



Importing Personal Property Into Mexico

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

The goods must be used, at least six (6) months old and not intended for resale.

As the Mexican Ports & Customs houses are saturated, the lift-vans and steel containers are placed in the open and must therefore be well protected against the rain.

Do Not Ship household goods until all documentation is complete. (The airport holds the shipment for 30 days and ports for 60 days only). If the documentation is not presented by that time, the Mexican government confiscates the shipment. Inform the destination agent of the estimated time of arrival of the shipment at the Customs House of Port of Entry in order for them to proceed with the import process.

Have your agent arrange transportation to avoid unnecessary demurrage charges. Shipments consigned to Mexico City terminal are handled by steamship line companies own transportation system.

Agents cannot accept C.O.D. charges. Only destination charges can come in a C.O.D. basis. All Shipments must arrive prepaid.

Items found by Customs but not stated on the Inventory or on the “Restricted List” without appropriate documentation will be perceived as contraband allowing for Customs Authority to seize the entire shipment if they deem necessary.

Notes: The zip code of the address used to obtain Resident Credentials must be listed.

All sea shipments to or from overseas countries must indicate the following:

- A TAX ID number for all parties shown on bill of lading as shipper, consignee, and notify party. The Tax ID must be submitted no less than 24 hours prior to the vessel departure. Failure to do so may result in refusal to load onto the vessel.
- Mexican nationals must supply their RFC (TAX ID) number.
- Generic RFC / TAX ID numbers could be applied in the following categories:
 - Diplomat and consulate goods use [EMB930401KH4](#)
 - International organizations use [OIN930413N0](#)
 - Foreigners use [EXTR920301TS4](#)

“Retiree” Visa status: Clients must have their inventory list notarized and stamped by the Mexican Consulate in the city of origin.

Ports: **Altamira, Manzanillo, Tampico, Veracruz, Lazaro Cardenas and Laredo (overland from US)**

Consult with your Destination Agent for the latest document requirements. These vary by port.

Required Documents – Foreigners:

- ✓ Passport - copy
- ✓ FM3 Temporary Residence Visa “Residente Temporal” – copy, issued by the Mexican Consulate at origin; this Visa card also doubles as a temporary Work Permit
- ✓ Temporary Resident Card – copy, issued in Mexico by the National Migration Institute
- ✓ Inventory List – original and 2 copies, typed, in Spanish, signed by owner
- ✓ Manifestation of Value Form - provided by Destination Agent
- Letter of Responsibility “Carta Solidaria” – letter from employer, stating responsibility for taxes & duties upon re-exportation; form letter provided by Destination Agent

- ✓ Declaration Letter “Carta Juramentada” –provided by Destination Agent, attesting there is no items on the Prohibited List in the shipment and goods are used: addressed to Customs Authority at Port of Entry
- ✓ Carta de Encomienda - provided by Destination Agent, authorizing agent to clear shipment
- ✓ Federal Registration or Tax ID of company “Registro Federal Causantes” – provided by employer
- ✓ AWB/OBL – air shipments must include the airline ticket

Diplomat Status - Foreigners:

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - copy of all pages
- ✓ Import Permit – “Diplomatic Franchise” must be obtained by the corresponding Embassy in Mexico City, External Affairs Authority or international organization of diplomat
- ✓ Carta Solidaria – Letter from Mission or organization of the diplomat
- ✓ Declaration Letter “Carta Juramentada” - form provided by Destination Agent, attesting there is no items on the Prohibited List in the shipment and goods are used: addressed to Customs Authority at Port of Entry
- ✓ Inventory - in Spanish with estimated value
- ✓ Origin and destination addresses
- ✓ Authorization Letter – allows Destination Agent to clear shipment

Diplomat Status - Returning Mexicans:

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - copy
- ✓ Inventory - in Spanish, notarized by the Mexican Embassy/Consulate at origin
- ✓ Import Permit – “Diplomatic Franchise” The corresponding official government office of which the diplomat belongs must obtain this permit through the Embassy in Mexico City from the External Affairs Authority
- ✓ Origin and Destination addresses
- ✓ Authorization Letter – allows Destination Agent to clear shipment

