



## *Importing Personal Property Into India*

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

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

All goods entering India are subject to Customs inspection and clearance. Client must be in India and is usually required to be present during the Customs clearance process. Most household goods and personal effects are granted tax and duty-free entry provided they have been used and in the clients possession for a minimum of six months. All shipments will be charged a GST (Goods and Service Tax) of 18% (as of July 1, 2017). Client must have lived abroad for a minimum of 2 years. Household goods must be cleared at first port of entry. Arrangements can be made to an inland destination but must be under a bond which is both a lengthy and costly process. Goods must be shipped out within 30 days of the client's arrival into India.

Load all electronic items in the front opening side of the container or lift van for easy Customs clearance. Please send a list of electronic items on a separate inventory sheet.

**NOTE:** 'Transfer of Residence' is the best option for non diplomats importing a shipment. It provides the most benefit and lower customs duties. This benefit is available to both Indians and foreigners.

**Returning Nationals** must not have visited India for more than 6 months in the preceding 2 years prior to returning to India.

#### **Required Documents – non Diplomat:**

- Passport – original, for all family members
- Visa – valid for one year
- Transfer of Residence - provided by Destination Agent
- Baggage Declaration Form – provided by Destination Agent
- Client Declaration - provided by Destination Agent
- Full descriptive inventory - in English (completed by the packing agent)
- Air Waybill or Bill of Lading
- Power of Attorney – allowing Destination Agent to clear shipment

#### **Required Documents - Diplomat:**

A diplomat's personal or household effects either new or used may be cleared free of any duty.

The diplomat's mission must apply to the Ministry with a complete list of items (in the shipment) on which duty exemption is sought.

- Photocopies of valid, current passport pages duly attested
- Duty Free Exemption Certificate – obtained from Indian Ministry of External Affairs
- Authority Letters/Power of Attorney
- Baggage Declaration Form
- Full descriptive inventory in English (completed by the packing agent)
- Air Waybill or Bill of Lading

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Firearms, explosives, ammunitions and any other weapons
- Cigarettes exceeding 200 or cigars exceeding 50 or tobacco exceeding 250 grams.
- Some prohibited drugs include DHEA, narcotics, hallucinogens, amphetamines, barbiturates, and tranquilizers, steroids and performance enhancing drugs.
- Beef or products with beef.

## RESTRICTED ITEMS

The below items unless otherwise stated incur duty of 15% either new/old. Only one each is allowed. Duplicate items are subject to 40% duty. All electronics and appliances must be stated in a separate inventory with serial numbers, make and model, value and year of manufacture.

- Home Theater Systems, Music Systems, TV's, DVD/DVR players
- Video camera and accessories, sound recording equipment, video reproduction equipment, cinematographic films of 35 mm and above
- Fax machines, portable photocopiers, word processors
- Dishwashers, Air-Conditioners, electric cooking range, electrical or gas cooking ranges, washing/drying machines, microwaves
- Gold or silver in any form other than ornaments.
- New items & Furniture - subject to 40% duty
- **Alcohol is restricted to 2 litres** – duty is aprx 240%; pack separately & identify clearly on box
- Golf Set, Grand/Upright Piano & Printers (old or new) – subject to 35% duty
- Import of plants is very complicated (and regulations keep changing), so please take our advice before shipping such goods
- Tobacco – no more than 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250 grm of loose tobacco

## FOOD STUFFS

Foreign nationals, temporarily residing in India, can import foodstuff into India up to a total value of Rs. 1,00,00/-per annum (200.00USD) with out any payment of duty.

## MOTOR VEHICLES

Motor vehicles/bikes can be imported under Transfer of Residence status if the below requirements are met. Vehicles must be in owner's possession for at least one year. Must have separate Bill of Lading if shipping in same container as household goods. Foreign nationals must secure a bank bond from the import trade control authorities prior to importation. Bond must state vehicle will not be sold for a specified amount of time. Seek the advice of your service agent for requirements as they change often.

