



Importing Personal Property Into Saipan

(U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands)

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Client must be present during Customs clearance. All shipments are subject to inspection. All cargo is also subject to agricultural inspection. Used household goods, personal effects and vehicles are subject to duty of 5%. Goods imported for personal use, educational materials for public schools, and other selected items are exempt from taxes. The goods must be imported within six months of arrival. Items can not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of during stay.

Refer to the US requirements for importing goods for additional information.

NOTE: On November 28, 2009, the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), which includes the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota, came under United States Federal Immigration and Labor laws. Guest workers can no longer freely travel to foreign countries and re-enter the CNMI with their CNMI issued work permits. Their work permit no longer functions as a visa.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - copy of biographical information
- ✓ Visa – U.S. issued, if required
- ✓ Residence Permit or Work Permit
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, or Express Release
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – dated & signed by owner; numbered cartons and contents of each carton listed
- ✓ Pack list
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Letter from Employer –attesting to client’s employment contract
- ✓ Form 4790 – if brining in more than \$10,000USD in currency, travelers checks etc

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

Household appliances operate on 60 cycle-110/220 volts and 220/240 volts.

- ✓ Appliances/Electronics – must have invoices/receipts

- ✓ Prescription medications – require a prescription, must be clearly listed on inventory
- ✓ Firearms – list serial numbers, Bill of Sale, registration & license; 4 firearms are allowed, must be loaded near the container door or in crate #1 for easy inspection
- ✓ New items – (less than 6 months) must have invoices/receipts
- ✓ Tobacco – 3 cartons or 1lb of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty
- ✓ Alcohol – must be listed on inventory in detail; max amount is 1.5 gallons

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Jewelry – not allowed in shipment; must be accompanied with the owner
- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and weapons unless otherwise approved
- ✓ House plants, plants for food, meat and meat by-products

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Dogs & cats shipped directly from Hawaii, Guam or Australia are admitted without quarantine. Dogs and cats coming from mainland US are subject to 120 days of quarantine in Hawaii, Guam or Saipan. Facilities in Saipan are limited and must be reserved 60 days in advance. Heartworm is endemic and treatment should begin 1-2 months in advance of arrival.

Required Documents:

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

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles are subject to USA emission requirements. Those not meeting the standard should be shipped as they will be returned to origin at owner's expense.

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

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration or Release from lien holder - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓ Drivers License & International Insurance Policy
- ✓ Letter of Compliance from manufacturer stating vehicle meets US emission and DOT standards
- ✓ OBL

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: List of countries exempt from requiring a visa

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visa_Waiver_Program. Permanent Residents of the US “green card holders” can keep their card active by entering Saipan. Guest workers are not allowed entry without a US visa. Missionary visas are expiring and those with such visas must be re classified. Contact the DOL for application requirements. In order to legally remain in the Commonwealth, ministers of religion and religious workers must obtain a visa authorized by U.S. immigration laws. Both immigrant and non-immigrant visas are possible for both ministers and religious workers, although they are strictly scrutinized and subject to many limitations.

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.

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: Northern Mariana Islands imposes ISPM15 regulations for wood packaging material (WPM) in accordance with US guidelines.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Saipan Living: <http://www.saipanliving.com/immigration.html>

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

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

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

International Association of Movers

The information presented herein is based on customs data available at the time of publishing 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.