



Importing Personal Property Into Japan

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Client must be in Japan but does not need to be physically present at time of Customs clearance. Most shipments are physically inspected. Used household goods and personal effects are duty-free provided the goods have been in owner's possession and utilization for at least one full year. Shipment must arrive within six months of client. Air shipments require a detailed list with carton numbers and items in each carton, along with the total number of pieces. Keys to locked trunks and suitcases must be provided.

NOTE: Importation/possession of any type of weapon is strictly prohibited and will result in fines. If items on the "PROHIBITED" SECTION are included in the shipment, they will either be shipped back to origin or abandoned; additional costs for either option will be charged to the client.

Narita Airport Customs officials follow strict enforcement of packing list descriptions/values. Clear descriptions/quantities and value for every item drastically reduces likelihood of having added fees/charges. Proof of overseas residence of more than 6 months; either the visa or Residence Permit must show both the effective date and expiry date.

Airports: Narita, Nagoya, Kansai & Fukuoka

Ports: Yokohama, Kobe and Hataka

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport Copy – All stamped pages including photo page, entry stamp (must match date on the C5360/2 Form) & visa pages
- ✓ Japanese Visa – Copy; must be valid for 1 year
- ✓ Residence Permit - copy
- ✓ OBL/AWB or Express Release/Waybill
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory List - in English or Japanese, descriptions such as PBO, HHG, MISC are not allowed; list must contain value, count and description i.e. 9 pants, 25 shirts, 3 coats
- ✓ Customs Form C5360-2 for non-Japanese or Form 5360 for returning Japanese citizens
 - Obtained on airplane or at the Customs counter at airport of entry
 - Must complete two sets and submit to Japanese Customs at the airport
 - Fill out occupation with name of the company
 - Customs will stamp both will receive a seal, keep one original to be sent to Destination Agent in Japan (copies or faxed copies not accepted)
- ✓ Delivery address and telephone number

***If Customs Form C5360-2/5360 is not presented at time of arrival, client must prepare a "Letter of Explanation" to Customs office which will delay clearance and client may have to pay import duty.**

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats are granted duty-free entry. Diplomatic clearance will be done by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. No duty will be imposed on cigarettes or alcoholic beverages for those granted diplomatic status.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Diplomatic Clearance Form (Kanji format)
- ✓ Passport copy
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory list in English

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

Alcohol, cigarettes, videos and discs must be stowed for easy access. Large quantities require a separate clearance as a commercial shipment. These items must be clearly noted on the inventory. New Items (less than 1 year) especially furniture should be re-packed in original boxes with the invoices.

- ✓ Alcohol – allowed up to 3 bottles duty-free (760cc) per adult. Any additional liquor will incur duty; must state alcohol %, volume & make; must be loaded near container doors
- ✓ Tobacco – 400 cigarettes, 100 cigars or 500grams of tobacco can be imported duty-free per adult
- ✓ Prescription Medications/contact lenses – 2 month supply allowed w/physicians prescription via air shipment; in excess of this amount will be disposed of
- ✓ Cosmetics/non prescription medications – limited to 24 pieces for a single product item
- ✓ Rooted plants, shells, meats, furs, & taxidermy animals - requires Quarantine Certificate
- ✓ Perfume in quantities over 2oz will incur duty
- ✓ Electrical Appliances
- ✓ CD's, DVD.s etc. – separate inventory list: state name & category: sports, animation, drama etc.
- ✓ Food Items - – separate inventory list, consult destination agent prior as many foods are prohibited

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics, psychotropic substances, and any medicine containing Pseudo ephedrine
- ✓ Pornography, obscene publications, videos & software
- ✓ Reproductions of copyright materials and videos and counterfeit goods/currency
- ✓ Firearms, ammunitions, weapons of any kind, including air guns, pocket knives & toy replicas
- ✓ All meat products, fruits and vegetables
- ✓ Rice
- ✓ Any skins, furs, or tusks of animals on the Endangered Species List
- ✓ Flower seeds/bulbs, flour, straw and straw items

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Quarantine period of 16 days is required for dogs. Quarantine may be required for other pets depending on animal's country of origin. Some animals are restricted from being imported into Japan. It is strongly advised to inquire with the nearest Japanese Embassy, Consulate and/or the Destination Agent prior to transport. If importing a pet it is suggested to start the process 6 months in advance of relocation.

