



**INDIA**



## **CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION FOR IMPORTS**

### **HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS**

#### **Documents Required**

- Original Passport (copy of Passport duly certified is accepted for Diplomats)
- Valued list of articles with date of purchase
- Baggage Customs Declaration signed by owner
- Packing list
- List of electronic items
- Authority Letters (Diplomats)
- Duty-free Exemption Certificate issued by Diplomatic Mission in India (Diplomats)
- Original Ocean Bill of Lading (OBL) / Copy of Air Waybill (AWB)
- Original Residence Permit (foreigners)
- Visa (foreigners)

#### **Specific Information**

- The shipper must be present for Customs clearance.
- All shipments are subject to Customs examination unless a diplomatic shipment.
- All containers (except Diplomat) are offloaded at the point of entry (POE) / (TOE) and reloaded into vans.
- Foreign nationals must possess a Visa valid for 1 year.
- Indian nationals must have lived abroad for at least 2 years preceding transfer to India and intend to reside in India for a period of at least 1 year.
- Air shipments must be dispatched from the origin airport within 15 days after the arrival of the shipper in India.
- Sea shipments must be dispatched from the origin seaport within 1 month after the arrival of the shipper in India.
- Shipments may arrive at the India airport / seaport 2 months prior to arrival of the shipper; however, the shipment will be subject to demurrage or detention as applicable.
- Electronic items should be loaded in the front (opening side) of the container or lift-van
- A list of electronic items should be provided on a separate sheet.

**Note:** Customs regulations are the same throughout India. However, the regulations may be interpreted differently amongst the various Customs offices.

### **MOTOR VEHICLES**

#### **Documents Required**

- Original Passport
- Original Manufacturer's Invoice
- Import License
- Insurance Policy
- Certificate of Title / Registration
- OBL
- Duty Exemption Certificate

#### **Specific Information**

- The import of motor vehicles is a detailed, conditional and complicated procedure and is not recommended.

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- Duties are generally higher than 100%.
- Diplomatic motor vehicles are allowed to be imported free of duty if covered by a Duty Exemption Certificate issued by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, subject to the Ministry approval.
- Left-hand drive vehicles cannot be imported.
- New vehicles may only be imported from the country of manufacture.
- Used vehicles can only be imported through the Customs port at Mumbai.

## PETS

### Documents Required

- Vaccination Record
- Veterinary Health Certificate

### Specific Information

- Only one cat, dog or parrot may be imported at the time of shipment.

## RESTRICTED / DUTIABLE ITEMS

- New items are subject to duties (invoice must be supplied).
- Customs duties are approximately 15-15.3% to be levied on the following items:
  - Televisions
  - Digital video disc players
  - Video home theatres
  - Music systems
  - Microwaves
  - Dishwashers
  - Air conditioners
  - Refrigerators above 300 L or equivalent
  - Deep freezers
  - Fax machines
  - Word processors
  - Video cameras
  - Portable photocopying machines
  - Gold or silver in any form other than ornaments
  - Cinematographic films of 35 mm and above
- Firearms, ammunition and weapons (a license must be obtained prior to import)
- Duplicate items or items in sums of excess of Rs. 150,000 (Rs. 500,000 in Delhi and Mumbai) are duties of approximately 35 to 61%.
- The following items may qualify for free import if within the limits indicated:
  - Foodstuffs import duty free (excluding fruit products) up to cost, insurance and freight (CIF) value of INR 50,000
  - Alcohol (2 L) – transport is recommended as part of the shipment, not as accompanied baggage
  - Wine (2 L)
  - Perfume (59 ml)
  - Cigarettes (200), cigars (50), tobacco (250 g)

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Beef and beef products
- Narcotics, non-branded drugs and psychotropic substances
- Obscene literature, photographs or films
- Politically subversive literature

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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.state.gov/p/sca/ci/in>

<http://www.indianembassy.org>