**Returning Indians** are not under the bond requirement.

- The vehicle should not be older than 3 years from date of manufacture.
- The vehicle should be with right hand steering and controls
- Have a speedometer indicating the speed in Kilometers
- Have photometry of the headlamps to suite “keep left” traffic
- Should be Euro III compliant.
- New Vehicles – incur duty of approx. 114% on the value assessed by Customs
- Used Vehicles – incur duty of approx. 169% on the value assessed by Customs

**Required Documents:**

- Owner’s passport – verifying 2 years residence abroad
- Original Manufacturing Invoice of the vehicles (NOT from a dealer or any other sources)
- Vehicle Registration/Title - for at least one year, in the name of the shipper
- Insurance Certificate/Policy
- BL must state make, model, year, VIN, engine and chassis numbers

Diplomatic motor vehicles/bikes are allowed to be imported free of duty if covered by a Duty Exemption certificate issued by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs. Diplomats can import left hand drive vehicles. Vehicles not meeting the above requirements are subject seizure and the owner faces possibility of penalties and fines.

## DOGS AND CATS

One pet either dog, cat or parrot is allowed with valid health and inoculation certificates, subject to a clearance of the Animals Quarantine and Certificate Service authorities in India. Parrots require a certificate that they were subjected to a fixation test for psittacosis, with negative results, within 30 days prior to embarkation. Consult the Destination Agent regarding current regulation for importing pets into India,

A diplomat’s pet may be cleared free of duty against a Duty Exemption certificate issued by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs

**Required Documents:**

- Veterinary Health Certificate - from a Veterinary Officer at origin attesting pet is free from Aujosky’s disease, Distemper, Rabies, Leishmaoiasis and Leptospirosis
- Vaccination Record from Veterinary officer
- The Import License - issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and the Import Sanitary Permit is issued by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

**Vaccination Certificate** must contain a complete record of vaccinations, vaccine used (which should have passed the satisfactory potency tests), brew of the vaccine and the name of the production laboratory and to the effect that the pet (dog/Cat) was vaccinated against Rabies more than one month, but within 12 months (for nervous tissue vaccine; and 36 months for chicken embryo vaccine) prior to actual embarkation.

## NOTES

**Entry & Exit Requirements:** carry photocopies of the bio-data page of your U.S. passport and the pages containing the Indian visa and Indian immigration stamps with you at all times. If your passport is lost or stolen, copies will help you apply for a replacement passport and an exit visa from the Indian government. Indian visa regulations change frequently, with little advance notice, and changes may be poorly advertised and inconsistently enforced. All U.S. government employees, including military personnel, must obtain country clearance for travel to India. U.S. citizens of Pakistani origin are subject to administrative processing and should expect additional delays when applying for Indian visas. Residents planning to stay more than 180 days, are required to register their visit or residency within 14 days of arrival with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) closest to where they will be staying.

**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. U.S. government employees are prohibited from traveling to Jammu & Kashmir (except for Ladakh) without permission, which is only granted by the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi. The Department of State recommends that you avoid travel to areas within ten kilometers of the border between India and Pakistan.

**Crime:** Petty crime, especially theft of personal property (including U.S. passports), is common, particularly on trains or buses, at airports, and in major tourist areas. Pickpockets can be very adept and women have reported having their bags snatched, purse-straps cut, or the bottom of their purses slit without their knowledge. U.S. citizens, particularly women, are cautioned not to travel alone in India. Western women, especially those of African descent, continue to report incidents of verbal and physical harassment by groups of men.

**Health:** Disclosure regarding HIV/AIDS is required of anyone seeking a resident permit in India. Foreign residents found to have HIV/AIDS will be deported.

**Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:** India has published requirements for all shipments containing wood packing material to be fumigated, treated and marked as per ISPM-15 standards and accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate.

**Monsoon Season is July – Oct:** Liftvans and containers must be properly waterproofed.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Globe Moving & Storage Pvt Ltd: <http://www.globemoving.net/default.aspx>

Embassy of India:

Department of State: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country/india.html>

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

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

The information presented herein is based on customs data available at the time of publishing 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.