



# Importing Personal Property Into

# VIETNAM

## IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

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

- The shipper is a foreign diplomat AND goods entering are used.
- Duty-free is applicable for one air and one sea shipment per shipper.

### Notes:

- Foreigners with a work permit who import their household goods and personal effects will have to pay duty on their shipments based upon the value of the items.
- Customs will inspect all shipments, including most diplomatic shipments. Shipments that are not diplomatic or NGO will most likely draw Customs duties on the contents of the shipment.
- Diplomatic and NGO shipments could incur duties if they contain multiple consumer items, especially electronic items.
- Shipper must be in Vietnam for Customs clearance purposes for both air and sea shipments.

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ✓ Passport and visa
- ✓ Original copy of the ocean bill of lading or air waybill. Shipments must be declared on the bills of lading "Used Personal Effects."
- ✓ Copy of airport Customs declaration showing shipper's last entry into Vietnam.
- ✓ Authorization letter giving the destination agent the power to clear the shipment through Customs.
- ✓ Shipper's employment contract or registration in company or organization
- ✓ Copy of government permit showing that the shipper's company or organization is authorized to set up a company in Vietnam.
- ✓ Two legible copies of the packing inventory, in English. Terms such as PBO or "Packed by Owner" are not acceptable.

List brand, model and serial number of electronic items on the inventory.

### RESTRICTED/DUTIBALE ITEMS

- Luxury items (TVs, stereos, computers, radios, VCRs, cassette recorders, motorcycles, automobiles, tobacco, alcohol and foodstuff) will incur very high taxes.
- Communications equipment including fax machines, modems, CPUs and telephones require import permits from the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications.
- Only diplomats may import alcohol.
- "Cultural Items" such as books, compact discs, videotapes, cassette tapes, video recorders, computer discs, calendars and document files are subject to inspection by the Cultural Department. Include these items on the inventory with quantity of each. The shipper will be charged a fee for the inspection of "Cultural Items."
- Medications must be accompanied by a prescription.
- Electrical and electronic devices will incur duties.
- Antiques require declaration to Customs upon arrival to avoid difficulties in re-exporting them. Photos should be taken at origin to provide to Customs.

### PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Firearms and ammunition
- Any political or historical books about Vietnam.
- Narcotics
- Pornographic, cultural or politically sensitive materials.
- Radio transmitters
- Satellite dishes

## IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES AND PETS

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### IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

- All vehicles must be less than two years old.
- Only left-hand drive cars are permitted importation.
- Duties will be assessed at **250%** unless special permission is granted prior to the shipment's arrival.
- Only diplomats can import motor vehicles duty and tax-free.
- Only the head of a diplomatic mission of Ambassador may import used automobiles.
- An import permit must be obtained prior to the shipment's departure from origin.
- Motorcycles must be less than 125cc.

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ✓ Import Permit
- ✓ Certificate of Registration

### IMPORTATION OF PETS

- Most domestic pets, such as dogs, cats and birds are permitted importation without quarantine.
- Pets can be imported duty-free.
- The shipper must be present in Vietnam at the time of Customs clearance.

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ✓ Current health certificate, less than 7 days old.
- ✓ Current vaccination card.
- ✓ Certificate of origin
- ✓ Rabies vaccination papers.
- ✓ Sanitary certificate

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

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- Asian Tigers, 2005.
- Saigon Van, 2002
- 4moversww.com, April 2000.
- JVK Movers Vietnam, 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.**