



## *Importing Personal Property Into Netherlands Antilles Curaçao, Bonaire, Saba, St. Eustatius & St. Maarten*

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

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

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

All shipments are subject to inspection. The customer does not need to be present at the destination during the clearance process. Customer must contact Destination Agent upon arrival

Used household goods and personal effects are duty free if they have been owned and used by the customer for over six months. The goods must not be sold or lent for at least 12 months (six months if previous residence was within the European Union) after importation. The goods are in accordance with the social status of the Customer.

Re-importation of used goods within one year requires special documentation for duty-free import.

If the customer is not staying in the Netherlands Antilles for a minimum of 12 months, a bond will have to be posted for duties and taxes.

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

- ✓ Passport copy including photo page and entry stamp
- ✓ Certificate of Residence
- ✓ Work Permit
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory including values of items

##### **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. Customs reserves the right to inspect the shipment.

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

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise
- ✓ Passport copy
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory list in English
- ✓ Import Document No. 39 – granted by Inspector of Taxes, The Hague
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory list in English or Dutch

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

- ✓ New items require original receipts
- ✓ Prescription medications need to be clearly marked
- ✓ Expensive jewelry requires proof of possession such as receipt, insurance policy or appraisal
- ✓ Customers 18 years of age and older are allowed one fifth of liquor, 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars, and 250 grams of tobacco. If you exceed the stated quantity you will have to declare at port of entry

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Rifles, ammunitions and other weapons are subject to a special license
- ✓ Leather goods from Haiti

## IMPORTATION OF PETS

The customer must be present at the Customs clearance process. Upon examination by a Customs officer your pet may be subject to quarantine. Cats and dogs are subject to regulations EU No. 998/2003 of the European Parliament. Pets may enter as checked baggage, in the cabin or as cargo.

Prohibited: (also in transit): dogs and cats from Central and South America, except from Suriname

Birds: Psittacine birds (parrot type birds) need approval from the nearest Dutch consulate, Veterinary Service or local Ministry of Agriculture to verify breed of bird(s) are not endangered. Birds are forbidden importation if arriving from a country infected with Avian flu. The import of psittacine birds from Australia, Bolivia, Colombia, Ghana, Hong Kong, Honduras, Indonesia, Nicaragua or Paraguay is also prohibited

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated less than 30 days prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - dated less than 14 days prior to arrival or 2 months if importing birds
- ✓ Microchip, proof thereof for cats and dogs

## IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Customer must be present when clearing an automobile through Customs. Used autos are allowed duty free import of owned and used by the customer for over six months.

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓ Work Permit copy
- ✓ Copy of Lease or Deed of Residence

## NOTES:

**Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:** As of 19 March 2010 Methyl Bromide is no longer permitted as an acceptable treatment for WPM. Certificates of treatment after this date may not be acceptable to certain destinations

New European Community import requirements provide that the WPM instead of being produced from debarked round wood will need to be free from bark with exception for the presence of any number of individual pieces of bark. These should be either less than 3 cm in width (regardless of the length) or, if greater than 3 cm in width, of not more than 50 cm<sup>2</sup> in area. This latter free-from-bark requirement will be applicable from 1 July 2009 onwards.

**Country Status:** Voters in the Netherlands Antilles have opted to dismantle the Netherlands Antilles and create new structures between the various islands and the Kingdom. St. Maarten and Curacao have opted for an autonomous country status within the Kingdom similar to Aruba's status. Saba, St. Eustatius, and Bonaire have opted for closer ties to the Netherlands. The target date for implementing these changes is 2010-2011, but it is unclear if the target will be met.

**Electronics:** Electronics, computers, TV's DVD players etc should be loaded to the rear of the container for easy access by Customs officials. Once Customs stamps all documents, the goods may be delivered to the residence.

**Currency:** Local currency: (Antillian Guilder-ANG) and foreign currencies: amounts exceeding ANG 20,000 - or its equivalent must be declared. Prohibited: Dutch and Surinam silver

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

US Department of State

Dutch Customs Website: [www.douane.nl](http://www.douane.nl)

Curacao official site: [www.curacao.com](http://www.curacao.com)

IATA Travel Centre

[www.ISPM15.com](http://www.ISPM15.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.**