



Importing Personal Property Into Cuba

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Household goods and personal effects either new or used are free of Customs duty if foreign customer has lived abroad for at least one year.

Customers importing to Cuba other articles in addition to their personal items must fill out a Customs Declaration providing all the information required in this document. If a passenger is carrying an amount in cash exceeding \$5,000.00 USD or the equivalent amount in other currencies when entering Cuba, Customs Declaration must be presented.

For the latest information on U.S. regulations governing travel to Cuba and to view the most accurate and updated travel restrictions information, please see [the Department of Treasury's OFAC website](#).

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - copy (**US citizens must not have Passport stamped upon entry or exit from Cuba**)
- ✓ Treasury License – obtained from US Department of the Treasury
- ✓ Visa – Obtained from Cuban Interests Section prior to departure
- ✓ Permission from Cuban Director of Immigration and Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior
- ✓ Lease/rental or Purchase contract
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory – in Spanish or English
- ✓ Customs Declaration – if applicable

Returning Citizens:

Returning Cubans may import their personal belongings free of Customs taxes after having fulfilled an official assignment abroad for a period of more than 2 years.

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted tax and duty free entry of their personal effects and household items either new or used.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Treasury License – obtained from US Department of the Treasury
- ✓ Passport copy
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Religious materials and icons
- ✓ Jewelry, precious metals & stones with a total value over \$5000.00USD – require a Declaration of Values obtained at Customs office at point of entry. One is advised to keep a copy as confirmation at time of re-exportation
- ✓ Sporting guns- require prior authorization obtained from the Ministry of Interior
- ✓ Alcohol – wine; 2 litres per person, spirits; 1 litre per person

- ✓ Tobacco – 200 cigarettes or 250 grams of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty
- ✓ Medications – requires a physicians prescription
- ✓ Mobile phones – must be 40-49 MHz and 2,4 and 5 GHz

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Note: Foreign diplomatic personnel, Cuban officials having stayed abroad for over a year, as well as individuals authorized to import household goods are exempt from prohibition of electronics.

- ✓ Narcotics, psychotropic substances drugs of any kind unless with physicians prescription
- ✓ Obscene, pornographic & subversive materials; any published matter directed against the public order and the morality of Cuba and its revolution
- ✓ Explosives, firearms, ammunitions and any other weapons
- ✓ Plants, seeds, beans, produce & dairy products
- ✓ Blank tapes, CD's, DVD's, video cassettes & household appliances are prohibited
- ✓ All kinds of hemoderivatives (blood products, by-products, blood derived medications)
- ✓ ALL Household appliances (freezers with a capacity exceeding seven cubic feet), air conditioners, any type or model of electric accumulators and heating/cooking plates, electric and microwave ovens, any type or size of electric frying pans, electric water heaters and showers, electric irons and toasters
- ✓ All telecommunications devices including GPS, transceivers, wireless fax machines
- ✓ All video equipment including DVD & VCR players, Play Station 2 etc.

IMPORTATION OF PETS

All Certificates are to be issued by the Cuban Consul in country of origin. Any pet will be quarantined (free of charge) for a period no longer than 2 weeks.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated 30 days to 11 months prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - by a government veterinarian at origin

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Permission to import a light vehicle varies. Please consult with your Destination Agent for the latest requirements.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓ Lease/rental or Purchase contract in Cuba

NOTES:

United States Interests Section (USINT) The U.S. Interests Section (USINT) represents American citizens and the U.S. Government in Cuba, and operates under the legal protection of the Swiss government. The Interests Section staff provides the full range of consular services to American citizens. There is no access to the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay from within Cuba. The U.S. Embassy in Kingston, Jamaica handles consular issues for Guantanamo Bay. US citizens who fail to comply with Department of the Treasury regulations could face civil penalties and criminal prosecution upon return to the United States. US citizens are advised to carry a copy of their Passport with them at all times.

Returning US Citizens: **US citizens returning from Cuba with Cuban origin goods with the exception of informational materials may be seized at US Customs discretion. Cuban cigars and rum is strictly prohibited entry into US ports.** There are no limits on the import or export of informational materials such as books, films, tapes or CD's. These items are exempt from regulation under the embargoes and may be transported freely. [Section 515.204-206 of USA Customs Regulations]

Health: Medical services are very good and some emergency treatments may be available at no cost. Proof of ability to pay before receiving treatment may occur at some hospitals. Some HIV/AIDS entry restrictions exist for visitors to and foreign residents of Cuba. Cuban authorities do not demand HIV tests of travelers to Cuba, with the exception of foreign students on scholarships. Cuban authorities accept the results of HIV tests conducted by labs in the United States. Please verify this information with the [Cuban Interests Section](#) in Washington DC before traveling.

Typhoid is a risk in remote areas. Hepatitis A occurs and immunoglobulin is not always readily available. Outbreaks of meningitis and dengue hemorrhagic fever occur in urban areas like Havana.

Medical Insurance: The Cuban government has announced that as of May 1, 2010, tourists, foreigners with temporary residence in Cuba, and Cubans living abroad who visit Cuba will have to purchase medical insurance. The insurance will be sold by foreign companies approved by the Cuban government or by Cuban firms at the ports of entry in Cuba. Diplomats and representatives of accredited international organizations will not have to be insured. No medical facility in Cuba will accept U.S.-issued insurance cards, credit cards, or checks.

Food & Water: Water is chlorinated and safe to drink. Milk is pasteurized and dairy products are safe for consumption. Local produce, meats & seafood are all generally considered safe to consume.

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: As of June 2008 Cuba has implemented regulations regarding ISPM15 requirements for wood packaging material (WPM).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Republic of Cuba government website: <http://www.cubagob.cu/ingles/mapa.htm>

Guide to Cuba: www.webhavana.com

Customs Guide: <http://www.hicuba.com/eng/customs-guide.htm>

IATA Travel Centre

Department of State: <http://travel.state.gov/travel/>

United States Interests Section: <http://havana.usint.gov/>

Department of the Treasury: <http://www.treas.gov/offices/enforcement/ofac/programs/cuba/cuba.shtml>

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.