



## *Importing Personal Property Into Ethiopia*

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

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

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

Shipment is held by Customs Authority pending client's arrival. Shipments are normally cleared at point of entry. All non-diplomatic shipments are inspected at the Customs Warehouse in the presence of the client and his/her Destination Agent. The Agent handles the unpacking / repacking of goods and effects. Used household goods and personal effects for private citizens and returning nationals are levied a tax. The goods are subject to inspection and at the discretion of the Director General of Customs; items in the following categories are exempt from duties:

- Necessary clothing, personal jewelry and toiletries.
- Instruments & tools for professional/technical use
- Normal household furniture & effects, owned & used prior to importation and not for sale

All other household items whether new or used are assessed Customs duty. Household electronic devices, including DVD players, cameras, cell phones and computer printers, must be declared. Laptop computers must be declared both upon arrival and departure. Tape recorders require special customs permits. Foreign currency must also be declared on arrival and departure. One may be required to present this declaration when applying for an exit visa or exchanging currency. Items can not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of during stay.

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

- ✓ Passport - original
- ✓ Residence Visa/ Work Permit or Letter from Employer –attesting to client's employment contract
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, Express Release not allowed
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – dated & signed by owner
- ✓ International Health Certificate – indicating yellow fever vaccination
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Declaration of Customer – attesting to length of stay, amount of currency

##### **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 – should have invoices/receipts
- ✓ Prescription medications – require a health certificate

- ✓ Alcohol
- ✓ Tobacco – 200 cigarettes or 1/2lb of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty
- ✓ Medication – requires a prescription

NOTE: For the export of skins and hides, souvenirs and any kind of antique articles (e.g. swords, bibles, etc.) export certificates are required.

## PROHIBITED ITEM

**Any items on the Prohibited List found in the shipment will be seized and confiscated.**

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography and any material Customs Authority considers pornographic
- ✓ Subversive material, obscene books, magazines and photographs
- ✓ Firearms, explosives, ammunitions and weapons of any kind
- ✓ Communication equipment, fax machines & cordless phones
- ✓ Radio transmitters, walkie-talkies – require a permit from telecommunications department

## IMPORTATION OF PETS

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, less than 6 months prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - by a Veterinarian at origin

## IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles are subject to high import taxes and duties. Vehicles up to 1500cc incur 70% of value declared by Customs. Vehicles exceeding 1500cc incur taxes up to 96% of value declared by Customs. The OBL must show Chassis Number, Engine number, Cubic Capacity, year of manufacture, brand and model. There are no restrictions on vehicles for Diplomatic and United Nations shipments.

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration & Commercial/Purchase Invoice or Receipt
- ✓ Drivers License & International Insurance Policy (green card)
- ✓ OBL

### NOTES:

**Entry & Exit Requirements:** US Residents should have their Ethiopian Visa prior to travel. This is a necessary step if you plan to enter Ethiopia by any land port-of-entry. Business travelers or employees of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who intend to stay for 90 days or more must apply for a residence card/work permit in order to continue working and living in Ethiopia. One must apply for this permit within the first 30 days of their stay in Ethiopia and must not work until this permit is approved. US residents in Ethiopia are encouraged to enroll in the STEP program (refer to link in Acknowledgements). This program keeps you up to date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in touch with you in an emergency

**Safety & Security:** While Ethiopia is generally stable, domestic insurgent groups, extremists from Somalia, and the heavy military buildup along the northern border pose risks to safety and security, particularly along Ethiopia's borders and in the Somali region of Ethiopia. A number of al-Qaida operatives and other extremists are believed to be operating across East Africa. In southern Ethiopia along the Kenyan border, banditry and incidents involving ethnic conflicts are also common.

Due to serious safety and security concerns, U.S. government personnel and their families are presently restricted from traveling to the following areas:

**Somali Region (Eastern Ethiopia):** cities of Harar and Jijiga

**Ethiopia/Eritrea Border (Northern Ethiopia):** The border area is a militarized zone where the possibility of armed conflict between Ethiopian and Eritrean forces continues to exist. Travel is therefore restricted within 30 miles of the Eritrean border west of Adigrat to the Sudanese border.

**Gambella Region (Western Ethiopia):** Sporadic inter-ethnic clashes remain a concern throughout the Gambella region.

**Crime:** Pick-pocketing, “snatch and run” thefts, including from occupied vehicles and other petty crimes are common in Addis Ababa. There have been reports of highway robbery, including carjacking, by armed bandits outside urban areas. When driving, be wary of other motorists warning you of a mechanical problem or loose tire. This may be a ruse used by thieves to get you to stop the vehicle.

Ethiopian law strictly prohibits the photographing of military installations, police/military personnel, industrial facilities, government buildings, and infrastructure (roads, bridges, dams, airfields, etc.). Such sites are rarely marked clearly. Travel guides, police, and Ethiopian officials can advise if a particular site may be photographed. Photographing prohibited sites may result in the confiscation of film and camera.

**Currency:** Ethiopia is primarily a cash economy. Employees of embassies and foreign organizations or individuals entering into the country through embassies or foreign organizations on temporary employment may leave the country carrying more than \$3,000 in cash only when they can produce evidence that they were paid directly from a bank. Residents may carry foreign currency upon departure, but only by producing evidence that the currency was purchased from a bank or by producing a customs declaration not more than 45 days after it was issued.

**Health:** Yellow fever vaccination is required. Cholera is a serious risk and pre-cautions are essential. Polio and typhoid is widespread and immunization is recommended. Malaria exists year round in all areas below 2000m (6562ft). No malaria risk exists in Addis Ababa. Hepatitis A, B and E are widespread. Meningococcal meningitis may occur. The high altitude and low oxygen level of much of Ethiopia needs time to be acclimatized to. Those who suffer from heart ailments or high blood pressure should consult a doctor before traveling.

Health facilities in Addis Ababa are very limited and are generally inadequate outside the capital. There is a shortage of physicians. Emergency assistance is limited. Psychiatric services and medications are practically nonexistent. Travelers must carry their own supplies of prescription drugs and preventive medicines, as well as a doctor's note describing the medication. If the quantity of drugs exceeds that which would be expected for personal use, a permit from the Ministry of Health is required.

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

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

FIDI Global Alliance:

Embassy of Ethiopia: <http://www.ethiopianembassy.org/>

Department of State:

STEP Program: [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program.](#)

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

Visa HQ.com: <http://ethiopia.visahq.com/customs/>

**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.**