



**CHINA**



## **CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION FOR IMPORTS**

### **HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS**

#### **Documents Required**

- Original Passport with Residence Permit (valid at least 1 year)
- Original Work Permit (valid at least 1 year)
- Packing inventory list in English or Chinese (Diplomat list must be signed and itemized)
- Ocean Bill of Lading (OBL) / Telex Release / Air Waybill (AWB)
- Arrival Notice (sea shipments)
- Residence
- List of electronic items
- Baggage Declaration Form, if applicable (2 copies, matching identically)
- Alcohol / Wine list
- Original Passport with Diplomatic Visa (Diplomats)
- Consulate Officer Certificate (Diplomats)
- Import Permit (Consulate or Embassy must apply for Diplomats)
- Diplomatic Card (Diplomats)
- Pro-forma Invoice (Diplomats)

#### **Specific Information**

- All non-diplomatic household goods shipments are subject to import duties.
- There are no duties on diplomatic shipments.
- The import of personal effects must be arranged at least 6 months before the expiration of the Residence Permit.
- The Import Permit takes approximately 1-3 working days to process and is valid for 30 days after issuance.
- The Baggage Declaration Form is required by some cities only. Contact agent for more information.
- Customs clearance for returning Chinese takes approximately 8-10 business days.
- Chinese Passport holders should contact the agent for restrictions on import shipments.
- It is recommended that each antique included in the shipment is photographed.
- Diplomatic shipments are exempt from inspection, duties and taxes.
- If shipper has both sea and air shipments, an Import Permit application for both shipments must be completed at the same time.
- If the shipper imports an additional shipment (air or sea), all items in the shipment are subject to tax and duty.
- All electrical items must be clearly indicated on the inventory, including model, serial number and size.
- Only one sea and one air shipment are allowed per Residence Permit.
- Sea shipments take approximately 7-10 working days to clear Customs.
- Air shipments take approximately 3-5 working days to clear Customs.
- Estimates are based on complete documentation available at the time of shipment arrival and for Customs clearance.
- Duties are determined by Customs updated duty tariff dated August 2007, using an exchange rate of US\$1=RMB6.80.
- Duty rates for air shipments are usually 30% higher than sea shipments.
- An official Customs Duty Receipt will be issued and provided to the shipper upon delivery.
- Import duties for alcoholic beverages are extremely high and beverages are not recommended for inclusion in the shipment.
- It is recommended that food items, alcohol, cosmetics, health products and toiletries are not included in air shipments to China.

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- Business / Tourist Visas are issued for a maximum duration of stay for 30, 60, or 90 days as determined by the Chinese Consulate overseas.
- Wood packaging material imported into China must be heat treated or fumigated with methyl bromide and properly marked according to ISPM-15 standards.

**Note:** *Customs regulations may differ between cities. It is important to contact agent for specific information prior to importation.*

## MOTOR VEHICLES

### Documents Required

- Original Purchase Invoice / Log book with chassis and engine number
- Details of the vehicle including brand name and style (e.g., sedan, SUV, color, vehicle identification number (VIN) number, etc.
- Import Permit (Diplomats)

### Specific Information

- Only left-hand drive vehicles with no conversion can be imported.
- Only persons working for a joint venture or a wholly-owned foreign enterprise can import motor vehicles.
- Automobiles manufactured prior to January 1, 2005, must comply with Euro IV standards and undergo environmental and mechanical inspections.
- The import of motor vehicles, including automobiles, is not recommended for non-diplomatic shipments.

## PETS

### Documents Required

- Vaccination Record
- Veterinary Health Certificate

**Note:** *The documentation for household goods and personal effects also applies to the importation of pets.*

### Specific Information

- Animals are subject to in-house quarantine upon arrival.
- Animals are subject to examination by an inspector at the owner's residence in China within 30 days following arrival.
- A small fee is required for the examination of pets by an inspector.

## RESTRICTED / DUTIABLE ITEMS

- CDs, VCDs, DVDs, LDs, and videotapes may total no more than 100 items to import duty free; items are subject to inspection and will be returned approximately 4 weeks after clearance is completed. More than 20 pieces is dutiable for returning Chinese citizens. These items are subject to a Customs inspection of approximately 2-3 weeks.
- Personal computers with encryption capabilities require an approval of installed software prior to importation. Personal computers with simple password software, such as Microsoft products, contained in the household goods and personal effects shipment is generally acceptable.
- Antiques of Asian origin should be registered to avoid issues upon re-export in the future due to the strict regulations on Chinese Customs regarding the export of antiques.
- Milk powder and manufactured meat cannot be included in air shipments.

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- Electrical appliances (duties of 20%)
- Books (a letter of explanation must be included and detail where the books were purchased, the total number, the book titles and value of each, the subject matter etc., e.g., work, study. More than 10 books are dutiable (returning Chinese).
- Food products must be dry goods, original canned or vacuum packed, in sealed packaging only. One small carton of food items may be included in air shipments and two or three small cartons for sea shipments. Food products are subject to duties of approximately 10% of the declared value. Customs reserves the right to levy higher duties and taxes on quantities deemed commercial.
- Duty rates apply to the items listed as follows:
  - Golf clubs 30%
  - Furniture 10%
  - Lamps 10%

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Firearms and ammunition
- Drugs
- Perishable food items (items containing the essence or extract from eggs are subject to confiscation or destruction)
- Pornographic materials
- Politically subversive materials
- Medicines and other items from epidemic stricken areas
- POE / AOE Chengdu: billiard and pool tables
- Fax / photocopy machines
- Furniture (returning Chinese)
- Grand and baby grand pianos (contact agent for specific information)
- Alcohol (Beijing)

## CONSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

**Recommended:** Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air / sea shipments.

**IAM Note:** *Customs regulations can change at any time with or without notice. This document is provided as a guide and for information only. While IAM has exercised reasonable care in publishing this document, IAM makes no representation, either expressed or implied, as to its accuracy or applicability.*

### Helpful Website(s):

<http://www.state.gov/p/eap/ci/ch>

<http://us.china-embassy.org/eng>