



Importing Personal Property Into Ecuador

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Shipments will be inspected upon arrival. Client's presence is required at time of Customs clearance to sign documents. The client should be in Ecuador 2 weeks prior to arrival of the shipment. If the shipment arrives after the client, he/she must not leave the country for more than 30 calendar days during this period. Shipments must arrive within sixty days after the client. Shipments for foreigners and immigrants can be imported duty-free contingent with either a Non-Immigrant Work Visa valid for over one year or an Immigrant Visa. Shipments arriving prior to the client will incur taxes.

Returning Ecuadorians with at least one year abroad are allowed duty-free entry of household goods. Must provide "Residence Visa" from host country. Returning nationals will not be eligible for duty free status if they have stayed in Ecuador more than 30 days during the last year abroad. Returning nationals must stay in Ecuador until clearance process is completed.

To ALL Clients: Shipments on which all conditions are not fulfilled will be subject to payment of import taxes. (Approximately 45% of CIF value, calculated by Customs after inspection)

Remarks:

- If the Visa is not stamped on arrival, a refundable guarantee (120% of duties & taxed) must be presented. If the Work Visa is not presented to Customs within 90 days, the guarantee will not be reimbursed and Customs duties will be applied
- Only one shipment will be admitted duty-free. If 2 shipments are sent (i.e. a small airfreight plus a container), one of the shipments will be subject to payment of import taxes
- Only one of each item is allowed including appliances. Duplicate items will incur duties.
- **In the description cargo box of the OBL description should state the following:**
"EFECTOS PERSONALES Y MENAJE DE CASA USADOS" (Used personal effects and household goods)
- **If non-declared items are found during inspection, this will be considered a punishable felony**

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passports - notarized copies for all family members, include notaries address
- ✓ Work Visa 12-VI or Temporary Work Visa 12-XI which is only valid for 6 months
- ✓ Migration Certificate - issued at destination by Migration Police
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – must have Passport number or ID number (for Ecuadorians)
- ✓ Valued Inventory List - in Spanish, notarized in country of origin
- ✓ Work Contract – notarized copy, approved by Public Ministry of Labor
- ✓ Resident Visa - from the country returning from (returning Ecuadorian citizens)
- ✓ Transportation Insurance Policy – Issued in Ecuador, does not replace insurance issued at origin

Diplomat Status:

Diplomat shipments are exempt from the pre-inspection. Used household goods and personal effects are duty-free for foreign diplomats upon presentation of the Diplomatic Franchise or Letter of Guarantee if the Franchise is not available at the time the shipment arrive. Franchise takes up to 2 weeks to be approved after shipment arrives.

Ecuadorian Diplomats and Ecuadorians returning from official assignments in international organizations recognized by the Ecuadorian government are given duty free exemption with presentation of the Diplomatic Franchise only. Ecuadorian Diplomats are not entitled to use the Letter of Guarantee to clear their shipment. Port charges accrue if clearing under the Letter of Guarantee but at a relatively low rate.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise – original, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, approved by Customs
- ✓ Letter of Guarantee – from Diplomats mission/organization to be used in lieu of the Franchise
- ✓ Passport – copy, stamped by Diplomatic Office
- ✓ OBL/AWB – 2 original sets, Express Release not recommended
- ✓ Valued Inventory list in Spanish – original, stamped by Diplomatic Office

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Clothing Allowance – each family member is allowed 200 kilos of clothing, shoes & personal accessories; in excess of that will incur Customs tax
- ✓ New items and shipments in excess of a certain valuation are subject to duties
- ✓ Electrical items/appliances – please check with your service agent
- ✓ Art, antiques & religious materials, icons

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Controlled substances/Narcotics
- ✓ Alcohol, cigarettes & cigars
- ✓ Pornography, obscene publications, videos & software
- ✓ Weapons, swords, firearms including air guns, and ammunitions
- ✓ Foodstuffs, spices & live plants
- ✓ Rugs
- ✓ All appliances that use R12-R15 & R502 refrigerants, all cleaning products
- ✓ Creams, colognes, perfumes & cosmetics

IMPORTATION OF PETS

At the present time you may import up to three pets: this includes dogs, cats and birds. Pets arriving with their owner will be cleared as baggage with presentation of the International Health Certificate. Pets arriving as cargo must stay one night at Customs. It is the owner’s responsibility to feed and walk them. Import requirements may change so check with your service agent prior to shipping.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination
- ✓ International Health Certificate – Stating animal is free of contagious diseases and vaccines are current. Must be notarized by the USDA in the state of origin at least 10 days before departure. The document than needs to be brought to the consulate to be certified.

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Returning Ecuadorians can import one vehicle duty-free with the following requirements: They must have resided abroad for at least 3 years. The vehicle must be no more than 4 years old; the engine capacity of up to 3,000 cc and valued no more than \$20,000 at time of purchase. The vehicle must be shipped in the household goods container and listed as the last item on the Inventory. The owner must be compliant

with applicable regulations for returning citizens. Duties & taxes is approximately 65% - 110% of CIF value.

Motorcycles have 650 cc max motor capacity and no more that \$8,000USD at time of purchase.