Returning Mexican Citizens or Foreigner with a Permanent Resident Card:

Required Documents: (must have lived abroad for at least 6 months)

- ✓ Mexican Passport - copy
- ✓ Inventory list - original and 2 copies, typed, in Spanish, signed by owner, notarized by Mexican Consulate at origin, each page must be stamped, valid for 6 months after issue date
- ✓ “RFC” and “CURP” - copies
- ✓ FM2 Permanent Residence Card “Residente Permanente” - copy
- ✓ Declaration Letter “Carta Juramentada” - form provided by Destination Agent, attesting there is no items on the Prohibited List in the shipment and goods are used: addressed to Customs Authority at Port of Entry
- ✓ Carta de Encomienda - provided by Destination Agent, authorizing agent to clear shipment

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Inheritance – requires permission from Secretary of Commerce & Industrial Promotion; incurs tax
- ✓ Appliances/Electronics - must be included on notarize inventory; state serial numbers, make/model
- ✓ Works of Art, Antiques, Carpets/Rugs - must be declared on the notarized list
- ✓ Bicycles – one per person only, must be used
- ✓ Taxidermy – permit required

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Heavy fines are issued and the entire shipment can be seized if prohibited items are found.

Note: Those with diplomatic status and documentation are allowed to import items on the Prohibited List. Prior consultation with the Destination Agent is advised.

- ✓ New items – all items must be over 6 months
 - ✓ Firearms & Ammunitions of any kind including firecrackers, explosives, BB & paintball guns, hunting equipment & camouflage clothing
 - ✓ Corrosives, chemicals, combustible/compressed liquids & gases, poisons, paint, varnish
 - ✓ Flammable items including matches & lighters, toxic materials such as insecticide, antifreeze
 - ✓ Controlled drugs and Psychotropic Substances
 - ✓ Medications, over the counter medicines without prescriptions & vitamins
 - ✓ Alcohol & wine – will be confiscated if found, extra handling charges will be incurred
 - ✓ Pornography, obscene articles, publications, videos & software
 - ✓ Reproductions of copyright publications, CD's, DVD's, videos & purses
 - ✓ Spare parts, tires, jack etc. for vehicles, motorcycles & boats
 - ✓ Jewelry, precious metals & stones, archeological items & fossils
 - ✓ Consumables of any kind – food, beverages spices, tinned goods, pet food
 - ✓ Sundries – toilet paper, soap, detergent, diapers, make-up products, hairsprays, shampoo, creams
 - ✓ Plants, bulbs, seedlings, seeds etc.
 - ✓ Collectibles – model cars, planes, trains, stamps. & pens; could be considered as “planned for sale”
 - ✓ Blank CD's/DVD's or tapes - could be considered as “planned for sale”
 - ✓ Construction materials & power tools (hammers, saws & lightweight household tools are allowed
- *Jewelry & watches are allowed in your accompanied baggage

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Only dogs and cats are allowed importation without special permission. For all other pets, consult with the Destination Agent for current requirements and regulations. Subject to duty.

For pets arriving without their owners, it is recommended to send documents including AWB in advance via fax, to avoid delays in releasing pets. It is recommended to arrange for arrival at the beginning of the week, to avoid pets being kept in Customs Control over the weekend, as there is not staff on site to care for them.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - copy (owner's)
- ✓ Certificate of Health – issued within 5 days before arrival date
- ✓ Vaccination Records – including rabies vaccine, must be over 30 days and under 1 year
- ✓ Authorization – obtained from Secretary of Commerce and Industrial Promotion
- ✓ AWB – for pets arriving not accompanied by their owner; must state “Freight as Agreed”; only 2 pets allowed per AWB
- ✓ Pro forma invoice

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Diplomats can import vehicles duty free and do not need to be present to clear the vehicle and can utilize any port of entry.

