



Importing Personal Property Into Malaysia

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Household effects can be imported into Malaysia duty free as long as they have been in use for a period of at least six (6) months. Any item less than six months old will incur duty and tax. All shipments are subject to a 100% Customs examination. It is advised that the client be present at Customs during clearance of goods. Advise Destination Agent if shipment contains new furniture, household or personal effects.

- It is strongly suggested to not import any alcohol or tobacco products as the Import Permit is very difficult to acquire and the duty and taxes incurred is extremely high.

Restrictions and import requirements vary by port in Malaysia. Consult your Destination Agent for advise.

Returning Malaysians must have lived abroad for an unbroken period of more than one (1) year to qualify for duty free status of used household goods.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport – Copy, of including photo page
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill (express B/L is acceptable)
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory List – original, in English
- ✓ Pack List – must be accurate to what is shipped
- ✓ Work Permit – Must be for a minimum of one (1) year
- ✓ Work Contract – copy, from employer in Malaysia

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats are granted duty free entry. All documents must be endorsed by embassy official then approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs prior to goods being cleared

Required Documents:

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise & Passport - copy
- ✓ Malaysian Customs Form N 1
- ✓ Letter of Authority – signed by embassy official
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory List - original, in English
- ✓ Pack List

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

Due to high Customs duty and intensive customs inspection, it is best to discourage inclusion of all alcohol, tobacco and food goods in the household shipment.

- ✓ Electrical Goods /Electronics – Require an Electrical Board Permit; a separate inventory list needs to be submitted to the destination agent stating: brand, model, type, country of origin, serial numbers, year of purchase voltage, amperes, etc. Computers are limited to 3 per household

- ✓ Telecommunications items – mobile & cordless phones, fax & answering machines, & modems; require an Import Permit obtained from Telecom Malaysia, state serial numbers, make/model, origin country and reason for importation
- ✓ CD's, DVD's, VCD's, Video and Audio tapes – Censorship fee of US\$5.00-\$US10.00 per tape or disc. Video tapes are subject to approval by the Film Censorship Board. Expect 2-3 weeks to censor without guarantee of return of the tapes. Inventory must state title, description, length & actor names
- ✓ Alcohol – require an Import Permit, subject to duty of up to 250% or \$30 to \$50 per litre; requires a separate inventory list stating brand, country of origin, size and alcohol content; list must be submitted to Destination Agent to apply for the permit which is not always approved
- ✓ Tobacco products - require an Import Permit, subject to exorbitant tax and duty
- ✓ New Items – original receipts, Malaysian Customs Form N 1 & Letter of Authority
- ✓ Machines, appliances, & equipment – original receipts w/values & Malaysian Customs Form N 1, Import Permit may be required, consult Destination Agent.
- ✓ Antiques – Requires an Import Permit from the National Museum
- ✓ Precious metal objects
- ✓ Plants – Must be sent separately, requires Ministry of Agriculture approval & Import Permit

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ **Narcotics/drugs of any kind – violators are subject to the death penalty**
- ✓ **Firearms imported illegally- convicted violators are subject to the death penalty**
- ✓ Firearms & swords –require an import permit and authorization
- ✓ Fireworks, stun guns, ammunitions, explosives, flares, knives, imitation (toy) weapons and replicas
- ✓ Non-branded drugs
- ✓ Pornography, obscene or politically sensitive publications, videos and or software
- ✓ Any materials or items from Israel, South Africa or any literature on Communism
- ✓ Counterfeit currency, gold bullion
- ✓ Cordless phones, satellite dishes and short wave radios require an import permit
- ✓ Phone and fax machines – require an import permit
- ✓ Meat, poultry and other animal products
- ✓ Animals & birds & their products derived from protected species; skins, furs, ivory, tusks & horns

IMPORTATION OF PETS

An Import Permit must be issued prior to the animals' arrival into Malaysia. Quarantine is required for a period of 30 days. The first two weeks must be at a government quarantine facility. Pet may be released to spend the remainder of the 30 days in home quarantine if residence is approved by a veterinarian.

Advance reservation of a government approved kennel space is required.

Pets must be at least 6 months old. Those for sale or breeding purposes are prohibited.

Import requirements may change so check with your service agent prior to shipping.

Certain breeds are not allowed: Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, Japanese Tosa, Pit Bull Terrier.

Breeds allowed under special Permit: German Shepherd, Belgian Shepherd, East European Shepherd, Doberman, Rottweiler, Bull Mastiff, Bull Terrier & Canary Dog.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Vaccination Certificate – Vaccines must be issued 30 -180 days prior to departure
- ✓ Micro-chip Certificate
- ✓ Health Certificate – Must be 10 days before departure
- ✓ Import Permit – Specify Breed, sex, age, color and pet's name

- ✓ Two Recent Photos
- ✓ Address in Malaysia – for veterinary inspection
- ✓ Owner Letter – attesting pet will not be sold, used for breeding, it will be confined to owners dwelling and will be leashed and muzzled when outside of owner's property

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Importation of motor vehicles is strongly discouraged due to high taxes and duties ranging from 150 to 300% depending on cc of the engine. The permit must be granted before the vehicle can be shipped. Vehicles over five (5) years old are prohibited.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - copy
- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration- original
- ✓ Import Permit – original, obtained from Malaysian Ministry of International Trade
- ✓ Insurance policy - original
- ✓ Letter from owner stating reason to import vehicle
- ✓ Purchase invoice - original, if vehicle is new

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: Electronic Fingerprints are taken upon arrival and departure. While in Malaysia carry a copy of your passport with visa at all times. So that in the event you are questioned by authorities you have proof of identity and legal status. The passport is required for entry into the states of Sabah and Sarawak. U.S.-Israeli dual nationals have been denied entry after presenting their Israeli passports. U.S.-Israeli dual nationals must use their U.S. passports to depart the last country on their itinerary prior to arriving in Malaysia. Check your visa status periodically while in Malaysia and strictly follow immigration laws and regulations.

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. Employees of the U.S. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur are prohibited from travelling to the Eastern Malaysian area of Sabah including the coastal resort areas and islands. U.S. citizens are also advised against travel to the peninsular Lahad Datu district (to include the Tabin Wildlife Reserve).

Crime: Petty theft, particularly purse snatching and pick-pocketing, and residential burglaries are the most common crimes committed against foreigners. Motorcyclists in pairs approach foreigners in stopped vehicles to “smash & grab” items such as purses or laptops. Keep this items concealed along with other valuables while driving or when leaving the vehicle unattended.

Malaysia follows the Law of Islam, proselytizing of any other faith to Malaysian Muslims can lead to imprisonment.

Currency: Credit card fraud is a problem in the region. Often the charges do not appear for several months as retailers are storing the information and often disseminate the information to criminal organizations. ATM machines affiliated with financial institutions are considered safe. However, PIN's in Malaysia are 6 digits and those using 4 digit PIN's have encountered difficulty drawing funds.

Health: Those with mobility issues may encounter difficulty as the government does not mandate buildings or public transportation to be disability accessible. Medical services in larger cities are up to Western standards with English speaking doctors. Hospitals and doctors often expect immediate cash payment. Emergency services and ambulances are not up to Western standards. Those with known health issues should utilize a private ambulance service to ensure delivery to the hospital of preference. Air quality can be unhealthy during the months of March through June and September and October.

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: Malaysia imposes ISPM15 regulations for wood packaging material (WPM).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

AGS Four Winds: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Government of Malaysia: <https://www.malaysia.gov.my/>

Department of State: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country/malaysia.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 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.