



## *Importing Personal Property Into Cayman Islands*

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

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

##### **Customs Regulations:**

Used household goods and personal effects are duty free provided goods have been owned and used by the customer for a minimum of six months and customer has lived abroad for at least one year. All new items will be levied duties and taxes at varied rate based on CIF value. Inland freight costs should be reflected regardless of origin. No handwritten notations are to be on any of the invoices.

Storage fees start on 6<sup>th</sup> day of arrival and demurrage charges start on the 15<sup>th</sup> day after arrival of the container. Storage facilities are at the Port Authority. It is an open/uncovered area and LCL or FCL can not be accommodated in the on-site warehouse facilities during hurricane season (June to November)>

The goods must be imported within six months of arrival. Items can not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of during stay.

##### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Passport - copy, picture page and last entry into Grand Cayman
- ✓ Residence Permit or Work Permit – obtained from the Department of Immigration of the Cayman Islands
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – rated, Express Release must state total freight cost from origin to Grand Cayman
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – each item must have a value, dated & signed by owner
- ✓ Pack list
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Letter from Employer –attesting to client’s employment contract
- ✓ Custom Declaration Form – Obtained from Destination Agent; New items must be listed separately in the “Schedule” section

##### **Diplomat Status:**

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted tax and duty free entry of their personal effects and household goods. All documents must arrive to the Destination Agent 15 days prior to arrival to obtain free entry from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

##### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise
- ✓ Passport - original
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory –dated & signed by owner
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

#### **RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS**

- ✓ Appliances/Electronics – must have invoices/receipts
- ✓ VHF radios, CB radios and radar equipment- requires a license obtained form Cayman Islands Customs Department
- ✓ Prescription medications – require prescriptions otherwise prohibited

- ✓ Firearms, sport guns & ammunition- requires a permit from local police
- ✓ New items – (less than 6 months) must have invoices/receipts, subject to duty
- ✓ Alcohol – 2 litres allowed subject to duty, in excess of this amount requires a liquor license obtained from the Cayman Island Liquor Board
- ✓ Tobacco – 200 cigarettes or 250 grams of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind and paraphernalia
- ✓ Goods depicting or bearing any reference to marijuana in any form is prohibited
- ✓ Pornography & obscene materials in any format such as films, books, discs, pictures etc
- ✓ Subversive material contrary to the public interest
- ✓ Firearms, explosives, ammunitions and any other type of weapon unless otherwise approved by the Commissioner of Police; including, bows, knives, pellet guns, automatic weapons, tear gas etc
- ✓ Marine Radios & radio transmitting equipment that only operates in AM mode within the bands 1605 – 4000KHz
- ✓ All flammable/corrosive materials
- ✓ Foodstuffs – unless canned or dried
- ✓ Gambling paraphernalia & counterfeit currency

## IMPORTATION OF PETS

Dogs, cats & birds require a permit; please see [www.caymanislandscustoms.com](http://www.caymanislandscustoms.com) for full details. Cats and Dogs must be at least 10 months old. No animal of any description may be imported from any country in Asia, Africa, Central and South America, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

The following breeds or cross-breeds of dogs, including genetic material:

Malinois, Rottweiler, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, Shar-Pei, Pit Bull Terrier, Akita, Staffordshire Terriers, American Bull Dog, Dogue de Bordeaux, Mastiff (all types).

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, less than 6 months prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - by a Veterinarian at origin
- ✓ Permit – obtained from Cayman Islands Dept. of Agriculture

## IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles are subject to duty based on CIF and all incur an Environmental Tax of \$300.00USD. There is also a Licensing Fee of \$290.00USD.

New vehicles without stated value will be assessed using the Kelly Blue Book.

**Automobiles:** vehicles up to \$14,500 will pay an Environmental Tax of \$1525.00US+29.5 % duty.

15,500 - \$20,000 = 29.5% / \$20,001-25,000 = 32% \$25,001-30,000 = 37% / over 30,000 = 42%

**Motor Cycles:** up to 90cc = 32% duty / over 90cc = 37% duty + Environmental Tax of \$90.00USD.

Motorcycles with side cars are prohibited.

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – or proof of market value
- ✓ Drivers License & International Insurance Policy (green card)
- ✓ Insurance Cover Note – issued on Grand Cayman
- ✓ OBL – state chassis & engine numbers, cubic capacity, make, model & year of manufacture

## NOTES:

**Entry & Exit Requirements:** Although there are no express HIV/AIDS entry restrictions for visitors to the Cayman Islands, persons suffering from HIV/AIDS can be denied permission to land if a Health Officer certifies that their entry to the Islands would be dangerous to the community pursuant to Section 82 (c) of the Cayman Immigration Law.

**The U.S. Embassy in Kingston, Jamaica, has consular responsibility for the Cayman Islands.**

**Safety & Security:** In recent years, the Cayman Islands have experienced an increase in criminal activity involving Jamaican gangs, including gang and drug-related shootings. Local law enforcement authorities are aggressively addressing these challenges, which affect the West Bay area, in particular.

**Crime:** The crime threat in Cayman Islands is generally considered low. Petty theft, pick-pocketing and purse snatchings occur. Police in the Cayman Islands rigorously enforce laws against illegal drugs. The majority of arrests of U.S. citizens in the Cayman Islands over the past two years have been for possession, consumption, or intent to sell marijuana, cocaine or other illicit drugs. U.S. citizens should avoid buying, selling, holding or taking illegal drugs under any circumstances.

**Special Circumstances:** The Cayman Islands, like all Caribbean countries, can be affected by hurricanes. Hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30 each year. [Hazard Management Cayman Islands](#) is responsible for disaster preparedness and response on the islands. General information on the subject of hurricane preparedness is also available via the Internet from [the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#).

**Health: Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:** As of this posting the Cayman Islands does not impose ISPM15 regulations for wood packaging material (WPM).

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Miracle Brokers International: <http://www.miraclebrokers.com/>

US Embassy – Kingston: <http://kingston.usembassy.gov/>

Department of State: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1084.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1084.html)

USDA: [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)

IATA Travel Centre

Visa HQ.com:

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.