



Importing Personal Property Into Korea

IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

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

- The goods are at least 6 months old and comprise of furniture, portable radios, video equipment, television sets, household appliances, linen and bedding, chinaware, glassware, silverware, movie and slide projectors and cameras.
- The shipper is a foreigner and intends to reside in Korea for at least 1 year if moving with his/her family or at least 2 years if single.
- The shipper is a Korean citizen and has resided abroad for at least 2 years, if single or 1 year if with his/her family.

Notes:

- All shipments are inspected and the shipper must be present for customs inspection.
- Shipment must arrive within 6 months of the shipper's arrival (3 for those originating from Southeast Asia).
- Shipper must be present for customs clearance.
- If the shipper plans on residing in Korea for less than 2 years, the shipment is classified as quasi-immigrant removal, thus incurring higher duties.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Original Passport for each family member
- ✓ Work Visa – valid for more than 1 year.
- ✓ Work Permit from Embassy stating shipper will be residing in Korea for more than 1 year.
- ✓ Original Residence (Alien Registration) cards of all family members
- ✓ Employment Certificate stating term of stay being over 2 years

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS (continued):

- ✓ Original and 1 copy of the Inventory (must be legible). Model and serial numbers of electrical appliances should be stated.
- ✓ Insurance Certificate
- ✓ Power of Attorney
- ✓ Declaration Form of Moving and Shipment
- ✓ Bill of lading or Airway bill (Original and one copy)

DUTIABLE/ RESTRICTED ITEMS:

- New items less than 6 months old or duplicate items are dutiable/taxed
 - **Exceptions:** 2 extra T.V. sets up to 29", or 1 extra T.V. set (29"-49") are duty free
- Plants require inspection in the quarantine office
- Wine and spirits
- Food items – no duty on small amounts, but large quantities will be assessed a 20% tax based on the customs value
- The following items are dutiable:
 - Electrical appliances
 - Upright and Grand pianos
 - Carpet
 - Skis
 - Air Cleaners
 - Golf clubs
 - Autos, boats, aircrafts, motorcycles
 - Alcohol and tobacco products

Notes:

- Customs duty is calculated based on the value determined by customs authority, not the original purchase price or current market value as declared by shipper.

PROHIBITED ITEMS; IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES AND PETS

PROHIBITED ITEMS:

- Narcotics and medicines without prescriptions.
- Firearms, weapons and ammunition. Rifles are permitted with a special permit; however, this process is very difficult and not recommended.
- Pornographic materials
- Counterfeit money or securities.
- Meats and fish

IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES:

All foreign-made new and used cars are subject to duty at the following rates:

- Less than 1500 CC = 29.6% of CIF value
- 1500-2000 CC = 35.0% of CIF value
- Over 2000 CC = 40.4% of CIF value
- Motor vehicle (including motorcycle) must have been registered under the shipper's name for over three months prior to importation.
- Diplomats can import autos duty-free
- If a foreign manufactured car or motorcycle is imported, it cannot be sold for at least 3 years. After that time, shipper may sell auto after paying Korean customs duty (calculated at time of sale).

Notes:

If the auto or motorcycle arrives 6 months after the shipper's arrival, it will be classified as non-household goods and the owner must perform the following tasks:

- Emission gas level test
- Noise and vibration test
- Type and model approval by the Korea automobile test and research institute

Approximate costs for the test and approval process is approximately US\$4,000.00

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Original Registration Certificate
- ✓ Original Purchase Receipt or Invoice
- ✓ Customs Declaration
- ✓ Title
- ✓ Insurance Policy (original or copy)
- ✓ The vehicle must be listed on the inventory with full technical specifications (make, model, plate number, year, etc.)

IMPORTATION OF PETS:

- Importing dogs, cats, birds, etc. from a non-rabies free country requires a stay in quarantine, which generally lasts between 5 to 40 days
- If the pet is from a rabies free country the stay is only 24 hours. Rabies free countries include Ireland, Cyprus, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji Islands, Jamaica, Guam, U.S.A (Hawaii & Samoa only) and the U.K. (Great Britain & Northern Ireland only).
- At the completion of quarantine an Animal Health certificate will be issued.
- It is recommended that the pet arrive on a morning arrival flight as it normally takes app. 5-7 hours from arrival before delivery to owner's residence in the Seoul area.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Health and Rabies Inoculation Certificate stating that the vaccination was given at least 30 days prior to departure. Must be valid for up to one year.
- ✓ Airway bill or baggage ticket

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

- Ahjin Transportation Co. Ltd., 2002
- Consulate General of the Republic of Korea, "Entry & Departure Formalities, <http://www.consulatekorea-tor.org/entry.html>, January 2000.
- Ahjin Transportation Co, Ltd., January 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.