FM-3 Visa holders may only use Altamira, Veracruz and Tampico ports and must be present during clearance. Client must be at the port of entry to clear Customs and obtain the Temporary permit. After, the agent with authorization can transport. Vehicles crossing via land into Laredo must be driven by the owner to final destination. Vehicles are subject to duty. Vehicle cannot be included in household goods shipment. Bicycles (one per person) may be included in the household goods shipment.

Returning Nationals & FM2 Visa holders are prohibited from importing a vehicle.

Mexico implemented emissions requirements for vehicles. More information can be found on the link below or consult the destination agent.

[Dieselnet](#)

- ✓ FM3 Visa – original (non diplomat)
- ✓ Passport - copy
- ✓ Temporary Import Permit (FM3 Visa Holders) – granted for the period of validity as the FM3. Must be renewed prior to the expiration of the FM3
- ✓ Title, Registration & vehicle plates
- ✓ Driver license & invoice or bill of sale
- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise – diplomat only
- ✓ Liability Letter – returning Mexican nationals
- ✓ Credit card – one accepted internationally; used to pay the tax & duty
- ✓ Authorization Letter – allowing Destination Agent to clear shipment and deliver to final destination

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: All non-Mexican citizens must have valid immigration documents including one of these visa categories: FMM, FM2, FM3 or FME. U.S. citizens who are also Mexican nationals are considered to be Mexican. Dual nationality status could result in the delay of notification of arrests and other emergencies or hamper U.S. Government efforts to provide consular services. Dual nationals are subject to compulsory military service in Mexico; in addition, dual national males must register for the U.S. Selective Service upon turning 18. Those possessing both U.S. and Mexican nationalities must carry proof of citizenship of both countries. Under Mexican law, dual nationals entering or departing Mexico must identify themselves as Mexican. Under U.S. law, dual nationals entering the United States must identify themselves as U.S. citizens.

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. In its efforts to combat violence, the Government of Mexico has deployed federal police and military troops to various parts of the country. Government checkpoints, often staffed by military personnel, have been erected in many parts of the country, especially, but not exclusively, in the border area. U.S. citizens are advised to cooperate with personnel at government checkpoints when traveling on Mexican highways.

Crime: Street crime, ranging from pick pocketing to armed robbery, is a serious problem in most major cities. Carjacking is also common, particularly in certain areas. The homicide rates in parts of Mexico have risen sharply in recent years, driven largely by violence associated with transnational criminal organizations. In some areas, municipal police forces are widely suspected of colluding with organized crime. In others, police officers are specifically targeted by members of transnational criminal organizations. Because of the dangerous situation in which police officers operate, one is advised to take a nonthreatening posture when interacting with police and to cooperate with police instructions.

Kidnapping, including the kidnapping of non-Mexicans, continues to occur. Express kidnappings, i.e.,

attempts to get quick cash in exchange for the release of an individual also occurs along with a common scam throughout Mexico called ‘virtual’ kidnapping by telephone, in which the callers typically speak in a distraught voice in a ploy to elicit information about a potential victim and then use this knowledge to demand ransom for the release of the supposed victim. Information that can be used against victims may also be obtained from social networking websites. Credit card “skimming” is also on the rise via skimming machines, tellers with in banks or merchants. One is advised to frequently review account activity.

Health: Mexican pharmacies cannot honor foreign prescriptions. U.S. citizens have been arrested and their medicines confiscated by Mexican authorities when their prescriptions were written by a licensed U.S. physician and filled by a licensed Mexican pharmacist. The importation of prescription drugs into the United States can be illegal in certain circumstances. U.S. law generally permits persons to enter the United States with only an immediate supply (i.e., enough for about one month) of a prescription medication. Tap water is unsafe and should be avoided. In high-altitude areas such as Mexico City (elevation 7,600 feet or about 1/2 mile higher than Denver, Colorado), most people need a short adjustment period. Air pollution in Mexico City and Guadalajara is severe. Those with heart or respiratory problems should consult their doctor prior to relocation.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Mexpack Global Relocations: Mexico City, Mexico

Embassy of Mexico: http://portal.sre.gob.mx/was_eng/index.php?Itemid=73

Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_970.html

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

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

FIDI Global Alliance

International Association of Movers

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.