



Importing Personal Property Into *Thailand*

IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

The following groups are exempt from Import Duty and VAT (app. 7%-subject to change):

A. Diplomatic Shipments:

- Allowed one sea and one air shipment duty free
- Must be processed through the Foreign Ministry of the Thai Government by the proper Embassy. Generally takes 10-14 days from arrival of shipment.
- All items (cars included) are allowed duty free entry upon approval by the Foreign Ministry.

B. Non-diplomatic Shipments:

- Allowed one air and one surface shipment duty free if the shipper has one of the following –
 1. Original 1 year work permit presented to customs for inspection. Some will initially be issued a 6-month permit that has to be extended to 12 months to be acceptable to customs.
 2. 1 year Category “B” Non-Immigrant Visa. Issued by the Immigration Dept.
 3. B.O.I. Letter. Obtained by persons working for a company or project that is approved by the Thai Government Board of Investment (BOI).

C. Returning Thai Nationals

- Thai citizens who have been in the country of shipment origin for at least 12 months.
- Too many trips back during Thailand during that time may cause problems with customs clearance.
- Thai passport must be used on re-entry passport.

The following conditions must *also* be met exemption from Duty and VAT(7%):

- Shipment must come from same country as shippers last workplace or residence
- Shipment must not arrive in Thailand before or more than 6 months after arrival of shipper
- Only 1 of each type of electrical items is allowed duty free (i.e. one microwave, one refrigerator)
- Goods must be at least 6 months old to be considered duty free.

Foreign individuals who wish to seek residency and retire in Thailand may not be granted duty free privileges.

Computer, fax machine and phones may not be considered household goods or personal effects and may be charged as dutiable office equipment.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Original Passport (except for diplomats), with Immigration entry stamp already given
- ✓ Non-immigrant or residence visa
- ✓ Work Permit, if applicable
- ✓ 2 legible copies of the packing inventory
- ✓ Original Airway Bill labeled “USED PERSONAL EFFECTS”, or Ocean Bill of Lading labeled as “USED PERSONAL EFFECTS AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS”
- ✓ Diplomatic shipments must be consigned to the shipper’s name (as it appears on his/her passport) in care of his/her embassy, mission or organization.

Shipment clearance generally takes 3-5 working days. Especially high duties apply to electrical goods, carpets, pianos and luxury items such as cars. Alcohol and food items require an import license.

RESTRICTED ITEMS; IMPORTING VEHICLES AND PETS

PROHIBITED ITEMS:

- Narcotics
- Gold and Silver
- Pornography (including magazines such as "Playboy".)
- Short-wave radios
- Medical Equipment
- Arms, ammunition and dangerous objects (unless a license is obtained from the Thai government.)

RESTRICTED ITEMS:

- You may bring in as much foreign currency as you want, but you must declare the amount if it exceeds U.S. \$10,000 (except travelers checks and bank drafts.) However, you may not bring in more than B 2,000 (\$80) in Thai currency, and you may not take out more than U.S. \$10,000 in undeclared foreign money or B 500 (\$20) in Thai currency.
- Wine, alcohol, tins, and food are all subject to high duties. These items must be declared on the packing list.
- Certain types of plants and plant parts are restricted.

IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES:

It is VERY difficult and costly to import a non-diplomatic private car. We strongly discourage attempting to do so. Most applications for an auto import permit are rejected. Heavy import taxes of approximately 210% of CIF are applicable.

The following conditions must be met for consideration:

- Must have same owner for more than 18 months
- Shipper must have driving license for more than 18 months
- Shipper and cosignee must be same person

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

*The following must be submitted with the application for the **Import Permit***

- ✓ Original passport
- ✓ Original registration
- ✓ Original purchase invoice
- ✓ Original drivers license
- ✓ Original Work Permit

IMPORTATION OF DOGS AND CATS:

To ship a pet by airfreight with Airway Bill as cargo

Provide the following documents 2 weeks prior to pet's arrival at Bangkok airport:

- ✓ Birth Certificate
- ✓ Vaccination Certificate (dated 15 days prior to arrival)
- ✓ Copy of owner's passport and address in Thailand
- ✓ Copy of flight ticket, date & time of arrival

To send a pet as excess baggage together with the owner

Owner should purchase ticket for pet. Owner can claim pet by showing originals of the following documents:

- ✓ Health certificate
- ✓ Vaccination certificate
- ✓ Owner's passport

Duty on pets is 40% CIF value (value is assessed by customs records).

Three month quarantine is required for all pets (there is a long and costly waiting period for this service).

Animals that are not considered "natural" in Thailand are prohibited.

IMPORTING WORKS OF ART AND ANTIQUES:

- Works of art and antiques are allowed duty-free entry, if they are part of an eligible household goods shipment. Importation of antiques requires a picture of each item and each item must appear on the packing list.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

No documentation is required if the items are part of a household effects shipment. It is advised to specify antique items on import documentation to prove importation and to facilitate future exportation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

- Asian Tigers/Transpo, 2003.
- Schenker Stinnes Logistics, "Thailand Customs Information for the Import of Household Goods," March 2002.

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.