Diplomats are allowed to import vehicles
- A special **Import Authority Permit** is required for non-diplomat shippers to import an automobile. Shipper must obtain the permit from the nearest Philippines Embassy or Consulate prior to arrival to avoid lengthy delays and heavy fines.
- Automobiles are subject to duty and tax based upon the depreciated value of the vehicle. Only diplomatic vehicles are allowed duty-free importation.
- Duties are normally assessed up to 40%
- Gasoline-powered automobiles cannot exceed 1500 kilograms or 2800cc.
- Vehicles must be less than 5 years old and be left-hand drive passenger cars.
- Automobiles that are 3 years old or newer must be registered in the name of the importer for at least 6 months prior to submitting an application for importation.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES

- ✓ Documents as listed above for HHG importation

- ✓ **Import Authority Permit** issued by the Philippine Bureau of Import Service
- ✓ Stencils of chassis/engine numbers
- ✓ Original Registration Certificate and proof of ownership
- ✓ Commercial or sales invoice or deed of sale
- ✓ Original Ocean Bill of Lading

IMPORTATION OF PETS

- All pets are dutiable
- Quarantine is not required for pets being imported into the Philippines.
- An **Import Permit** must be obtained from the Philippine Bureau of Animal Industry prior to the pet's arrival in the Philippines. To obtain this permit, shipper must provide the following information to the Bureau:
 - Kind of animal, breed, name of pet & owner, gender, color, tentative flight details, copies of health and vaccination certificates, exports contact information.
- Dogs, cats and birds are allowed importation without any restrictions.
- Exotic pets may be restricted. The Philippines Embassy or consulate should be contacted for further information.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ✓ **Import Permit**
- ✓ **Health Certificate** and **Vaccination Certificate** issued by a competent veterinarian from origin and dated within 30 days prior to the arrival date.
- ✓ The **Health Certificate** must be presented to a Philippine Consular Office before the pet is shipped to obtain a **Certification of Authenticity**.
- ✓ Original Ocean bill of Lading or Airway Bill
- ✓ Identification card of the pet

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

- Asian Tigers Lane, 2005.
- Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines, Consular Section, "Requirements for Pets Entering the Philippines," http://www.philippineembassy-usa.org/DOWNLOADS/pets_reqs.pdf, 2005.
- 4moversww.com, April 2000.

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.