



## *Importing Personal Property Into Trinidad & Tobago*

### **HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS**

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

##### **Customs Regulations:**

CUSTOMER MUST BE PRESENT AT CUSTOMS CLEARANCE.

All shipments are physically inspected at the Container Examination Station and an interview is required at that time. For shipments into Tobago it is advised to use the Port of Spain, Trinidad as the port of entry. The Bill of Lading must include "final destination Tobago". Used household goods and personal effects are duty-free if owned a minimum of one year (receipts and any other documents are required to show period of ownership)

\* There is a 10% special tax applicable to returning nationals that qualify.

##### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Passport - including photo page
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory List - in English
- ✓ Work Permit - required for both compensated and non-compensated employment (missionary or volunteer work)
- ✓ Customs Bond
- ✓ Import License – required for vehicles, refrigerator, freezer and AC units; obtained from Ministry of Trade & Industry
- ✓ Cash Deposit

##### **Diplomat Status:**

Foreign diplomats are granted duty free entry. Documents are required prior to arrival of the shipment so diplomatic agencies can apply for the exemption certificate required for Customs clearance.

##### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise
- ✓ Passport copy
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory List - in English
- ✓ Bill of Lading

##### **Returning Nationals:**

Must have resided abroad for a minimum of five years and intend to reside permanently in Trinidad and Tobago would qualify for a relief of Customs Duty. The percentage amount varies depending on what is being imported. Please discuss with your service agent for the most up to date information.

##### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Proof of overseas residence for minimum of five years
- ✓ Passport
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory list in English
- ✓ Bill of Lading

## RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ New items of any kind (less than one year)
- ✓ Customers 17 or older may import up to 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or ½lb of loose tobacco and one quart of wine or alcohol. Note: Duty shall be paid on the whole quantity if tobacco and/or alcohol exceeds the minimums specified.
- ✓ Gifts up to 200.00USD or 1200TTD
- ✓ A “reasonable” quantity of perfume is allowed

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics & medicines and Tapes
- ✓ Firearms are prohibited with out a permit from the Police Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago
- ✓ All other forms of weaponry and ammunitions
- ✓ CB radios, walkie-talkie’s and other similar communication equipment will be confiscated
- ✓ Camouflage printed materials, clothing – requires permission for Ministry of National Security

## IMPORTATION OF PETS

Pets must arrive between the hours of 8:00am-4:00pm on weekdays or any time on weekends. Pets may enter as customer’s checked baggage or as cargo. Quarantine is required for a period of six months unless country of origin is: Anguilla, Antigua, Barbados, Jamaica, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Vincent or the United Kingdom.

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination (including rabies) – Issued not more than 6 months prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate (government issue)
- ✓ Entry Permit- Obtained through the Department of Agriculture in St. Clair, Trinidad.

The Entry Permit must be obtained in advance. Prior notice of 24 hours before arrival must be given to the Station manager of the transporting airline in order to arrange for government veterinary clearance.

## IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

**Vehicles including motorcycles are only allowed to be imported by diplomats and qualified returning nationals.**

Vehicles are subject to duty, VAT and local taxes. Customer must have owned the vehicle for a minimum of six months prior to arriving in Trinidad & Tobago; Vehicle must not be sold or transferred to anyone for a period of two (2) years after importation. Both left hand drive and right hand drive are allowed. Vehicles can not be more than five years old.

**Left hand drive vehicles:** Returning nationals must have lived abroad for 5 years

**Right hand drive vehicles:** Returning nationals must have lived abroad for at least one year and have owned the vehicle for at least 3 months. They will not be eligible for the Duty Relief.

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport and 2 passport size photos & Proof of residency abroad
- ✓ Proof of ownership
- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration
- ✓ Commercial Invoice (for proof of age)
- ✓ Affidavit sworn by a local Commissioner

## NOTES:

**Entry & Exit Requirements:** Visas may be required for travel for purposes other than business or tourism. The CDC recommends yellow fever vaccine for travel to Trinidad. However, CDC does NOT recommend vaccination if you ONLY plan to visit Tobago. Proof of yellow fever vaccination is required only if you are arriving from an infected area

**Crime:** The incidence of violent crime remains high on both islands and affects local and expatriate communities. Violent crimes, including assault, kidnapping for ransom, sexual assault and murder, have involved expatriate residents and tourists, including U.S. citizens. The perpetrators of many of these crimes have not been arrested. Burglaries of private residences are common. If you rent a villa or private home, the Embassy urges you to ensure adequate, 24-hour security measures are in place.

**Scams:** While Nigeria-operated scams are infamous for their cleverness and ingenuity, these types of financial scams are also common in Trinidad and Tobago.

**Health:** Dengue fever deaths were recorded in Trinidad and Tobago in 2010 and 2011. Dengue is the most common cause of fever in travelers returning from the Caribbean, and is spread through the bites of infected mosquitoes. Usually dengue fever causes a mild illness, but it can be severe and lead to dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF), which can be fatal if not treated. People who have previously been infected with dengue fever are more at risk of getting severe dengue. There is no vaccine for dengue.

**Traffic Safety & Concerns:** Traffic moves on the left in Trinidad and Tobago. Most vehicles are right-hand drive, but left-hand drive vehicles are permitted. The penalty for talking or texting while driving is USD\$240 or three months' imprisonment. In early 2010, Trinidad and Tobago begin administering breathalyzer tests at unannounced checkpoints and traffic stops when driving under the influence is suspected. The threshold is very low, while penalties are stiff and may include imprisonment and steep fines. The Beetham Highway, a main thoroughfare in and out of the city, is dangerous if your vehicle has broken down. There are regular incidents of persons running out into the road or throwing debris at cars – including masonry bricks – for the purpose of causing accidents and forcing cars to stop, whereupon a group of accomplices then descend upon the accident victims, robbing them of valuables, and often violently assaulting them, even if they are compliant. Elsewhere in Port of Spain, especially in Laventille, a growing number of “bump and rob” incidents have been reported, in which the perpetrator rear-ends the victim, often causing only minor damage. When the victim emerges from his car, s/he is then robbed of valuables, and possibly even his car. Some of these incidents have turned fatal, even when the victims are compliant. If you are involved in an accident in Laventille or on the Beetham Highway, if your car still drives, you should get out of the area, and get to a safe location before seeking help or assistance.

### **Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:**

Effective 15 Sept 2005 all wood packing materials must meet ISPM 15 requirements.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

IATA Travel Centre

FIDI Global Alliance

Department of State: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1043.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1043.html)

Trinidad & Tobago Government Portal: [www.gov.tt](http://www.gov.tt)

Embassy of Trinidad & Tobago: <http://www.ttembassy.org/>

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.