



EL SALVADOR



CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION FOR IMPORTS

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

Documents Required

- Passport
- Residence Permit / Work Permit
- Visa
- Numero de Identificacion (NIT) from the Ministry of Finance
- Certificate of Migratory Movement from the Immigration General Office
- Temporary Import Permit
- Bank Guarantee, if applicable
- Original Bill of Lading (OBL) / Air Waybill (AWB)
- Detailed inventory in Spanish
- Packing list
- Letter of Employment
- Certificate of Change of Residence
- Certificate of Residence Abroad (returning citizens)
- Diplomatic Franchise (Diplomas)

Specific Information

- All shipments are subject to inspection.
- The shippers must be present for Customs clearance.
- Household goods and personal effects are duty free provided they have been owned and used by the shipper for at least 6 months.
- The shipment must arrive within 90 days of the shipper's arrival.
- Customs clearance takes approximately 2-3 business days.
- Items cannot be sold, loaned or disposed of during the shipper's stay.
- Returning residents must have lived abroad for at least 3 years for duty-free import and provide proof of residency abroad; citizens must not have returned to El Salvador for more than 30 consecutive days during the 3-year period of official residency abroad. Contact the destination agent for specific requirements of eligibility.
- The Certificate of Residence can be obtained from the Salvadoran Consulate and must verify the location and time spent abroad.
- The packing list must include the value of each item and the make, model and serial number of electrical appliances.
- Foreign Diplomats and certain government/organization members are granted duty-free entry. Documents must be received by the destination agent 15 days prior to the shipper's arrival.
- Foreigners may qualify for a 6-month delay of duty payment with a Bank Guarantee for an amount equal to the Customs valuation of the shipment; however, the payment is required upon expiration of the Guarantee.

MOTOR VEHICLES

Documents Required

- Passport
- Driver's License
- Certificate of Title / Registration
- Purchase / Commercial Invoice
- OBL
- Diplomatic Franchise (Diplomats)

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- Certificate of Compliance (new vehicles)
- Certificate of Emissions (used vehicles)

Specific Information

- Vehicles (motorized and non-motorized) can be imported duty free but are subject to taxes.
- Diplomats can import vehicles duty and tax free.
- New and used vehicles must be less than 8 years old from the date of manufacture for import.
- The Certificate of Compliance for new vehicles is issued by the manufacturer and must be authenticated by the Salvadoran Embassy or Consulate at origin.
- The Certificate of Emissions for used vehicles must be authorized by a mechanic and authenticated by the Salvadoran Embassy or Consulate at origin.

PETS

Documents Required

- Rabies Vaccination Record
- Veterinary Health Certificate
- Import Permit

Specific Information

- The Vaccination Record must be issued within 6 months of arrival of the animal.
- The Veterinary Health Certificate must be issued within 15 days of arrival of the animal by a licensed veterinarian at origin.

RESTRICTED / DUTIABLE ITEMS

- Firearms and ammunition (a permit from the local police is required)
- Live plants (an original invoice, Phytosanitary Certificate and a permit from the Ministry of Agriculture are required; subject to payment of duties)
- Medications (a permit from the local drug administration is required)
- Cigarettes (200) and cigars (50)
- Alcohol (an Import Permit is required)
- The following items require an original invoice and are subject to the payment of duties:
 - Appliances, machines and spare parts (duty free for Diplomats)
 - Gifts and souvenirs
 - Antiques and works of art
 - Precious metal objects, including jewelry and coins
 - Household and electrical items (serial number, make and model must be included on the detailed inventory)
 - Carpets
 - Wine (a permit from a local health department is required)
 - Food items (a Phytosanitary Certificate is required if the item is not canned and a certificate that the item is approved for human consumption)

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Illegal drugs
- Pornographic and subversive materials
- Military clothing and equipment
- Cleaning chemicals and supplies

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CONSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Recommended: Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air / sea shipments.

IAM Note: *Customs regulations can change at any time with or without notice. This document is provided as a guide and for information only. While IAM has exercised reasonable care in publishing this document, IAM makes no representation, either expressed or implied, as to its accuracy or applicability.*

Helpful Website(s):

<http://www.elsalvador.org>

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1109.html