



Importing Personal Property Into Sri Lanka

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Client must be present at the time of Customs clearance. All shipments will be inspected. Used household goods and personal effects are duty free provided goods have been owned and used by the client for a minimum of six months and client has lived abroad for at least one year. Ocean shipments must arrive within three months & air shipments within one month of the client.

FCL and Air shipments must be cleared within 3 days. LCL must be cleared after 3 days of de-stuffing from the container or demurrage will be incurred.

Customs examinations are usually held weekdays at the Baggage Office of Sri Lanka Customs.

Outside Examinations: Applications for examination outside of the baggage office are allowed if the shipment is over 175 cubic ft., and if there is officers available. These examinations are held after 4:30pm weekdays within Colombo and immediate suburbs only.

A refundable deposit (the amount of is decided by the Assistant Director, Customs) upon reviewing the Valued Inventory List attached to the application for outside examination.

Returning Citizens: Must have lived abroad for at least 1 year to be eligible for duty exemption

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - copy, for each family member
- ✓ Residence Visa – 1 year
- ✓ Blue Card – issued by Immigration for duty-free exemption
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory
- ✓ Insurance Certificate
- ✓ Pack List – in English, without values
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Bank Guarantee/Deposit – valid for 6 months, required for ocean shipments over 175 cubic feet

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted duty free entry of their personal effects and household upon production of the clearance certificate

Required Documents:

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise - issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka
- ✓ Passport copy – endorsed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory –
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original

**** All documents should be to the Destination Agent at least 5 days in advance of the shipment.**

Obtaining duty exemption from the Immigration Ministry takes 7-10 days minimum.

All Customs Declarations forms must be signed by the client at destination. No photocopies allowed.

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Works of Art, Antiques & fine jewelry – photographs are strongly advised, to confirm items at time of exportation from Sri Lanka
 - ✓ Firearms - require a
 - ✓ Alcohol – subject to port levies – 1%, VAT of 20%, & surcharge of 20%
 - ✓ Tobacco – subject to port levies – 1%, VAT of 20%, & surcharge of 20%
 - ✓ Home office files & items – require letter of credit & exchange control approval
 - ✓ Home & office furniture – require an import license, exchange control approval & letter of credit
 - ✓ Phones, fax machines & satellite dishes - require an import license, exchange control approval & letter of credit & Telecommunication approval
- * **Do Not** undervalue any of these items, or client will be subject to high duties and additional penalties.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pharmaceuticals and medicines, except for personal use & w/physician's prescriptions
- ✓ Pornography, obscene literature & pictures, subversive/seditious material, any material ridiculing any religious belief system
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and weapons
- ✓ Telecommunication equipment
- ✓ Gold, silver and precious gems
- ✓ Sri Lanka Currency over Rs 250
- ✓ Indian & Pakistani currency
- ✓ Fruits, vegetables & plants
- ✓ Animals, birds, reptiles & their parts unless one has an approved Pet Import License
- ✓ Furs, feathers, skins and tusks & any items/animals from the Endangered Species list

WARNING: Possession of heroin carries the death penalty.

False or non-declaration of belongings is an offense and may involve heavy penalties including forfeiture of belongings. If in any doubt please consult a Customs officer.

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Quarantine is required for 30 days, usually at the residence address provided. Clients are advised to have pets accompany them on the same flight. Pets are subject to duty. A stamp fee of LKR 5.- and a Customs fee of LKR 250.- for each dog must be paid upon arrival.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated 30 days to 11 months prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - dated no more than 5 days prior to arrival, endorsed by a Veterinarian
- ✓ Application for an Import License – originals only, obtained from Embassy of Sri Lanka at origin or at this website: www.daph.gov.lk
- ✓ Import License – obtained at Department of Animal Production and Health located in Getambe, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Before bringing any live animal into Sri Lanka, prior authorization must be obtained from the Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH). Information can be obtained from the below resources:

Chief Animal Quarantine Officer,

41 MORGAN ROAD, COLOMBO 2, SRI LANKA. TEL/FAX: +94 11 2448683

Animal Quarantine Officer, B.I.A., Katunayake, Sri Lanka. TEL/FAX: +94 11 2253430

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles are subject to high import taxes and duties. Amount to be paid is subject to local agent valuation. Petrol vehicles incur duty of 80% - 90% of value. Diesel Vehicles incur duty of 175% - 200% of value. Motorcycles – 20% surcharge, 10% - duty, 10% VAT, 1% port levy, & 5 -15% excise tax. Vehicles are in port for valuation for a minimum of 7 working days. If vehicle is being shipped with the personal effects it must be loaded near the container doors. Demurrage will be incurring after day one of landing and must be pre-paid prior to clearance.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓ Drivers License & Insurance Policy & vehicle keys
- ✓ Import License – required for cars over 3 years old, vans/trucks/SUV's over 5 years old
- ✓ TIN & GST certificate
- ✓ Transport Ministry approval for left-hand drive autos
- ✓ Marine Condition Certificate – issued at origin
- ✓ RMV cancellation Certificate - issued at origin

NOTES:

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: At this time Sri Lanka does not require ISPM15 standards for wood packaging material (WPM).

Entry & Exit Requirements: The Department of State is unaware of any HIV/AIDS entry restrictions for visitors to or foreign residents of Sri Lanka; however, Sri Lankan law does allow immigration officials to refer visitors and foreign residents to a physician for examination if a public health risk is suspected. Any foreigner who, upon referral from an immigration officer, is certified by a physician as posing a public health risk will be denied entry. Travelers who refuse a medical examination under these circumstances may be refused entry.

Safety & Security: The Government of Sri Lanka declared the nation's 26-year civil war over in May 2009 when the Sri Lankan Army defeated the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a U.S.-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization. Stability and safety in the country have improved and the U.S. Department of State's Travel Warning for the country was lifted in May 2010. Despite these positive steps, travelers should continue to use caution while traveling in the northern and eastern portions of Sri Lanka.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

FIDI Global Alliance

Embassy of Sri Lanka: <http://www.slembassyusa.org/>

US Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1025.html

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

IATA Travel Centre

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.