



## *Importing Personal Property Into Bangladesh*

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

#### **Customs Regulations:**

The client must be in Bangladesh at the time of Customs clearance. All shipments are subject to inspection. The shipment must be booked within 60 days of arrival into Bangladesh. Household goods must arrive within six (6) months of customer's arrival into Bangladesh.

Non-privileged foreigners and dual citizens are not entitled to Transfer of Residence Benefits, thus are subject to duties and taxes.

**Returning nationals** must have lived abroad a minimum of 2 years to be eligible for duty free status of household items. Approved Transfer of Residence allows for maximum tax benefit for non-privileged Bangladeshi nationals.

**Notes:** Stationary, home office furniture & equipment are considered commercial goods. Do not mix commercial goods with personal effects and household goods. Shipments must be adequately waterproofed at origin to withstand severe monsoon conditions.

Client's name on ALL packages & documents must be the same as shown on Passport. The name must appear in the "Consignee's" column as proof of ownership. Waybills must clearly state "Used household goods and personal effects."

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Passport – original, for client and all family members ✓ Visa – obtained prior to arrival, must be in a current passport
- ✓ Transfer of Residence Form – (Bangladeshi Nationals) endorsed by Customs Authority
- ✓ Work Permit – obtained from the Board of Investment in Bangladesh
- ✓ Certificate of Employment/Appointment Letter
- ✓ Letter of Authority – allowing Destination Agent to clear shipment
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – three original sets - OBL copies are not accepted ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – Electrical items must have a separate list: include brand, model & serial number
- ✓ Pack List – quantity of each item must be stated
- ✓ Baggage Declaration – at arrival airport in Dhaka on same day or within 21 days of arrival

### **Diplomat and Privileged Status:**

**Diplomat** status must be assigned by the diplomatic mission to be granted tax & duty free status.

**Privileged** status includes employees of the UN, some NGO's, or foreign companies on government contracts. "Privilege" status must be noted in the Pass Book.

NOTE: The client's employer must apply for the Pass Book when the client arrives into Bangladesh. Application process takes 25 – 30 days. The Pass Book must be issued in order for the shipment to be cleared duty-free. It is advised to hold the shipment at origin until the client receives the Pass Book. Household goods should not arrive prior to the owner's arrival & within 6 months after arrival.

### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Passport - original
- ✓ Exemption Certificate (Diplomat) - obtained from Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka; requires submission of original AWB/BL, list of items w/values, inventory, vessel name w/BL number & date or flight number & date w/AWB
- ✓ Customs Pass Book – (Privileged) issued by National Board of Revenue (NBR) Dhaka office
- ✓ Baggage Declaration Form - (Privileged)
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – exact number of each item must be stated
- ✓ Pack List
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill - three original sets, OBL copies are not accepted; AWB copies must be endorsed by Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### **RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS**

- ✓ Hunting rifles are allowed with prior declaration & gun license from Bangladeshi Government
- ✓ Antiques, art effects, painting, rugs, silver & gold should be declared upon arrival for ease of re-export: Items must be sent with household goods: required documentation:
  - Letter of Authorization
  - Purchase receipt
  - Country of origin
  - Inventory List & Baggage Declaration

\* Commercial goods including stationary, office furniture & machinery can not be mixed with household goods and personal effects. The importation of commercial cargo including the above mentioned articles is subject to a separate process. Inclusion will substantially delay clearance of personal effects and goods.

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Alcohol of any kind without a permit- permit obtained from the Director General of Narcotic Control
- ✓ Tobacco
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material, anti- Islamic literature, other religious materials ✓ Firearms – Must acquire an import from the Ministry of Commerce & Ministry of Home Affairs prior to export at origin to be allowed entry
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and other weapons ✓ Gold bullion, gambling instruments & paraphernalia
- ✓ Construction material in commercial quantity

Most pets including dogs, cats and birds can be brought into Bangladesh with no quarantine period required. The Vaccination and Health certificates must be issued from a government agency in origin country and taken to a licensed veterinarian to be filled out. The letter of “No Objection” and Import Permit must be in place prior to receiving the pet (s) in Bangladesh. Duty is applicable based on status.