Diplomatic personnel are allowed to import motor vehicles either new or used duty-free upon approval from Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Foreign citizens with non-immigrant visas are not allowed to import used vehicles.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport – color copy
- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration
- ✓ Import Permit – approved in Ecuador prior to shipping
- ✓ Purchase invoice – original, notarized by Ecuadorian Consulate at origin
- ✓ OBL – copy
- ✓ Circulation Permit & Migratory Movement
- ✓ SRI Registration – to be obtained in Egypt

NOTES:

New Customs Law issued by the Ecuadorian Congress, and in effect as of May 3rd 2003;

- Household goods and personal effects valued over \$4000.00 (declared value for Customs purposes only, not replacement value) must be inspected at origin before embarkation. Lack of verification at origin will cause immediate re-embarkation of the shipment.
- Cost of verification can be up to \$800.00USD and takes about 3 weeks
- Issuance of a Marine or Air Transport Insurance for the international transportation leg of the shipment by Companies Established in Ecuador is being enforced by law to determine the CIF value of the shipment and is one of the documents to be obtained in Ecuador to request the verification at origin.
- In the event a shipment arrives to Ecuador without the Inspection Certificate, the customer has 15 working days upon arrival date of the shipment to request Ecuadorian Customs Authorities at Port/Airport of shipment's arrival
- It is important to differentiate between “Declared Value for Customs” and “Declared Value for Insurance.”
- It is recommended that these figures are not included on the MAWB, HAWB, MBL or HBL.
- The process of assessing values to the shipment based on the consularized list is a careful coordination between customer, origin agent, Customs broker and Destination Agent.
- The Transportation Insurance policy taken out in Ecuador is for Customs Purposes only, and does not replace the door to door insurance certificate issued at origin.
- The OBL/AWB and cargo documentation must have the consignee's R.U.C. (Ecuador tax contributor unique register, (if the consignee is a company) ID number (if the importer is an Ecuadorian citizen) or passport number (if other than Ecuadorian).
- If the cargo is consigned to The Order; the R.U.C., ID or Passport MUST be indicated.

Entry & Exit Requirements: If your U.S. passport is lost or stolen in Ecuador, you must obtain a police report (“denuncia”) of the loss or theft to obtain a new passport at the U.S. Embassy in Quito or the U.S. Consulate General in Guayaquil. After obtaining a new passport and before departing Ecuador, you will also need to obtain an official record of your arrival and legal status in Ecuador (“Movimiento Migratorio”). If you stay in Ecuador beyond the terms of your visa, you will be barred from re-entering Ecuador for nine consecutive months from the date of your departure.

Legal Status: U.S. citizens in Ecuador are required to carry identification, including proof of U.S. citizenship, at all times. If you are stopped and cannot present evidence of identity and legal status in Ecuador, it is possible that you could be arrested and deported. Because of the frequency of passport theft in Ecuador, you should carry a photocopy of your passport (including the personal data page and the entry stamp and/or visa) rather than the actual passport document.

Dual Nationality: Children born in Ecuadorian territory are automatically considered Ecuadorian citizens at birth. Therefore, a baby born to U.S. citizen parents in Ecuador – regardless of whether the baby qualifies as a U.S. citizen – is an Ecuadorian citizen and must depart Ecuador for the first time using an Ecuadorian passport. In order to do so, parents should first obtain an Ecuadorian birth certificate at their local [Civil Registry](#) office and then obtain a national ID card (“cedula”) for the child. With these documents, parents can apply for an Ecuadorian passport. Subsequent to the first trip out of the country, a dual national child may re-enter Ecuador either as an Ecuadorian citizen or as a U.S. citizen

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. Political demonstrations occur frequently throughout Ecuador. Ecuadorian authorities sometimes declare a state of emergency or “exception” in provinces and regions affected by civil unrest, natural disaster or other disruptions which are often in place for months at a time. During a state of emergency or exception, authorities are permitted to exercise expanded powers to restore order. They sometimes suspend certain constitutional rights, expand detention powers or impose curfews. Due to the spread of organized crime, drug trafficking, small arms trafficking and incursions by various terrorist organizations in the regions of Ecuador bordering Colombia, the U.S. Embassy advises caution when traveling in this region of Ecuador. U.S. Government personnel are under strict limitations with respect to traveling alone or over-night in these areas.

Crime: Several U.S. citizens have also been the victims of murder and attempted murder in the last several years with some of the cases still unsolved. Very low rates of apprehension and conviction of criminals – due to limited police and judicial resources – contribute to Ecuador’s high crime rate.

“Secuestro Express” Taxi Assaults: Foreigners have been and are continuing to be targeted specifically in a particularly dangerous type of crime known as a “secuestro express.” Shortly after a rider enters a taxi, the vehicle is intercepted by armed accomplices of the taxi driver, who is normally complicit in the crime. The accomplices enter the vehicle, threaten passengers with weapons (typically guns and/or knives, but also more recently, pepper spray or scopolamine, a “date rape drug”), rob passengers of their personal belongings and then drive to various ATMs and attempt to withdraw money using the victims’ debit cards.

Health: Dengue fever, yellow fever, malaria, tuberculosis, Chagas disease are all endemic. Yellow fever vaccine is recommended. Consult with your physician regarding other preventative measures regarding these and other diseases occurring in Ecuador.

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: Any solid wood packing materials imported into Ecuador must comply with the ISPM 15 regulations. All costs incurred by lack of compliance, including re-exportation, will be invoiced to origin agent.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Global Transport: Ecuador

Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1106.html

Embassy of Ecuador: http://www.ecuador.org/nuevosite/index_e.php

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

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

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.