



Importing Personal Property Into Philippines

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Customer must be present for Customs clearance. Shipments must NOT arrive before the visa is approved. The shipment should arrive within 60 days of the owner's arrival. All shipments are subject to inspection. All Household goods and personal effects must be in the possession of the shipped at least 6 months. Additional charges incurred for storage or customs delays will be the customer's responsibility.

Used household goods and personal effects are allowed to be imported into the Philippines but the tax and duty exemption amount varies depending on the type of passport and visa the client has.

Returning Filipino nationals must have lived abroad for a minimum of 6 continuous months to be eligible for tax and duty of exemption of 200.00USD per passport holder. Any excess over the total exemption of all family members will be subject to 50% duty and 12% tax. Returning residents who do not meet the "time abroad" criteria are subject to 30% duty and 12% tax.

Spouses of returning nationals with a 13-a visa are entitled to full exemption status.

Foreigners with a permanent residence 13-g visa, work visa 9-g, investor's visa, non-immigrant visa 47-a2 and retiree visas are entitled to full exemption of tax and duties. Those with visitor visa 9-a are not entitled to exemption of household goods thus are subject to 30% duty and 12% tax.

Effective Immediately: Those applying for or extending the 9-g visa must have an approved AEP. Those applying for extensions or renewals should do so 2 months in advance of the expiration date. Applications for grace periods will not be accepted without an approved AEP.

Required Documents: Returning Filipinos

- ✓ Passport - original, showing latest arrival and departure date
- ✓ Work Visa (9g) or Residence Visa (13g) – or letter from attorney & copy of the visa petition
- ✓ Alien Employment Permit (AEP) – must be approved prior to issuance of the 9-g Visa
- ✓ Affidavit of legal ownership
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill (express B/L is acceptable) Send vessel/flight arrival date in advance
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory – in English; each item should be labeled "Used"

Required Documents: Foreigners

- ✓ Original Passport including photo page
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill (express release w/copy of B/L or split BL for vehicles in same container as HHG's)
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory list in English - each item should be labeled "Used"
- ✓ Work Permit/or certificate from an attorney – provide a copy prior to arrival
- ✓ Visa – Obtained upon arrival and are necessary for ocean shipments and as an affidavit of ownership. Application should be stamped "Received" by the Bureau of Immigration. Without the visa household goods will NOT be duty and tax free.

** Some Visas require a Bank Guarantee. Additional documents may be required, depending on Client's immigration status.*

**** SEE NOTES ON PAGE #3 FOR ADDITIONAL CUSTOMS INFORMATION**

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats, UN and government personnel are granted tax and duty free entry. Only one ocean and one air shipment is allowed per family. Usually there is not a physical inspection of diplomatic goods. Customer does not need to be present.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Endorsement from Philippine Department of Finance,
- ✓ Tax Exemption Certificate from the Embassy
- ✓ Passport
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory list in English – fax copy in advance to service agent
- ✓ Original Bill of Lading, Air Waybill or Express release

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ New appliances are discouraged and will be heavily taxed
- ✓ Wine and Liquor need to be on a separate list. State the number of bottles, volume, type and % of alcohol content. Duties and taxes are assessed by Customs. Load alcoholic beverages last.
- ✓ Animals, fish and plants
- ✓ Films, videos and discs
- ✓ Telecommunication equipment and color copiers
- ✓ Motor vehicle parts
- ✓ Medicines
- ✓ Jewelry and coins

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics, Opium, and opium smoking paraphernalia, adulterated or misbranded medications
- ✓ Pornography, politically sensitive material, obscene publications, videos & software
- ✓ Counterfeit, altered or imitated coins, paper money and bank notes
- ✓ Gold, silver and precious metal bullion
- ✓ Weapons, swords, Firearms including air guns, ammunitions and realistic toy guns
- ✓ Satellite equipment
- ✓ Commercial quantities of foodstuffs, used clothing and rags
- ✓ Gambling machines and articles

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Pets are subjected to duty and require an Import Permit. The permits are obtained from the Bureau of Animal Industry. The Important Permit must be issued prior the pets arrival. The application for the Import Permit should be made 2 weeks prior to arrival into Manila. The following information is needed for the Import Permit.