For more information, refer to these sites: www.animal-quarantine-service.go.jp and www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/index.html

Required Documents:

- ✓ Vaccination Certificate – Rabies must be administered 30 days but not more than six months prior to departure. All other vaccinations must be current.
- ✓ Health Certificate – Issued by a licensed veterinarian, dated not more than 14 days before departure

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles may be imported duty free for foreigners establishing residence if the below requirements are met. The vehicle must not be sold for 2 years after importation. Foreign cars must be modified to meet Japanese emissions and safety regulations. Charges are very high and will be paid by the client. The cost could be between 500,000-800,000 Yen depending on the model and the condition of the car. If all the requirements are not met, import duty at 5% of the depreciated assessed market value will be assessed.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Original Passport
- ✓ Form C 5360-2 or 5360
- ✓ Alien Registration Card & Drivers License
- ✓ Original Registration
- ✓ Engine & Chassis number
- ✓ Purchase invoice & Car Manual
- ✓ Pro-forma Invoice
- ✓ Documents stating that vehicle has been in owner's use and possession abroad
- ✓ Affidavit stating that you will not sell your vehicle while in Japan

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: All foreign nationals entering Japan, with the exception of certain categories listed below, are required to provide fingerprint scans and to be photographed at the port of entry. This requirement does not replace any existing visa or passport requirements. Foreign nationals exempt from this requirement include special permanent residents, persons under 16 years of age, holders of diplomatic or official visas, and persons invited by the head of a national administrative organization. U.S. travelers on official business must have a diplomatic or official visa specifying the nature of travel as "As Diplomat," "As Official," or "In Transit" to be exempt from biometric collection. All other visa holders, including those with diplomatic and official visas stating "As Temporary Visitor," are subject to this requirement. Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) personnel, are exempt from biometrics entry requirements under SOFA Article IX.2.

Immigration Update for Foreign Professionals: Effective 7, May 2012, the Immigration Bureau of Japan introduced a points-based system that provides "highly skilled foreign professionals" preferential treatment. Under this system, foreign professionals who earn 70 points or more will be recognized as "highly skilled" and will gain specific benefits including: Allowed multi purpose clearance during stay. Permission for spouse to work. Permission to bring a parent to Japan and permission to have a domestic servant. For those who qualify the visa category will state "Designated Activities:" For further details refer to http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/topics/pdf/120502/02_e.pdf

Long-Term Residency Requirements: Japan changed its [Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act](#) in 2009. U.S. citizens with long-term resident status in Japan, you are required to provide evidence that you do not have criminal records and should request these documents through the [FBI Identification Record Request](#). "Long-Term Resident" (Teijusha) and "Permanent Resident" (Eijusha) are different and are subject to different requirements.

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.

Crime: U.S. citizens report that Japanese police procedures appear to be less sensitive and responsive to a victim's concerns compared to the procedures in the United States, particularly in cases of domestic violence or sexual assault, or when both the victim and the perpetrator are foreigners.

Criminal Penalties: In Japan, you may be taken in for questioning if you don't have your passport or Japanese alien registration card to show your identity and visa status. If you are arrested in Japan, even for

a minor offense, you may be held in detention without bail for several months or more during the investigation and legal proceedings. Penalties for possessing, using, or trafficking in illegal drugs, including marijuana, are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and fines. In most drug cases, suspects are detained and barred from receiving visitors or corresponding with anyone other than a lawyer or a U.S. consular officer until after indictment. Solitary confinement is common.

Immigration Penalties: Japanese work visas are not transferable and are issued outside of Japan for a specific job with a specific employer at a specific place of employment. Japanese authorities do not allow foreigners to change their immigration status from visa-waiver status to work status while in Japan.

Japanese immigration officers may deny you entry if you appear to have no visible means of support.

Fines for overstaying your visa or working illegally can run into thousands of dollars, and in some cases, re-entry bans can be as long as ten years or indefinitely for drug offenders.

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: Japan has published requirements adopting ISPM15 for wood packaging material (WPM).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

AGS Four Winds, Asia:

Embassy of Japan: http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/english/html/travel_and_visa/travel_and_visa_index.htm

Ministry of Labour, Health, and Welfare: <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/import/>

Department of State: : http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1148.html

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 clients 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.