



Importing Personal Property into

MALAYSIA

IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

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

- The goods have been in the shipper's possession and used for a minimum of six months prior to arrival in Malaysia. Customs will require receipts for items that look new.
- **The shipper must be in Malaysia prior to the shipment's arrival to sign the appropriate documentation and submit a copy of their passport and entry stamp.**
- The goods will not be disposed of within three months from the date of import.
- The shipper is a foreigner who has a Work Permit or a letter from their employer in Malaysia.
- The shipper is a returning Malaysian resident who has resided abroad continuously for at least 12 months.

Notes:

- Returning Malaysians may import one shipment of used (at least six months old) household goods/ personal effects duty-free. Purchase receipts must be presented to Customs for items that look new.
- Expatriate personnel may import shipments of used items duty-free.
- Customs clearance is always completed at the port of entry and subject to 100% customs examination.
- Duty-free, temporary import of goods can be granted for 3 months, if a bank guarantee is posted for the amount of duty due.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Eight copies of Customs Declaration Form No. 1, signed by the shipper.
- ✓ Photocopy of the owner's passport, including the photo page and the first 3 pages stamped by immigration with the date of entry.
- ✓ Copy of work permit or work permit application or letter from Malaysian employer stating reason for import, job function and approximate duration of stay.
- ✓ Airway bill or Ocean Bill of Lading
- ✓ Invoices of new items or items that look new
- ✓ Certificates of origin of goods, if possible.
- ✓ Import permits, if necessary.
- ✓ Detailed Inventory in English (two copies) with the exact contents of the shipment.
- ✓ Separate list of electrical items / appliances stating brand, model, serial numbers, year purchased, country of origin and voltage. **This list must be submitted prior to the shipment's arrival**, so an Electrical Permit can be obtained for customs clearance.
- ✓ Separate list of new items
- ✓ Visa for Employment and Residence
- ✓ Letter authorizing the Destination Agent to clear the shipment, signed by the shipper.
- ✓ For foreign shippers taking up employment in Malaysia, a Professional or Employment Pass should be obtained. The prospective employer should contact the Malaysian Immigration Headquarters, Block I, Pusat Bandar Damansara, Bukit Damansutra, 50550 Kuala Lumpur; Telephone: (3) 244 5077, Fax: (3) 256 2340.

RESTRICTED/ PROHIBITED ITEMS

RESTRICTED/DUTIBALE ITEMS:

- All items less than six months old or items that appear new require invoices. All new items will be subject to taxes and duties.
- Alcohol and tobacco products (for personal consumption) are subject to high import duties and sales taxes of 15%.
- All precious metal objects
- CDs, DVDs, laser discs and video tapes are subject to approval and possible editing by the Censorship Board. Censorship fees are levied on these articles and the cost depends on the quantity imported. Anything deemed unsuitable will be destroyed.

IMPORT PERMITS REQUIRED FOR:

- Poisonous chemicals require permits from the Department of Environment.
- Electronic equipment
- Telephones fax machines and other telecommunication devices require import permits from the Telecommunications Department, Ministry of Energy, Telecommunications and Posts.
- Computers are tax-free but restricted to three per family and must not be sold within a year of import. An import license must be obtained from the Electrical Inspectorate Department.
- Electrical items require an Import License issued by the Electrical Inspectorate Department. Note that adapters and generators may be necessary to operate electrical appliances since the electricity is supplied in Malaysia as a 240-volt 5-cycle system.
- Plants are restricted and require a Phytosanitary Certificate and prior approval from the Ministry of Agriculture. Plants must be quarantined for 3 days.
- Pesticides require permits from the Pesticide Board, Plant Protection Section, and Department of Agriculture.

- All genera of Piranha fish and wild require permits from the Department of Wildlife and National Parks.
- Live fish require permits from the Ministry of Agriculture Malaysia, Fisheries Department.
- Apparatus or equipment for the purpose of home brewing of beer.
- Pharmaceutical goods require permits from the Ministry of Health, Pharmaceutical Division.
- Diamonds and diamond-set jewelry in a quantity exceeding what is reasonable for personal use.
- Pens and pencils resembling syringes.
- Eggs in the shell, rice and products made from rice
- Saccharin and its salts
- Any animal products

PROHIBITED ITEMS:

- All types of firearms (including toy guns and pistols), weaponry, fireworks, explosives, ammunition, daggers and flick-knives.
- Narcotics and drugs are strictly prohibited. Violators will be subject to the death penalty.
- Politically sensitive or subversive literature
- Communist literature
- Short wave radios
- Obscene books and pornographic materials.
- Any products of Israel, South Africa or Haiti
- Coral
- Turtle eggs
- Cloth with reproductions of verses from the Koran

IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES, WORKS OF ART / ANTIQUES AND PETS

IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES:

- Importing motor vehicles is generally not recommended.
- All vehicles, new and used, are subject to the payment of high taxes and duties unless imported by a Diplomat. Duties are 60% for motorcycles and 170-300% for cars.
- **The shipper must obtain an “Approval Permit (AP)” from the Ministry of Trade prior to importation.** A permit may possibly be refused.
- Vehicles over 5 years old are prohibited entry.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES:

- ✓ Malaysian Approval Permit – obtained prior to importation
- ✓ Bill of Lading
- ✓ Letter of Authority
- ✓ Registration card
- ✓ Insurance policy
- ✓ Original and copy of passport of shipper
- ✓ Letter from owner stating reason to import vehicles
- ✓ Original ownership certificate
- ✓ Invoice for new vehicles.

IMPORTATION OF WORKS OF ART OR ANTIQUES:

- Painting, drawings and pastels are not subject to duties.
- Antiques of an age exceeding 100 years old are subject to the payment of import duties and sales taxes. These items must be approved by the Museum Authority prior to importation.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Certificate of Antiquity from country of origin to verify antique piece is over 100 years old.

IMPORTATION OF PETS:

- Dogs, cats and birds may be imported. Dogs and cats are subject to a quarantine period of 30 days.
- Shipper may apply in writing to transfer their pets to their residence after 7 days to complete the quarantine at home.
- Advance notice at least 3 weeks prior to the pet's entry is required, so that kennel space may be reserved.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ **Import Permit issued prior to the pet's arrival** by the Department of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture Malaysia. The contact address is Block A, 8th and 9th floor, Jalan Semantan, 50630 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Telephone: (603) 298 3077 and Fax: (603) 651 3012.
- ✓ Health Certificate or Export Permit issued in the country of origin. The certificate must be issued within 7 days of the pet's departure. It must state the animal is free from rabies or any other communicable diseases.
- ✓ Vaccination Certificate stating the vaccination was issued between 30 to 180 days prior to the pet's departure. The certificate must also describe the pet's breed, age, color, name of the pet, name of the owner and flight details.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

- Crown Line Group, http://www.crownline.com.my/customs_immigration.html, 2003.
- Asian Tigers Transpo Movers (Malaysia) SDN BHD, <http://www.asiantigerstranspomalaysia.com/service/customregulation.htm>, 2003.
- Subalipack, 2003
- Ambassador Worldwide Movers, 2002

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.