



## *Importing Personal Property Into Dominican Republic*

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

#### **Customs Regulations:**

Client must be present for Customs clearance to provide Customs Declaration, passport and other documentation showing intent to reside in the Dominican Republic and proving 2 years abroad. Subject to physical examination by Customs Authority, Port Security and narcotics officer at port of entry. Once inspection is approved one can apply to the Department of Exoneration for clearance of the goods. Used household goods and personal effects are duty free provided goods have been owned and used by the customer for a minimum of two years. Returning Dominican citizens may be allowed a “one time exoneration” if they have lived abroad for a minimum of 2 years and have not visited the country for more than 180 accumulative days during the time abroad.

Only one shipment of household goods is allowed duty-free exemption. Duties and taxes are incurred on all new items.

All shipments without exception must pay demurrage charges after 14 days of the arrival of the shipment if shipment is not cleared within that time. Demurrage charges are approximately \$20.00USD per day.

**\*\* All required documents must be originals\*\***

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓Passport - for each family member, notarized by Dominican Consulate at origin
- ✓Residence Visa & Dominican Residence Card – valid for 1 year
- ✓Work Permit/Work Contract
- ✓Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original ✓Comprehensive Inventory – in Spanish or English ✓Marriage Certificate/Divorce Certificate – if applicable ✓Birth Certificates - for each child if applicable ✓Customs Bond & Bank Guarantee or Affidavit ✓Personal bank account in Dominican Republic
- ✓Lease or rental contract (legalized), proof of water & electrical service

### **Returning Dominicans:**

- ✓ Valid passport
- ✓ Proof of Residence abroad for two years or more

### **Diplomat Status:**

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted tax and duty free entry of their personal effects and household items either new or used provided the origin Embassy or Consulate requests the appropriate exemptions through the Dominican Ministry of External Affairs.

### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise & Passport - copy
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory – in Spanish or English

## **RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS**

- ✓ Medication & narcotics – require a physician's prescription
- ✓ Computers & machinery
- ✓ Appliances/Electronics – incur duty if new or if there are duplicates either new or used
- ✓ New items & furniture - require invoices/receipts, subject to duties
- ✓ Antiques, Works of Art, Jewelry, Coins & Precious Metals – duty free if loaded with house hold goods shipment, no additional documentation is required
- ✓ Plants – require Phytosanitary Certificate at origin & Dominican Agriculture permit obtained after customers arrival. Must be sent separately or risk being destroyed by Customs authorities if plants are found in household goods shipment
  
- ✓ **Firearms - (personal hand guns, hunting guns) require a permit from the Dominican military in advance of the shipment. Any gun found in the shipment without this permit or any other type of firearm or weaponry will cause the entire shipment to be seized and the customer will be arrested.**
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and weapons & dangerous goods
- ✓ Non-prescribed narcotics & illegal drugs of any kind – if found the entire shipment is subject to confiscation
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material



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Cats and dogs are allowed duty free entry and are not subject to quarantine. Other animals require a permit issued by "Dirección de Ganadería, Secretaría de Estado de Agricultura" (Director of Cattle Breeding, State Secretary of Agriculture) at Santo Domingo. Permit specifies period of quarantine if applicable (quarantine facilities only available at SDQ). Non-compliance with regulations for pets will result in the destruction or deportation of animals to country of origin at passenger's expense.

Birds have a quarantine period of 10 days.

### **Required Documents:**

- ✓Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies & parvovirus, dated 30 days -11 months
- ✓Health Certificate - issued within 15 days prior to arrival, by a licensed Veterinarian stating animals are in good health and coming from an area free from serious diseases during the last 3 months prior to arrival

Client must be present for Customs clearance. Only one vehicle allowed per person. Vehicle must be in owner's possession for at least one year. Dominican citizens importing a vehicle must have proof of living abroad for a minimum of 2 years. Engine size is limited to no larger than 2000cc and a maximum of six cylinders. “Luxury” vehicles are not allowed. Motorcycles are subject to full payment of duties. Vehicles are allowed a partial exemption of duties if owned for more than 2 years.

### **Required Documents:**

- ✓Certificate of Title and Registration - original
- ✓Commercial/Purchase Invoice – original & driver's license, & license plate
- ✓Residence Visa
- ✓Dominican Consular invoice – original, stamped at nearest Dominican Consulate

### **NOTES:**

**Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:** The Dominican Republic has adopted ISPM15 regulations for wood packaging material (WPM).

**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.

U.S. citizens considering overland travel between the Dominican Republic and Haiti should first consult the [Country Specific Information Sheet](#) and the Travel Warning for Haiti as well as the Warden Information page of the Internet site of the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince for information about travel conditions in Haiti. Santo Domingo and the majority of tourist destinations within the Dominican Republic are located several hours from the Haitian border, and recent events in Haiti have generally not directly affected these areas. The U.S. Embassy cautions its staff to use extreme caution while in Haiti.

Other than official business, travel to Haiti for U.S. Embassy personnel is discouraged.

American citizens should be aware that foreigners are often considered attractive targets for criminal activity, and should maintain a low profile to avoid becoming victims of violence or crime. In dealing with local police, U.S. citizens should be aware that the standard of professionalism might vary. Police attempts to solicit bribes have been reported, as have incidents of police using excessive force.

### **Health:**



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Dengue is endemic to the Dominican Republic; malaria risk is on the rise. Vaccination against typhoid and polio is recommended. Hepatitis A and B may occur, discuss with your physician regarding all vaccinations.

**Food & Drink:** All water should be considered contaminated and must be sterilized prior to use or consumption. Only eat well cooked meats, and all fruits should be peeled and vegetables cooked.

**Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:** The Dominican Republic imposes ISPM15 regulations for wood packaging material (WPM). Goods will be returned to origin if WPM guidelines are not used.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

Atlantic & Asoc. Worldwide Movers, S.R.L: Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

FIDI Global Alliance

Transworld Moving SA

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

Department of State: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1103.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1103.html)

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

IATA Travel Centre

**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.**