- Breed, sex, age, color and pet's name.
- Address in Manila
- Intended arrival date
- Copy of owner's passport, and current health and vaccination certificates

Note: Import requirements may change and “Exotic” pets may be restricted. Check with your service agent prior to shipping for current information.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination –Including rabies must be issued 60-180 days but not over 1 year
- ✓ Health Certificate –Must be issued 10 days prior to arrival
- ✓ Import Permit

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Currently only Diplomats and returning citizens are allowed to import motor vehicles. All vehicles must be left hand drive. Application of Authority to import should be processed and submitted to the Bureau of Import Services prior to departure. Customs clearance can take up to 15 business days. The owner's presence is required.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Copy of Certificate of Title and Registration
- ✓ Import Authority
- ✓ Commercial Invoice, including chassis and engine numbers

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: As of 3/15/2012 new applicants of Alien Certificate of Registration (ACR) will be granted a waiver to pursue emergency travel prior to release of the ACR so long as the 9g Immigrant visa is already approved and stamped in the passport.

You may be denied entry or be given a fine if your purpose for entry is other than tourism and you do not possess the correct visa. Individuals, whose intended visas are not yet approved by the Commission on Immigration and Deportation, could request a temporary tax and duty-free release of their cargo with the Department of Finance by providing a cash bond, as well as a Letter of Request for the change of visa status that was already submitted to the Commission on Immigration and Deportation. The Cash Bond could be acquired through payment of a certain premium, which would be based on 150% of the appraised value as assessed by the Bureau of Customs. The same is only valid for a period of 90 days from the date of filing of the Customs Permit with the Bureau of Customs from which it could be extended only for another 90 days. If the said Cash Bond remains unconcealed after the prescribed period, penalties shall be levied by the Bureau of Customs against the consignee up to the forfeiture of the Cash Bond.

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. Travelers should exercise extreme caution in both central and western Mindanao as well as in the Sulu Archipelago as terrorist groups, such as the Abu Sayyaf Group and Jema'ah Islamiyah, as well as groups that have broken away from the more mainstream Moro Islamic Liberation Front or Moro National Liberation Front operate in those areas. U.S. Government employees must seek special permission for travel to Mindanao or the Sulu Archipelago. When traveling in Mindanao, U.S. official travelers attempt to lower their profile, limit their length of stay, and exercise extreme caution. Some foreigners who reside in or visit western and central Mindanao hire their own private security personnel. Kidnap-for-ransom gangs operate in the Philippines and sometimes target foreigners as well as Filipino-Americans. The New People's Army (NPA), a terrorist organization, operates in many rural areas of the Philippines.

Crime: ATM crime is on the rise. The Philippine Banking Association has warned the public in press articles of criminals attaching electronic scanners to ATM card receivers, also designed to illicitly retrieve and record information from the credit/debit card's magnetic strip. A continuing problem is the commercial scam or sting that attempts to sell or to seek negotiation of fraudulent U.S. securities. Visitors and residents should be wary when presented with supposed Federal Reserve Notes or U.S. securities for sale or negotiation.

Health: The U.S. Department of State is unaware of any HIV/AIDS entry restrictions for visitors. U.S. citizens applying for residency status in the Philippines can be excluded based on this illness. Please verify

this information with the Embassy of the Philippines

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: Philippines published requirements adopting ISPM 15 for wood packaging material (WPM). The regulation was implemented June 1, 2005.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Santa Fe Group - Philippines

Goetz Moving & Storage: Paranaque City, Philippines

Embassy of the Philippines; <http://www.philippineembassy-usa.org/>

Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_999.html

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

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

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.