



# *Importing Personal Property Into Argentina*

## **HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS**

### **CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

All household goods containers will undergo thorough physical inspections and x-ray scans due to recent drug findings in household goods shipments. Clearance time is extended to approximately 2 weeks and shipments may be subject to associated charges in USD of at least:

**\$1,200.00 = LCL's up to 10 cbm / \$2,000.00 FCL 20' container / \$2,500 = FCL 40' container.**

Client's presence in Argentina is required during the clearance process to sign documents and present their passport to Customs Authority. Foreigners with a Permanent Residence Visa and/or returning Argentine citizens who have been living abroad for over one year can import used household goods and personal effects duty-free. Clients importing goods on a Temporary Visa must deposit a guaranty based on the value of the goods or be subject to taxes and duties of up to 50% on FOB value. One air and one sea shipment are allowed. Shipment must arrive within six months after client or three months prior to arrival. If shipment arrives over six months after client, a special permit must be obtained from the Director General of Customs in Argentina. These and other regulations may vary according to the client's immigration status. All items must be USED and have been in possession of the client for at least one year. New items (less than six months) are subject to high duties and can cause delays in customs clearance.

All documents must show client's name as it appears in the Passport. Client must note in the Passport they are expecting a shipment of household goods. Clients importing goods on a Temporary Visa must deposit a guaranty based on the value of the goods.

NOTE: All documents that are not in Spanish must be translated by an official translator and certified by the Argentine College of Translators.

NOTE: 100% of exports will be intensively physically verified within a bonded warehouse. After this procedure, the shipment will be forwarded to the sea terminals of the shipping companies where 100% of the export shipments will pass through an X-ray scanner. This new procedure will cause delays in the dispatch of the outgoing shipments, as the physical inspection will take more time, causing delays in obtaining turns; there is only one scanner per ocean terminal.

#### **Required Documents:**

- Passport – original and Permanent Entry Visa stamped in the passport by immigration authorities at airport of entry.
- Resident Visa - (minimum one year) issued at the country of origin
- Work Visa -
- Police Record - issued by the local police department certifying that you have no arrests or convictions. If you lived in more than one city during the last five years, you must present a police record for each; usually only valid for 60 days, visa applications will be denied if the police record expires before approval of the visa
- Employment Contract – from Argentine Employer

- Unaccompanied Baggage Declaration – written into Passport by Customs Authority upon arrival into Argentina
- Bills of Lading or Air Waybills – original, 2 sets; MUST have CUIT number of client & Destination Agent stated
- Detailed Inventory- in Spanish, excluding terms such as “PBO” (Packed by Owner) “Misc.” etc
- Power of Attorney – notarized, allowing Destination Agent to clear shipment
- Bond Guaranty – (Temporary Visa Holders) Destination Agent can supply the bond; must be renewed each time the visa is renewed
  - Shipments that enter under temporary basis must issue a Customs Bond that will expire or be valid accordingly to the consignee’s visa. Every time the visa is renewed this bond will have to be updated against the Customs House until the consignee obtains the permanent residency or leaves the country exporting the same shipment (weight/volume) imported. If this process is not followed, heavy fines will be assessed.

### Returning Argentine Citizens

#### Required Documents (Additional):

- Certificate of Residence - from country of origin
- Passport - notarized copy, must show the bearer has resided in another country for at least 12 months and that such residence has not been interrupted with entries into Argentina for more than 40-60 days in the last 12 months prior to returning

#### Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats are granted duty free entry of all the personal effects either new or used.

#### Required Documents:

- Diplomatic Franchise – obtained from Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs by the mission or organization where the diplomat is employed
- Passport - copy
- Comprehensive Inventory - in Spanish
  - Bills of Lading or Air Waybills – original, 2 sets; MUST have CUIT number on the bills

## RESTRICTED ITEMS

- New items (less than six months old) are subject to high duties
- Gifts
- Appliances/Electronics - Only one of each major appliance is allowed
- Sport Rifles - allowed with proof of ownership
- Firearms - Require prior authorization from the Argentine Consulate at origin, once authorization certificate is issued the client obtains a permit from RENAR (Registro Nacional de Armas) [www.renar.gov.ar](http://www.renar.gov.ar)
  - Should be numbered separately on inventory and loaded near the container doors for easy access
  - The guns will be held in a customs bonded warehouse until the RENAR procedure is finalized (usually 15-20 days).
  - Declaration is required prior to customs inspection and proof of ownership is required for customs clearance.
  - **Owner’s presence is required for clearance**
- Alcohol – 2 bottles per adult may be imported tax free
- Tobacco products
- Medicines - must have current prescriptions
- Works of Art & Antiques - consult Destination Agent for forms & requirements

