



Importing Personal Property Into

Puerto Rico

IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS/ PERSONAL EFFECTS

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

- Furniture is used and has been in the possession of the shipper for at least 12 months.
- All other personal effects are subject to an excise tax of 6.6% (known as "Arbitrios") of the depreciated value declared on the inventory. This includes new items, tools, sporting goods, musical instruments, camera equipment, toys, rugs, artwork, furniture, appliances and electrical items.

Notes:

- The household goods/personal effects of federal employees are tax exempt. However, only 1 vehicle is duty-free. The shipper needs to provide proof of being a federal employee on a federal assignment. Documents necessary include travel orders and a government bill of lading.
- "PBO" or packed by owner shipments are unacceptable.
- The shipper must be in Puerto Rico to clear Customs. One Form 3299 may be used for the household goods shipment and foreign automobile, if both are arriving at the same time on the same vessel and are on the same bill of lading.
- Shipments from the U.S. do not go through a Customs Clearance but will go through a similar process to determine insular taxes.
- Shipments from foreign countries must clear Customs and the shipper will have a Customs interview and pay insular and excise taxes.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

- ✓ Passport copies (foreign shippers)
- ✓ Copy of Driver's License and Social Security card
- ✓ Bill of lading or air waybill signed by the shipper
- ✓ Detailed inventory signed by owner

- ✓ Invoice for freight of goods signed by the shipper
- ✓ U.S. Customs Form 3299
- ✓ U.S. Customs Power of Attorney
- ✓ Supplemental Declaration Form
- ✓ Packing List

PROHIBITED ITEMS:

- Firearms, ammunition, hazardous materials (fireworks, dangerous toys, toxic or poisonous substances, etc.) and explosive materials/ devices
- Pornographic materials
- Liquors and spirits
- Lottery tickets
- Endangered or threatened species of plants and animals
- Monkeys
- Jewelry, currency, coin collections or items of extraordinary value
- Drugs
- Seditious and treasonable materials
- Switchblade knives
- Products made by prison convicts or forced labor
- Pirated copies of materials that are protected by copyright

IMPORTATION OF PETS:

- Cat, dogs and birds may be brought into Puerto Rico. Cats and dogs must be free of any signs of communicable diseases and in good health when imported. If there is any question of the animal's health, Customs may require an examination by a veterinarian at the shipper's expense.
- Dogs must be vaccinated against rabies at least 30 days before arrival in Puerto Rico.
- Birds may be subject to a quarantine period. Reservations must be made in advance for stays in quarantine facilities.
- Monkeys, apes and other primates are prohibited importation.

IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

- ✓ Proof of any and all inoculations
- ✓ Dogs require the following additional documents (unless the dog is coming from a rabies-free country):
 - A valid rabies vaccination certificate stating the date of the vaccination and the expiration date. The certificate must be signed by a licensed veterinarian.

IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES:

- Automobiles are subject to a local government tax based on appraised value
- Non-residents may import automobiles, motorcycles and scooters, but they must conform to safety standards and air pollution requirements.
- All autos will undergo a physical inspection
- Keys must be sent to destination agent before arrival of the vehicle
- Auto should not have more than ¼ tank of fuel prior to shipping
- Motor of auto must be cleaned by shipper for police inspection of the motor number

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Original ocean waybill
- ✓ Original certificate of title
- ✓ Original automobile registration
- ✓ Copy of shipper's Driver's License with social security number with a physical and postal address in Puerto Rico
- ✓ U.S. Customs Form 3299 if consigned from a foreign country
- ✓ Notarized letter from lienholder stating the VIN number, model, make of the vehicle.
- ✓ Shippers who are moving due to a government work assignment will need the following additional documents:
 - ✓ Travel order
 - ✓ Government bill of lading
 - ✓ Job identification with picture

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

- Capitol Transportation, Inc. San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2006.
- LACMA, Customs Regulations for Puerto Rico, July 1999.
- Puerto Rico Virtual Trade Center, "Importation/Exportation of Products into Puerto Rico," <http://camcom.bc.inter.edu/pr.htm>, May 1999.
- World Wide Ocean & Air Shipping Lines Inc., 1999.
- U.S. Customs Service, Department of Treasury, Customs Publication No. 511, US Import Requirements, Importing Goods for Personal Use, <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov/imp-exp2/comm-imp/impreq.htm>, September 1997.

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.