



Importing Personal Property Into East Timor (Timor-Leste)

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Used household goods and personal effects may be imported but are subject to duty. The first 300.00USD of value is duty free: thereafter duty will apply. The duty amount varies and can be negotiated with Customs Authority. The client does not need to be physically present during clearance, however a copy of the client's passport must be provided to the East Timor government at time of clearance. He/she should be in the country should any issues arise. Goods must be imported within six months of arrival. Items can not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of during stay. Documents must be received by the Destination Agent at least 15 days prior to arrival of the shipment. Customs clearance takes 10 – 30 days.

Returning nationals without diplomatic status are subject to pay duty and taxes.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - copy
- ✓ Residence Permit or Work Permit
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, Express Release not allowed
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – dated & signed by owner,
- ✓ Pack list – value in
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Employer Tax Identification Number – (TIN) confirmation of legitimacy of the business

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted duty free entry of their personal effects and household goods. This applies to one ocean and one air shipment. Subsequent shipments will incur duty. 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:

- ✓ Passport & Diplomatic Card - copy
- ✓ Pack List – values in Euros (suggest to undervalue goods for Customs purpose)
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory – dated & signed by owner
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Letter of Request – once approved, grants duty free entry

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Appliances/Electronics – must have invoices/receipts
- ✓ Prescription medications – require a health certificate
- ✓ Produce and their byproducts – requires a Phytosanitary Certificate
- ✓ New items – (less than 6 months) must have invoices/receipts
- ✓ Tobacco – 200 cigarettes or 250 grams of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and weapons unless otherwise approved

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Most cats, dogs and birds can be imported without a quarantine period.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, less than 6 months prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - by origin Veterinarian, dated no more than 7 days prior to import

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles must be less than 5 years old. Engine size must be less than 600cc. Vehicles for non-diplomats are subject to import taxes and duties based on CIF. The OBL must show chassis & engine numbers, cubic capacity, year of manufacture, brand and model.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice
- ✓ Letter of Request (Diplomats/aid workers)
- ✓ OBL

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: Visas upon arrival are no longer available. One must acquire it prior to arrival. All U.S. citizens should always ensure that passports and important personal papers are in order in the event it becomes necessary to leave the country quickly for any reason. The U.S. Embassy in Dili is not able to issue emergency passports and has only limited capacity to process passport renewals.

For travel to Australia from Timor-Leste, you should be aware that the Australian immigration authorities require an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) in advance of arrival. For more information, please consult the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship's website.

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.

Crime: Pick pocketing, purse snatching, vehicle and residential break-ins are the typical crimes foreign residents experience. They are more frequent in the capital city of Dili. There is occasional gang related violence which at times has affected foreign nationals. Avoid travel at night or to unfamiliar areas.

Women should never travel alone. Timor-Leste is socially conservative and one should avoid wearing revealing clothing particularly in crowded areas such as markets.

Currency: The U.S. dollar is the official currency of Timor-Leste. You can exchange money at the three banks in Dili, but only to or from the Indonesian Rupiah, Euro, British Pound, Australian Dollar, Singapore Dollar, and Japanese Yen. Only a few establishments accept credit cards, usually requiring a substantial additional fee, and you should be prepared to settle all bills in cash. Dili has several ATM machines that accept U.S.-issued bankcards. However, you should not plan to rely exclusively on these machines, as they are frequently inoperative

Health: There is limited emergency medical care available in Dili, options for routine medical care throughout the rest of country are extremely limited. Serious medical problems require hospitalization and/or medical evacuation to Australia, the nearest point with acceptable medical care, to Singapore, or to the United States, and can cost thousands of dollars. Those with known health issues should consider this before staying for extended periods of time. Timor-Leste does not currently have legislation that mandates access to transportation, communication and public buildings for persons with disabilities. Currently most public places and public transportation are not accessible. Persons with disabilities will face difficulties in Timor-Leste as foot paths, rest rooms, road crossings and tourist areas are not equipped for people with disabilities.

Traffic Safety & Road Conditions: Traffic operates on the left side of the road, and most vehicles use right-hand drive. Roads are often poorly maintained, and four-wheel drive may be required in some areas. Non-existent lighting and poor road conditions make driving at night hazardous. Driving in Dili is especially hazardous, with large trucks and military vehicles sharing the streets with vendors, pedestrians, and livestock. Many cars and, especially, motorcycles operate at night without lights. Accidents occur frequently. When there is an accident, you should contact the police. Bystanders sometimes attack the driver perceived to be responsible for a traffic accident; this is more common in rural areas and in accidents involving Timorese drivers, but crowds have occasionally attacked expatriate drivers at the scene of an accident. If you are involved in an accident and believe that there is a threat of bodily harm from people at the scene of the accident, it is advisable to drive to the nearest police station before stopping. While it is required to obtain insurance for vehicles in Timor-Leste, compliance with this rule is limited and many drivers are uninsured. Most traffic accidents are settled informally between those involved.

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: As of this posting Timor-Leste does not impose ISPM15 regulations for wood packaging material (WPM).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Embassy of Timor Leste: <http://www.timorlesteembassy.org>

Department of State: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country/timor-leste.html>

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.