



## *Importing Personal Property Into Virgin Islands – United States*

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

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

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

Used household goods and personal effects are duty free provided goods have been owned and used by the customer for a minimum of two years showing evidence of use. New household goods are dutiable determined by Customs Authorities. Items CAN NOT be sold or given to another person.

**ORIGINAL COPIES OF THE COMPLETED, SIGNED, AND DATED CUSTOMS FORM 3299 AND SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION WILL BE REQUIRED AT THE PORT OF ENTRY FOR EACH SHIPMENT INTO THE UNITED STATES. THEREFORE, IF YOU MAKING A SEA FREIGHT AND A SEPARATE AIR FREIGHT SHIPMENT, SEPARATE FORMS AND DECLARATIONS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR EACH.**

The forms and declarations should be completed prior to the departure of your effects from your origin residence and should preferably be surrendered to the agent that has packed and containerized the effects.

NOTE: Items in shipments on the “Restricted/Dutiable” list will cause significant delays and additional charges which will be billed to customer’s account.

**False statements made to a U.S. Customs Officer are punishable by Law.**

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

- ✓ Passport - copy, including photo page, most recent entry stamp
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory
- ✓ Customs Form 3299 “Declaration for Free Entry of Unaccompanied Articles”
- ✓ Supplemental Declaration “Unaccompanied Personal and Household Effects
- ✓ Power of Attorney Form – Authorizing Destination Agent to clear shipments through Customs
- ✓ Informal Entry – Form 5119-A (if applicable)

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

Please note that U.S. visa law indicates that if a visa applicant is entitled to an A visa as a principal or dependent, he or she must receive an A visa. The exceptions to this rule are extremely limited.

Qualified A visa applicants traveling to the United States for assignments of less than 90 days will be issued visas annotated "TDY" (temporary duty).

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

- ✓ Passport copy
- ✓ Visa – either A-1 or A-2
- ✓ Diplomatic Note - Written confirmation by the sending government of the applicant’s status. A-3 applicants must also have a diplomatic note to confirm the official status of employers
- ✓ A-3 Visa - for staff members of Diplomat
- ✓ Form DS-160
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory list in English

## RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ New items less than 1 year, inheritance items and gifts are dutiable and may require receipts
- ✓ Antiques require a Certificate of Authenticity
- ✓ Medication- Require a physicians statement attesting to the need of the prescription, must be in original containers, and must not exceed prescribed quantity of the medication. Only medications that are also prescribed in the US (approved by the FDA) are allowed entry.
- ✓ Alcohol & Tobacco products – reasonable amounts

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind – Violations result in severe penalties
- ✓ Cuban cigars – Brought from any country, violations result in severe fines & penalties
- ✓ Foodstuff including liquor filled candy is strictly controlled and subject to inspection and confiscation by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- ✓ Pornography, obscene materials, unlawful, treasonable and subversive material
- ✓ Animals or plants including furs, skins, tusks, shells & wood carvings. Subject to the US Endangered Species Act.
- ✓ Hazardous materials including fireworks, combustible, corrosive, flammable, toxic or poisonous substances
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions, knives, switchblades and heavy or automatic weapons are strictly prohibited:

## IMPORTATION OF PETS

Dogs and Cats: each animal must be accompanied by a valid Health Certificate. Pets arriving on the same aircraft as their owners will be cleared with the assistance of the personnel of transporting airline. Such animals may not leave the airport until the local animal quarantine veterinarian has given his approval. All other animals require a special permit prior to arrival from the Deputy Administrator of the United States Department of Agriculture.

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated more than 30 days, but less than 180 days prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - Issued 5-10 days prior to departure, from a licensed Veterinarian

## IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Foreign made autos, manufactured outside of the United States are dutiable at 6% of Blue Book value. Vehicle must meet all US and E.P.A standards. If there is a lien on the vehicle an original notarized copy of the title and an original letter allowing exportation from the lien holder is required. Virgin Island Road Tax of \$0.11USD per pound is assessed

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – to determine duty of foreign manufactured vehicles

**NOTES:**

**Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:** As of July 5, 2006 the United States exercises Full Enforcement on all articles of regulated wood packaging material (WPM) to ISPM 15 standards. Non compliant Regulated WPM will not be allowed entry.

**Health Care:** Medical costs are very high and health insurance is essential. Medical facilities are of a similar standard to those in the USA. There are hospitals on St Croix and St Thomas; a clinic is located on St John. Vaccination against typhoid and poliomyelitis is advised. Immunization against hepatitis A should be considered.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

Transworld Moving

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