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Drugs and narcotics
- Pornographic material
- New computers, Color TVs - new or used
- Outboard motorboats and yachts – allowed under Temporary importation
- Heavy weapons, ammunition and explosives
- Plants, food of any kind including canned goods

## IMPORTATION OF PETS

The Health Certificate must be stamped by the Argentine Consulate at origin and arrive with the pet. Dogs and cats from Africa and Asia (accept Japan) require a special import permit from the Destination Agent prior to shipping. All other animals are prohibited.

### Required Documents:

- International Health Certificate - issued by the Argentine consulate of the owners country of origin, valid for 10 days from date of issue
- Vaccination Certificate – including rabies certificate
- Air waybill/Original Bill of Lading

## IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Importation of new autos is subject to Ministry of Commerce Administrative regulations and are limited to certain makes and models. Consult your Destination Agent for specifics prior to forwarding. Only one auto per adult (21 years old or older), two per family maximum is allowed. Auto must have been registered in client's name and must have been purchased or transferred to client a minimum of three months prior to arrival of client in Argentina. Auto must not be sold for at least one year after clearance Auto must be imported within six months of client's arrival.

**Diplomats** are permitted to import used or new autos with presentation of the Diplomatic Franchise.

**Returning Argentineans** Must be at least 21, can import used vehicles provided they have lived abroad for at least two years, the vehicle does not exceed 15,000USD and the client has held the title for at least 3 months. Vehicles over 15,000USD will be taxed and taxed.

**Foreigners** are subject to taxes and may only import vehicles on a temporary basis

An Argentine citizen or returning foreign resident who has already imported an auto previously may not import a second auto.

Vehicles including boats imported under temporary admission must be re-exported after 16 months.

**Documents must be certified or consularized by the Argentine Consulate in the origin country.**

### Required Documents:

- Passport & driver's license - Originals
- Purchase Invoice - Original
- Title, Registration and all vehicle documents – must be originals
- Certificate of Residence
- Certification from an Argentine Consulate, establishing that client has been living in country of origin during the last 12 months (this certificate is mandatory)

- A "CERTIFICADO DE PRE-EMBARQUE" (Pre/Shipment Inspection Certificate) is required for the importation of automobiles and/or motorcycles.
- Ocean Bill of Ladings – 2 sets, original must be in client's name: Separate OBL's are required for household goods and for the auto (even if they are both in one container)
- Power of Attorney – notarized, allowing Destination Agent to clear shipment

**NOTES:**

**Entry & Exit Requirements:** US citizens may be subject to a one time "entry fee" of 140.00USD at port of entry. Diplomats and officials are exempt. U.S. citizens wishing to enter Brazil or Paraguay from Argentina are required to obtain a visa in advance from the appropriate Embassy or consulate nearest to the traveler's place of residence. Travelers transiting between Brazil or Paraguay and Argentina should always make sure to present their passports to Argentine immigration officials to have their entry and exit from Argentina recorded.

**Safety & Security:** Individuals with ties to criminal entities operate along the tri-border area of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay. These organizations are involved in the trafficking of illicit goods; some individuals in the area financially support designated foreign terrorist organizations. U.S. citizens crossing into Paraguay or Argentina should consult the Country Specific Information on the Department of States website for those countries.

**Crime:** Along with conventional muggings and pick-pocketing, "express kidnappings" occur. Victims are grabbed off the street based on their appearance and vulnerability. They are made to withdraw as much money as possible from ATM machines, and then their family or co-workers are contacted and told to deliver all the cash that they have on hand or can gather in a couple of hours. Once the ransom is paid, the victim is usually quickly released unharmed.

**Health:** Typhoid fever is not common but a risk exists. Cholera exists and precautions are advised. Hepatitis A and intestinal parasitosis are widespread. Both cutaneous and mucocutaneous leishmaniasis occur. There is some risk of dengue fever and anthrax.

**Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:** Argentina has stringent regulations regarding wood packing materials (WPM). Clients must send a Fumigation Certificate with the other shipping documents in addition to properly stamped crates & liftvans.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

FIDI Global Alliance

Argentina International Moving SRL "ArgenMove" ; Buenos Aires, Argentina

US Embassy: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1130.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1130.html)

Embassy of Argentina: <http://www.embassyofargentina.us/v2011/en/home.htm>

**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 clients 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.**