



## Importing Personal Property into

# LAOS

### IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS/PERSONAL EFFECTS, MOTOR VEHICLES AND PETS

#### HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECT MAY BE IMPORTED DUTY FREE IF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS ARE MET:

- ✓ Shipper has diplomatic status (must include letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs verifying status)
- ✓ Shipper works for a registered foreign company and has obtained a valid Laos work permit. Copies of the employer's investment license and business license will also be required.
- ✓ Shipper is a returning resident and has been abroad at least 12 months.
- ✓ Shipper must be present at Customs clearance.
- ✓ Shipment must arrive within 6 months of owner.

#### **Note:**

Duty-free shipments are limited to one air and one sea shipment, and can include only one of each type of electrical appliances.

All other shippers may import household goods and personal effects into Laos but they will be subject to duty. The duty amount varies and is often determined through negotiations with customs officials.

#### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Original passport
- Original work permit or diplomatic certificate

#### **Acknowledgments:**

- Trans-Link Relocations, 2003.
- North American International, 2001.

#### IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES

- ✓ Diplomats may import a vehicle duty free, provided he or she obtains a letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs verifying diplomatic status and requesting duty free import.
- ✓ Non-diplomatic shippers will find it nearly impossible to import a vehicle due to time consuming procedures and a duty that can be as high as 300% of the vehicle's original purchase value.

#### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Import permit must be obtained prior to importation.

#### IMPORTING PETS

- ✓ Most pets can be imported without a quarantine period.
- ✓ Shipper must provide a current health certificate (no more than 7 days old) and a current vaccination card.

#### PROHIBITED/RESTRICTED ITEMS

- ✓ Firearms and ammunition
- ✓ Pornographic materials
- ✓ Reactionary (politically subversive) materials

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.