



Importing Personal Property Into Bolivia

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Used household goods and personal effects valued up to 35,000USD are exempt from duties and taxes. Clients or legal proxy must be in Bolivia when shipment arrives for Customs clearance. All shipments are physically inspected. This inspection occurs at the client's home. Taxes and duties are assessed at that time. Customs officers generally place a lower value than what the client claims. Any questions can be made to the Customs official at time of unloading and assessment. For all shipments into Bolivia via the Port of Arica, the AWB or Bill of Lading must read: **“Shipment in transit via Arica, final destination Bolivia.”**

The cost of the ocean freight must be declared on the OBL or at least on one of the original sets.

The Destination Agent must have all original documents before the arrival of the shipment at the port.

Returning Bolivian Citizens must have lived abroad for a minimum of 2 years to be granted the Customs Tax Relief. The Tax Relief is granted only one time per returning Bolivian family. Must not have visited Bolivia for 90 continuous days during the 2 year period.

Ports: Arica, Chile

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport – original
- ✓ Resident Visa “Visa de Objeto Determinado”– approved by Migration Department in Bolivia
- ✓ Labor Contract - approved by the Ministry of Labor
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – 2 originals for ocean: 1 copy for air shipments
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory - original and four copies, in Spanish
- ✓ Insurance Policy - original and two copies

Required Documents: Returning Bolivians

- ✓ Residence Certificate – obtained through Bolivian Consulate at origin
- ✓ Valued Inventory – approved by Bolivian Consulate at origin,
- ✓ Work Certificate or Contract attesting to 2 years outside of Bolivia

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats are granted duty free entry of used household goods and personal effects. The Tax Exemption form must be obtained in Bolivia once the diplomat and shipment arrive into Bolivia.

Returning Bolivian diplomats are not entitled to tax and duty-free exemptions.

Diplomat's presence is required at Customs clearance. Diplomats can import pets, vehicles and items on the “Restricted Items List” duty free.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - copy, including photo page
- ✓ Accreditation Letter – copy, from Bolivian Chancellor Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ✓ SICOPEA Certificate – obtained from Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory - in Spanish
- ✓ Tax Exemption Form

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Alcohol and tobacco products – must state exact quantities on inventory; incurs tax & duties
- ✓ Plants - Phytosanitary certificate required
- ✓ Precious metal objects & jewelry
- ✓ Carpets & rugs
- ✓ Medicines
- ✓ Refrigerators – require an Import Permit (IBNORCA), acceptable coolant is R-134
- ✓ Works of Art
 - List of titles of the artwork
 - Commercial Invoice from purveyor
 - Export Permit from country of origin
 - Insurance Policies
- ✓ NEW furniture, appliances, electrical items and gifts or souvenirs valued over \$300.00USD
 - Commercial Invoice
 - AWB or OBL
 - Subject to duties between 32%-42% of CIF value
 - For items exceeding value of \$1000.00USD authorized verifying companies must intervene such as Special Service International (SSI)
- ✓ Furniture – requires Fumigation Certificate (SENASAG)

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Weapons of all kinds including switchblades, blowguns, crossbows etc. (items will be confiscated)
- ✓ Firearms & ammunitions – without a signed permit by Police Commissioner
- ✓ Gold & silver coins
- ✓ Pornographic material
- ✓ Political literature
- ✓ Food and other consumables
- ✓ Refrigerators and freezers with R-12 gas

IMPORTATION OF PETS

All pets must be at least four months old. Client must be present at clearance. May be subject to 32% duty over the CIF value. In addition, charges are to be paid for the time pet (s) is kept at the campus of Bolivian Customs before being collected by the owner. Name, date of birth, breed and description are also required.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination - including Rabies, issued in the city of origin
- ✓ Health Certificate - issued in the city of origin
- ✓ Certificate of Value of the pet
- ✓ Zoo Sanitary Certificated (emitted by origin organization)
- ✓ Zoo Sanitary Certificated to be issued in Bolivia
- ✓ Import Permit issued by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Parks

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles must not be more than 3 years old. Vehicles are subject to tax and duties of 51% over CIF value. Only left-hand drive vehicles are allowed. Motorcycles over 100cc are prohibited. A/C systems are inspected. Vehicles are NOT considered personal effects.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - original
- ✓ Import Permit- From the Ministry of External Affairs, must be approved before importation
- ✓ Commercial Invoice & Certificate of Origin - original
- ✓ Insurance Policy – Original and two copies
- ✓ License from Transport Control Department
- ✓ Certificate of Condition – Attesting vehicle is in good condition

Vehicles are restricted to size and engine capacity. Prior to shipping client must obtain a valued inspection at origin by a Bolivian contractor. Diplomatic cars do not require the valued inspection.

As regulations change with out notice, consult with your service agent prior to consigning a vehicle.

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: an International Vaccination Certificate for yellow fever.

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. Protests, strikes, and other civic actions are common and disrupt transportation on a local and national level. Protesters often set up road blocks. Attempting to cross the road blocks is strongly discouraged as it may aggravate the situation and lead to violence. Given that roadblocks may occur without warning and have stranded travelers for several days, one should take extra food, water, and warm clothing when traveling around Bolivia. The U.S. Embassy advises its employees to maintain at least two weeks' supply of drinking water and canned food in the event of roadblocks. Confrontations in the Chapare or Yungas regions between area residents and government authorities over coca eradication have resulted in the use of tear gas and stronger force by government authorities to quell disturbances. Pro-coca groups have expressed anti-U.S. sentiments and may attempt to target U.S. government or private interests.

Crime: The U.S. Department of State currently classifies Bolivia as a medium to high crime threat country. Express kidnappings are common. These incidents typically occur when the victim hails a taxi in which the driver is an accomplice. Once the victim is inside, an additional person or two (the kidnappers) board the vehicle. At this point, the victim is robbed of his/her belongings and/or driven to an ATM where he/she is forced to provide PINs for debit and credit card withdrawals. One should only use a taxi that one radios in for, as there is a record of the transaction with the dispatcher.

There have been reports of "false police" -- persons using police uniforms, identification, and even buildings modified to resemble police stations -- intercepting and robbing foreign tourists, including U.S. citizens. Under Bolivian law, police need a warrant from the "fiscal" (prosecutor) to detain a suspect. If detained, you should request to see the warrant and demand immediate contact with the nearest U.S. consular office (in La Paz, Cochabamba or Santa Cruz).

Health: Much of Western Bolivia is over 10,000 feet above sea level. The high altitude may cause significant health risks even to those in excellent health. Those with sickle cell anemia or sickle cell trait, lung or heart disease or are pregnant are highly encouraged to discuss their conditions with a physician prior to arrival. Ans securing a comparable physician to manage care is essential.

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: Importation of shipments containing wood packing materials must be in accordance with ISPM 15 requirements and are required to have the wood fumigation mark ISPM 15 and IPPC logo.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Embassy of Bolivia: <http://www.bolivia-usa.org/>

Bolivia Customs: aduana.gob.bo/aduana7/sites/default/files/formularios/menajedomestico.pdf

Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1069.html

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

International Association of Movers

Express Cargo Services SRL: La Paz, Bolivia

IATA Travel Centre

FIDI Global Alliance

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.