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated no more than 7 days prior to arrival
- ✓Health Certificate - dated no more than 7 days prior to arrival
- ✓Letter of “No Objection” – obtained from the Bangladesh government
- ✓Import Permit – obtained prior to arrival, after approval of the Health & Vaccination Certificates

Vehicles must be right-hand drive and less than 3 years old to be allowed importation.

Those with Diplomat and Privileged status may import one vehicle duty-free. All other foreigners and returning Bangladesh nationals may import one vehicle but are subject to duty and advance trade VAT based on assessed value. The process takes at least 30 days and port storage will be incurred during that time.

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓Passport (original) & Work Permit (copy)
- ✓Certificate of Title and Registration &
- ✓Purchase Invoice (new vehicle) – original, engine capacity must be stated
- ✓Registration, de- registration or invoice – (use vehicle) to determine age
- ✓Country of Origin Certificate
- ✓B/L (original) ✓Car Condition Report
- ✓Letter of Authorization
- ✓Import Permit - obtained from Chief Controller, Import and Export for foreigners

#### **NOTES:**

**Entry & Exit Requirements:** Bangladeshi-Americans and their immediate family members are eligible for a “No Visa Required for Travel to Bangladesh” seal, which can be issued by the nearest Bangladeshi Embassy or Consulate. This endorsement allows travelers multiple entries into Bangladesh with no restriction on duration of stay, for the validity of the bearer's passport. As with visas, “No Visa Required” seals are no longer valid in expired passports, and all foreign nationals are required to obtain a seal in a valid passport prior to entering or departing Bangladesh. *A valid visa in an expired or canceled U.S. passport is not acceptable to the Bangladeshi authorities; if you are issued a new U.S. passport, you will need a new visa.*

**Visa rules:** introduced in October 2006, require foreign nationals who come to Bangladesh to work or for long-term visits to have the appropriate work permits and clearances on arrival. There are increased financial penalties for overstaying visas. Additionally, those who overstay for more than 90 days face the possibility of being charged with violating the Foreigners Act of 1946. For further information on these rules, please check with the nearest Bangladeshi Embassy or Consulate (U.S. addresses listed below) before traveling, or visit the [Bangladeshi Immigration Police web site](#), which provides further details on rules

relating to foreigner registration.

Visas to Bangladesh which are expiring may be extended at the Directorate of Immigration and Passport, located at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, and Dhaka. Numbers are (880-2) 913-1891 and 913-4011.

If intending to work for a non-governmental organization (NGO) in Bangladesh, ensure that your sponsor has provided up-to-date advice on the kind of visa you must obtain before arrival. It is difficult and time-consuming to change immigration status after arrival in Bangladesh.

**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.

**Health: Restricted Status:** The Government of Bangladesh has no written policy regarding the entry of individuals with HIV/AIDS. However, according to anecdotal reports, some HIV/AIDS entry restrictions may exist for visitors to and foreign residents of Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh has informed the Embassy that a health officer or immigration officer at the airport who has concerns about an individual's possible HIV/AIDS status will make a case-specific determination regarding that individual's entry. Cholera vaccination certificate is no longer a condition of entry to Bangladesh. However, cholera is a serious risk in this country and precautions are essential. Vaccination against typhoid is advised. Malaria risk exists throughout the year in the whole country with the exception of Dhaka City. The recommended prophylaxis is likely to be mefloquine, doxycycline or atovaquone/proguanil. Other risks: Dengue fever, visceral leishmaniasis, TB and hepatitis A, B and E are present. Japanese encephalitis also occurs. Seek the advice of your physician before relocation for the latest vaccination recommendations.

**Port Clearance** – Chittagong seaport has a 100% rate of physically inspecting shipments taking approximately 8-12 days to clear. ICD Dhaka (haulage port) has a rate of physically inspecting 15-20% of shipments taking 4-5 days to clear.

**Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:** As of this posting Bangladesh does not require ISPM15 for wood packaging material (WPM).

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

CarryLink Packers & Shippers Ltd – [www.carrylink.com](http://www.carrylink.com) Email- [carrylink@dhaka.net](mailto:carrylink@dhaka.net)

Embassy of Bangladesh: <http://www.bdembassyusa.org/>

Bangladesh Immigration Police: <http://www.immi.gov.bd/>

Bangladesh Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock: <http://www.dls.gov.bd/index.html>

Department of State: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1011.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1011.html)

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

USDA: [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)

International Association of Movers

FIDI Global Alliance

**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.**