



Importing Personal Property Into Papua New Guinea

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Client must be in the country at the time of Customs clearance. One air and one ocean shipment can be allowed duty-free. Used household goods and personal effects may be duty free provided the client is a returning citizen or will be employed by local company. Goods must have been owned and used by the client for a minimum of twelve months and customer has lived abroad for at least one year.

Commercial goods cannot be included with household goods: including stationary, printers, fax machines. All shipments must be ISPM15 compliant or be subject to additional quarantine charges. All shipments are inspected. Inspection is done by both the Customs Authority and the Quarantine Department.

Quarantine charges are generally excluded from agent rates and billed separately at cost plus 10%. Shipments will be released after both departments have approved the release. If the shipment does not fulfill the criteria of either department the entire shipment will be subject to import duty. This process is lengthy and demurrage is to be expected. The shipment should be imported within three months of issuance of Work/Residence Permit. Items can not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of during stay. Client must sign the Statutory Declaration in the presence of a Commissioner of Oaths.

Recommended: Fax pre-alert of AWB/OBL, pack list, passport copy and employment contract to the Destination Agent; reconfirm consignment instructions with Destination Agent prior to shipping particularly if the client is a diplomat.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - copy
- ✓ Residence Permit or Work Permit
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, Express Release
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – in English, dated & signed by owner; contents of each carton must be defined; terms such as miscellaneous, PBO, Packed by Owner are prohibited
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Personal Effects Statutory Declaration– authorized by the Commission of Oaths

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 certificates. Demurrage is likely.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Duty-Free Certificate (Diplomat) – issued by Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ✓ Duty-Free Certificate (UN/NGO/AID) issued by the sponsoring government agency
- ✓ 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 – dutiable; require receipts to prove 1 year of ownership
- ✓ Prescription medications – require a health certificate
- ✓ New items – incur duty (less than 1 year) must be declared; may require invoices/receipts
- ✓ Alcohol – 1 litre allowed per adult – in excess is subject to high duty & taxes
- ✓ Tobacco – 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars allowed
- ✓ Video tapes, DVD's – subject to censure and duty

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography and subversive or offensive material/literature
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions, knives, and weapons including fireworks
- ✓ Products from the Endangered Species List – ivory, horns, furs, feathers, skins
- ✓ All agricultural products & by-products: plants, bulbs, seeds, seedlings & soil
- ✓ Gambling paraphernalia

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Cats and dogs are allowed but subject to a 9 month quarantine period in Australia prior to allowance into Papua New Guinea. One is advised to contact the Destination Agent for the newest requirements and processes.

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 duty-free for those with Diplomat status, so long as they have been in the owner's possession for at least 12 months. Importation for non-diplomats is complicated and lengthy. Consultation with the Destination Agent is strongly advised before consigning a vehicle.

OBL must show chassis & engine numbers, cubic capacity, year of manufacture, brand and model.

Vehicles cannot be sold or otherwise disposed of for 15 months after importation.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓ Drivers License & International Insurance Policy (green card)
- ✓ Customs Declaration
- ✓ OBL

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: HIV/AIDS entry restrictions exist for visitors to and foreign residents of Papua New Guinea. If you request residency or intend to remain long term in Papua New Guinea, you are required to have an AIDS test performed at a U.S. Government medical facility. You are encouraged to carry a copy of your U.S. passport at all times, so that if questioned by local officials, your proof of identity and U.S. citizenship is readily available.

Safety & Security: US citizens are encouraged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, to stay current with the latest safety and security announcements dispersed by the Embassy in your area. Your enrollment can also help the Department of State reach your family and friends in case of emergency. Tension between communal or clan groups may lead to outbreaks of tribal fighting, often involving the use of firearms. If you plan to travel to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, please contact the U.S. Embassy in Port Moresby for updated security information

Crime: Papua New Guinea has a high crime rate. Several U.S. citizen residents and visitors have been victims of a violent crime in recent years. Carjacking, armed robberies, and stoning of vehicles are problems in and around major cities such as Port Moresby, Lae, Mount Hagen, and Goroka but can occur anywhere. Consult with the U.S. Embassy or with local law enforcement officials concerning security conditions before driving between towns.

Health: The national emergency declaration enables the Government to make provisions, laws, orders or regulations without notice to stop the spread of the infectious diseases. This may include the closure of restaurants or water sources and the restriction of travel by individuals. Consume water only from known safe sources such as bottled, chlorinated, or boiled water. Avoid ice cubes and raw and undercooked food, and maintain strict hygiene standards while residing in Papua New Guinea. Local water supplies can be interrupted or polluted. Take precautions to ensure you have access to safe water.

Road Safety: Police roadblocks to check vehicle registrations are a regular occurrence at night in Port Moresby. Criminal roadblocks on the Highlands Highway are often encountered during the day and widely after dark. Consult with local authorities or the U.S. Embassy before traveling on the Highlands Highway. Crowds can react emotionally and violently after road accidents. Crowds form quickly after an accident and may attack those whom they hold responsible, by stoning and/or burning vehicles. Friends and relatives of an injured party may demand immediate compensation from the party they hold responsible for injuries, regardless of legal responsibility. People involved in accidents should go directly to the nearest police station, instead of stopping at the scene of the accident.

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: Papua New Guinea imposes strict ISPM15 regulations for wood packaging material (WPM).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Embassy of Papua New Guinea: <http://www.pngembassy.org/>

Papua New Guinea Customs Service: <http://www.customs.gov.pg/>

Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_996.html

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

IATA Travel Centre

International Association of Movers

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.