



# *Importing Personal Property Into Singapore*

## **HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS**

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

#### **Customs Regulations:**

CLIENT'S PRESENCE IN SINGAPORE MAY BE REQUIRED FOR CUSTOMS CLEARANCE.

Household goods and personal effects must arrive within six months of client. Used household goods and personal effects are duty-free if possessions have been used for at least six months abroad, are for the continued use of the owner for at least three months, and client is to reside in Singapore for more than 12 months. All shipments are 100% inspected, each carton opened. Only one AIR and one SURFACE shipment is allowed. Returning Singaporeans must show proof of living abroad for over 6 months to be eligible for GST relief. Shipments must arrive within 6 months of client arrival.

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Passport
- ✓ Residence Permit & Copy of letter applying for Residence Permit
- ✓ Employment Pass/Green Card – copy of front and back
- ✓ Declaration of Facts - Completed at origin and sent to the service agent 5 – 7 working days prior to customers arrival to obtain 7% GST waiver (Relief Form)
- ✓ GST Relief Form
- ✓ Letter from Employer - stating assignment, position and length of stay
- ✓ Customs Declaration – attesting goods have been owned & used for at least 6 months
- ✓ Wine & Liquor Declaration Form – if applicable

#### **Diplomats**

Embassy, High Commission, Consulate or accredited Trade Mission in and persons who have been accorded diplomatic and consular privileges and immunities by the Singapore Government are eligible for duty exemption and GST relief on all goods that are for the personal or official use of the persons or organization. An exemption permit is required to cover the import of such goods but the organization and its authorized claimants have to be first registered with Customs.

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Diplomatic Passport - copy
- ✓ Exemption Permit
- ✓ Declaration of Facts – Completed at origin and sent to the service agent 5 – 7 working days prior to arrival

## **RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS**

Wine, Liquor and Tobacco products are subject to scrutiny, high duty and taxes and are strongly discouraged. If included, must be packed together declared to Customs. Include itemized list stating brand, number of bottles, and litres. No permit required if part of household goods and in reasonable quantity. Please check with your service agent for any changes before including in the shipment.

Liquor	SG \$30.00 per litre + GST	Cigarettes, cigars & tobacco
Still Wine	SG \$9.50 per litre + GST	SG \$352.00 per kilo + GST
Sparkling Wine	SG \$13.00 per litre + GST	
Beer	SG\$3.60 per litre + GST	

- ✓ New items – subject to duty (supply invoices)
- ✓ Only one of each major appliance is allowed duty free
- ✓ CD's, DVD's, VCD's, audio tapes and books are subject to censorship. Censorship fee is approximately \$6.50 per hr. Provide a detailed list of titles and authors grouped into categories: Ballet, Jazz, Sports, documentary etc. Children's videos and recordings of family are exempt
- ✓ Books and magazines examined randomly
- ✓ Antiques are duty-free but require detailed description and certificate of antiquity
- ✓ Medicines (prescription required)
- ✓ Certain stuffed birds, animals and agricultural products - require an Import License

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ **Firearms & Ammunition of any kind including Firecrackers – violation is punishable by death**
- ✓ Bullet proof clothing, swords, and knives
- ✓ Telecommunications & radio equipment, including toy walkie-talkies
- ✓ Controlled drugs and Psychotropic Substances
- ✓ Pornography, obscene materials, publications, videos & software
- ✓ Reproduction of copyright publications & videos
- ✓ Seditious & treasonable materials
- ✓ Cigarette lighters of pistol or revolver shape
- ✓ Chewing tobacco & imitation tobacco products
- ✓ Chewing gum, counterfeit currency and coins
- ✓ Live or stuffed animals on Endangered Species List

## IMPORTATION OF PETS

Importation of pets is allowed with an import license. Pets/exotic animals are subject to quarantine for thirty (30) days unless they are being imported from the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand, and Australia. Applications for exotic pets/ endangered species are strictly scrutinized. Pets/Animals arriving without an import license are subject to immediate re-export or being destroyed.

The following documents must be presented for the importation of pets

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Import License
- ✓ Certificate of Health by government or private vet from country of export dated not earlier than 7 days from day of export
- ✓ Vaccination Records given at least 2 weeks before but less than 1 year prior to entry including proof of flea and tick vaccines and de worming.

## IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Importation of vehicles are discouraged due to high duties and registration fees. Boats are duty-free but must be for the owner's use not for re-sale. Must be registered in customer's name and not for re-sale. Dismantled vehicles are not permitted. Left hand drive vehicles and vehicles over 3 yrs old are prohibited.

## Required Documents:

- ✓ Original commercial invoice
- ✓ Manufacturers letter confirming automobile manufacture date
- ✓ Insurance Policy
- ✓ Certificate of Compliance from Exhaust Emission Control Standard
- ✓ Vehicle Registration
- ✓ Owners Passport
- ✓ Inward Declaration Permit
- ✓ Customs duty payment receipt
- ✓ Temporary Certificate of Entitlement

## NOTES:

**Entry & Exit Requirements:** Singapore has imposed travel restrictions on persons with HIV/AIDS. Please unquire directly with the [Embassy of Singapore](#) before travel.

**Safety & Security:** Singapore continues to present a tempting target for terrorist groups such as Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) with links to Al Qaeda.

**Criminal Penalties:** Singapore has a **mandatory death penalty for many narcotics offenses**. Singapore police have the authority to compel both residents and non-residents to submit to random drug analysis and do not distinguish between drugs consumed before or after entering Singapore in applying local laws. Singapore has strict laws and penalties for a variety of actions that might not be illegal or might be considered minor offenses in the United States. These include jaywalking, littering and spitting.

Singapore has a **mandatory caning sentence for vandalism offenses**. Authorities in Singapore may also impose **caning for immigration violations** and other offenses. Singaporean authorities define “arm” as any firearm, air-gun, air-pistol, automatic gun, automatic pistol and any other kind of gun or pistol from which any shot, bullet or other projectiles can be discharged or from which noxious liquid, flame or fumes can be emitted, and any component thereof. This definition also includes any bomb or grenade and any component thereof. The unlawful possession of any arm or ammunition could result in imprisonment and caning.

The Singaporean law “Outrage of Modesty” is defined as an assault or use of criminal force on any person with the intent to, or the knowledge that it may, outrage the modesty of that person. Penalties may include **imprisonment for up to two years, a fine, caning, or a combination thereof**. Men are sometimes accused of inappropriately touching other people, often women, resulting in their prosecution and punishment under this Singaporean law.

**Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:** As of this posting Singapore does not require of enforce ISPM 15 regulations for wood packing materials (WPM).

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

AGS Four Winds international Relocations Pte Ltd; Singapore

Department of State: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1017.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1017.html)

Embassy of Singapore: <http://www.mfa.gov.sg/washington/>

Singapore Customs: <http://www.customs.gov.sg/topNav/hom/>

The information presented herein his 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.