



## *Importing Personal Property Into Turks & Caicos Islands*

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

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

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

All items must be declared upon arrival. Used household goods and personal effects are duty free provided goods have been owned and used by the customer for a minimum of one year and customer has lived abroad for at least one year. Goods are not to be sold or disposed of within 12 months of importation.

Returning nationals must have lived abroad for at least 12 months.

NOTE: An application for a work or residence permit is made to an Immigration Board. Work permits may be issued for any period up to five years. A work permit will not be granted if it is considered that a resident islander is available to do the work. Residence permits for up to five years, not carrying the right to work, may be obtained. As a matter of general policy, a person who has worked under a work permit for one employer will not be permitted to work for a different employer. This means that when his/her employment ends, the employee must depart Turks & Caicos within a week or so.

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

- ✓ Passport - copy of photo & biographic info pages & copy of immigration stamp of latest entry into Turks & Caicos
- ✓ Residence Permit or Work Permit - copy
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, Express Release not allowed
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – in USD, dated & signed by owner
- ✓ Pack list
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Letter from Employer –attesting to client’s employment contract

##### **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**

- ✓ Appliances/Electronics – must have invoices/receipts
- ✓ Prescription medications – require a health certificate
- ✓ New items – (less than 12 months) must have invoices/receipts
- ✓ Tobacco – 200 cigarettes or 250 grams of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty
- ✓ Alcohol – 1 litre of spirits or 2 litres of wine, in excess of these amounts incurs duty
- ✓ Gifts & Agricultural items

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and weapons of any kind with out proper permission
- ✓ Firearms & hand guns - prior approval in writing from the Commissioner of Police. U.S. citizens may contact the Turks and Caicos Customs Department at (649) 946-2867 for specific information regarding customs requirements.

## IMPORTATION OF PETS

All birds cats and most dogs are allowed without quarantine as of this posting.

**Prohibited:** the importation of certain breeds of dogs, including any breed of bulldog, doberman pinscher, mastiff, pit bull, rottweiler and others. For a full list of breeds that are prohibited, contact the Turks & Caicos Islands Health Dept.: +1-649-946-2152.

### Required Documents:

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

## IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Customs duty on cars varies according to engine capacity: 25% up to 2,000 c.c., 35% up to 4,000 c.c., and 45% if over 4,000 c.c. On motorcycles, duty is charged at 25 % up to 100 c.c., 35% up to 250 c.c., and 45% if over 250 c.c. Duty is levied on the assessed value of the vehicle and the shipping cost. Road surfaces are variable, and the use of motorcycles is generally not recommended. The OBL must show Chassis Number, Engine number, Cubic Capacity, year of manufacture, brand and model.

NOTE: Driving is on the left side of the road. However virtually all vehicles are imported from the USA, and therefore have the steering wheel on the left side.

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓ Drivers License - valid for 30 days until a local one is obtained
- ✓ OBL

### NOTES:

**Crime:** The crime rate in The Turks and Caicos Islands is relatively low, crimes do occur. Criminal activity typically involves petty thefts and burglary, and occurs more frequently on Providenciales than the other islands. However, the U.S. Embassy has received reports of more serious crimes, including vacation home invasions, armed robberies, and assaults.

**Currency:** The US dollar is the official currency used.

**Health:** Medical facilities in the Turks and Caicos Islands are limited. There is a small public hospital on Grand Turk and a private clinic on Provo, which has a hyperbaric chamber. Most serious medical problems require medical evacuation by air from the Turks and Caicos to the United States or The Bahamas.

**Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:** As of this posting Turks and Caicos Islands does not impose ISPM15 regulations for wood packaging material (WPM).

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

US Embassy Bahamas: <http://nassau.usembassy.gov/>

Department of State: [http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1048.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1048.html)

USDA: [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)

AL Services Limited: <http://www.al-services.tc/moving.php>

IATA Travel Centre

Visa HQ.com

**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.**