



# *Importing Personal Property Into Taiwan*

## **HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS**

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

#### **Customs Regulations:**

Household goods and personal effects cannot be cleared prior to arrival of the client and must arrive within six months of the client. All shipments are subject to inspection. Used household goods and personal effects are typically duty and tax free. Client does not need to be present at Customs during clearance of goods. Containers can no longer be delivered port to door. Exception is made for those with diplomatic status. Containers must be unloaded at the Customs bonded warehouse for inspection. After clearance household goods will be delivered to the residence. Average clearance times is 3-4 days for ocean shipments. Wood lift vans loaded as a full container load in (FCL) ocean must be stated on the OBL as “CY to CFS” to avoid delays and additional charges during Customs clearance. Those stated inaccurately will be subject to additional charges and terminal fees.

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Passport- copy, including biographical page
- ✓ Entry stamp - copy with date of entry (within 3 months) into Taiwan
- ✓ Flight information - arrival into Taiwan- provide actual flight number; must match Entry Stamp
- ✓ Marriage License – copy
- ✓ Birth Certificate – copy for each child
- ✓ Proof of Employment
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, (express B/L is acceptable)
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory List - in English
- ✓ Certificate of Residence
- ✓ Work Permit – issued by Ministry of Economic Affairs in Taiwan
- ✓ Letter Authorizing Destination Agent to clear shipment
- ✓ Customs Declaration Form- (Inward Passenger’s Declaration) obtained at the airport for unaccompanied baggage, describing quantity and value of each item, must be made upon owner’s arrival: weapons and medicines must be declared.

#### **Returning Taiwanese – additional documents**

- ✓ Taiwan I.D.- copy (front and back)

#### **Diplomat Status:**

Foreign diplomats are granted duty free entry and exemption of examination process during Customs clearance.

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise
- ✓ Passport copy
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory list in English

## RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

Most household goods and personal effects are free of duties, provided the total value does not exceed US\$20,000.00 for each shipment. It is recommended to not ship food in the household goods shipments. CD's, DVD's, VCD's, Video and Audio tapes are allowed duty free within reason.

- ✓ Tobacco products, currency and gold bullion require an Import Permit
- ✓ Alcohol - Wine or liquor: only 5 litres allowed incurs tax & duty; varies by percentage of alcohol
- ✓ Medications
- ✓ Currency
- ✓ Appliances & Electrical items – limited to one of each, subject to duty varying between 5-19% of assessed value
- ✓ Non-perishable food items – ocean shipments only; small amounts, large amounts will be dutiable
- ✓ Pianos, rugs and ivory

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Controlled drugs and Psychotropic Substances
- ✓ Pornography, obscene publications, videos & software
- ✓ Publications and articles from China,
- ✓ Items considered detrimental to national security and public interests
- ✓ Reproductions of copyright materials and videos
- ✓ Weapons, swords, Firearms including air guns, and ammunitions
- ✓ Gambling tools
- ✓ Skins, furs, and tusks of animals on the endangered species list

## IMPORTATION OF PETS

To apply for an Import Permit for animals into Taiwan, copies of all documents will need to be presented to the Destination Agent at least 14 working days in advance. It is important to not send any pets before obtaining the Import Permit.

Pets are subjected to 21 day quarantine at a designated government facility. Quarantine for birds is seven (7) days. All Original required documents must be attached to the pet or the pet's cage.

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

### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – (copy) Rabies must be administered 30 days prior to the flight but not more than 180 days and certified by Agricultural Bureau of State
- ✓ Health Certificate – (copy) must be 10 days before departure from a licensed veterinarian at origin, certified by a foreign veterinary authority and Agricultural Bureau of State attesting to species, breed, sex and age.
- ✓ Import Permit
- ✓ Application to Bureau of Commodity Inspection and Quarantine (issued by owners company in Taiwan)
- ✓ Color photos – Six 4x6 pictures of the pet (front view and profile)
- ✓ Letter stating pet is not for sale or profit

## IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles are subject to environment tests by the Taiwanese government. Only left hand drive vehicles are permitted. Duties and taxes apply. Do not ship with household goods. Autos under a year old or over ten

years old are prohibited. Autos must have been in client's name for more than one year. Only one auto is allowed per family. Auto must operate with lead free gasoline.

**Required Documents:**

- ✓ Passport – copy or Taiwanese ID for returning nationals
- ✓ Residence Visa & Work Certificate
- ✓ Purchase Invoice & Driver's License
- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration – copy, must show ownership of at least 1 year
- ✓ Import Permit – issued by the Board of Foreign Trade
- ✓ OBL must state - make, model, year, color, engine number, number of doors, left hand drive, air conditioning, radio, etc.

**NOTES**

**Entry & Exit Requirements:** A visa is required if staying more than 90 days and must be acquired prior to departure. The U.S. maintains unofficial relations with the people on Taiwan through the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), a private nonprofit corporation, which performs U.S. citizen and consular services similar to those at embassies. All U.S. citizens should always ensure that passports and important personal papers are in order in the event it becomes necessary to leave the country quickly for any reason. If you are male between the ages of 18 and 36 and were born in Taiwan or have ever held a Taiwan passport, you should be aware that you may be subject to compulsory military service in Taiwan, even if you are a U.S. citizen and have entered Taiwan on your U.S. passport. If you are concerned this may affect your travel to Taiwan, please contact the nearest TECO office in the United States before visiting Taiwan to determine whether you are subject to the military service requirement.

**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:** Overall crime is low in Taiwan. High crime areas are namely barbershops, massage parlors and nightclubs. They are typically run by criminals. These establishments do not advertise, and a casual passerby would not know the type of establishment as interiors are not viewable. US citizens have been assaulted in such places. In several parts of Taiwan, incidents of purse snatching by thieves on motorcycles have been reported.

Penalties for possession of, use of, or trafficking in illegal drugs in Taiwan are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines. Taiwan law also provides for the death penalty for certain violent crimes and drug offenses.

**Health:** Taiwan requires all arriving passengers to have their body temperatures scanned with an infrared thermal apparatus. Only passengers showing symptoms of communicable diseases are required to fill out the Communicable Disease Survey Form. If you exhibit symptoms, you may be required to give an onsite specimen and/or follow up with local health authorities.

Dengue fever is on the rise, particularly in Kaohsiung Municipality.

Health facilities in Taiwan are adequate for routine and emergency medical treatment. Physicians are well trained and many have studied in the United States and speak English. State-of-the-art medical equipment is available at many clinics and hospitals.

Some HIV/AIDS entry restrictions exist for visitors to and foreign residents of Taiwan. Those applying for resident visas – usually those who plan to work or join family – must obtain a health certificate that will indicate if the applicant is HIV positive. If the resident visa applicant is HIV positive, Taiwan authorities will likely deny the resident visa. Taiwan authorities are likely to require people who test positive for HIV to leave Taiwan at their own expense, even though Taiwan law does not require authorities to deport people who are HIV positive. Verify this information with TECRO before travel.

**Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:**

Effective July 1<sup>st</sup> 2008, importation of shipments containing wood packing materials must be in accordance with ISPM 15 requirements and are required to have the wood fumigation mark ISPM 15 and IPPC logo.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

[The American Institute in Taiwan](#): Kaohsiung Taiwan

[Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office \(TECRO\)](#): Washington DC

[Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Offices](#): (TECO) Regional U.S. offices

[Department of State](#):

[USDA](#)

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.**