



Importing Personal Property Into Burma (Myanmar)

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

The client must be present at Customs clearance. Diplomats, foreigners with approved work visas or returning nationals may import household goods duty free. Only one air and one ocean shipment is allowed duty free entry. All foreigners with the exception of diplomats must pay duty on consumable items. All goods imported duty free by a foreigner must be re-exported upon departure.

All communications equipment i.e. satellite dishes, walkie-talkies, short wave radios, fax machines and switch boards require permits for each item individually through the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication PRIOR TO ARRIVAL. Otherwise they are considered "Prohibited".

All documents and boxes must be labeled with the client's name as it appears on the passport. Moving companies may not act on behalf of the client in front of the Ministry.

LCL shipments can take up to 3 weeks from time of arrival until presented to Myanmar Port Authority for Customs clearance. Clearance can take up to a week for non-diplomatic shipments.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - including photo page and Visa entry page
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill (express B/L is acceptable)
- ✓ Airline ticket - copy
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory List in English – please fax in advance to the service agent
- ✓ Work Permit – copy, client's employer must apply in advance for the permit.
- ✓ Employment Letter – Official letter from employer confirming his/her employment status.

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats are granted duty free entry of one air shipment and one sea shipment.

Clearance can take up to 3 weeks for those with Diplomat status.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Letter from Foreign Ministry of Foreign Affairs verifying status
- ✓ Passport
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory list in English

Returning Nationals Returning nationals may import **Required**

Documents:

- ✓ Myanmar NRC Card – copy,
- ✓ Passport – copy, including Entry Stamp and airport & copy of return airline ticket
- ✓ Income Tax Slips – obtained from Myanmar Embassy
- ✓ Official Letter from organization/employer confirming position and length of stay

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

New electronics and appliances are subject to duties and taxes.

- ✓ Antiques - must be declared to the Ministry of Archeology and the Ministry of Information upon importation. Photographs of items are encouraged to lessen complications at time of re-export
- ✓ CD's, DVD's, VCD's Video and Audio tapes may be censored by the Ministry of Information. A fee of approximately \$5.00 per disc/tape is levied by the Ministry. All discs/tapes will be checked upon arrival
- ✓ Alcohol – 5 bottles max is allowed in personal effects
- ✓ Electronics - MUST be on a separate list and include make, model, country of origin, serial number, voltage/amperes etc.
- ✓ Appliances

The Burmese government has never provided a complete list of prohibited import items. For information on restricted items for import into Burma and specific customs' requirements, please contact the nearest Burmese embassy or your service agent for questions or concerns.

- ✓ Controlled Chemicals/Narcotics, Psychotropic Substances
- ✓ Pornography, Politically Sensitive Material, Videos & Software and Gambling Equipment
- ✓ Reproductions of Copyright Materials and Videos
- ✓ Religious Materials & Icons
- ✓ Counterfeit Goods, Currency, Gems & Ivory
- ✓ Weapons, Swords, Firearms including Air guns, and Ammunitions
- ✓ Communications equipment – phones, satellite dishes, receivers, fax machines, walkie-talkies, short wave radios etc.: inclusion of these items results in confiscation and a fine

Most pets including cats, dogs and birds can be imported without quarantine. Import requirements may change so check with your service agent prior to shipping.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – (copy) including rabies
- ✓ Health Certificate – Must not be more than 7 days old

Only clients with Diplomats status may import a vehicle duty free. Vehicle must be left hand drive. Private individuals are prohibited from importing a vehicle. Consult with your service agent before consigning your vehicle.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Copy of Certificate of Title and Registration
- ✓ Import Permit
- ✓ Proof of ownership– Such as original purchase invoice, insurance certificate, etc.

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: In Burma, you will be required to show your passport with a valid visa at all airports, train stations, and hotels. Security checkpoints are common outside of tourist areas. While in Burma, you should carry your U.S. passport or a photocopy of passport data and visa pages at all times so that if you are questioned by Burmese officials, you will have proof of your U.S. citizenship readily available.

Foreigner Travel within Burma: Burmese authorities require that hotels and guesthouses furnish information about the identities and activities of their foreign guests. Burmese who interact with foreigners may be compelled to report on those interactions to Burmese authorities. Security personnel may at times place foreign visitors under surveillance, and you should assume your actions, such as meeting with Burmese citizens, particularly in public spaces like hotel lobbies, rooms, and restaurants, are being monitored. You should assume that telephones (including cell phones), internet use, and fax machines are monitored. Additionally, the Burmese government restricts access to some areas of the country on an ad-hoc basis, stating it cannot guarantee the safety of foreigners. If you plan to travel in Burma, check with Burmese tourism authorities whether travel to specific destinations is permitted. Even if the Burmese authorities allow travel to specific destinations in Burma, you may not be safe traveling in those areas.

Computers, Internet, and Email: The Burmese government carefully controls and monitors all internet use in Burma and restricts internet access through software-based censorship.

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. Conflicts between the government and various ethnic minority groups continue in a number of border regions in Burma, and anti-personnel landmines in some border areas pose an additional danger. The governments of Burma and Thailand have closed the border between the two nations on short notice. Exercise caution in public places at all times. Be alert to your surroundings and the presence of unattended packages or bags or suspicious objects/activity in public areas. Avoid crowded public places, such as large public gatherings, demonstrations, and any areas cordoned off by security forces. While in Burma, you should closely follow media reports and public information about the security situation in Burma. Given the Government of Burma's restrictions on travel by U.S. diplomats, U.S. Government assistance to U.S. citizens affected by incidents in remote areas of Burma may be difficult.

Crime: Crime rates in Burma, especially toward foreigners, are lower than those of many other countries in the region. There is no equivalent number to the “911” emergency line in Burma. If you or someone you know becomes the victim of a crime, you should contact the local police and the U.S. Embassy. **Currency:** Burmese banks and merchants still rarely accept travelers' checks or credit cards. With the recent lifting of



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U.S. sanctions in financial services, Burmese banks are only just beginning to offer ATM and money transfer services. In January 2013 Western Union introduced money transfer services in seven Burmese banks. The seven Burmese banks involved in the partnership are Kanbawza Bank, First Private Bank, Myanmar Oriental Bank, Cooperative Bank, United Amara Bank, Myanmar Apex Bank, and the Myanmar Livestock and Fisheries Development Bank. Although moneychangers sometimes approach travelers with an offer to change dollars into Burmese kyat at the market rate, it is illegal to exchange currency except at authorized locations

Health: Most medical facilities in Burma are inadequate for even routine medical care. There are very few medical personnel in Burma who are trained to U.S. standards. In an emergency, you would likely need to be medically evacuated to a hospital outside Burma. Medical evacuation from Burma is expensive and is transacted in cash. **One is strongly urged to secure medical evacuation insurance before coming to Burma.** Most pharmaceuticals on sale in Burma have been smuggled into the country, and many are counterfeit or adulterated. Travelers should consider Burmese pharmaceuticals generally unsafe to use and should accordingly bring adequate supplies of their medications for the duration of their stay in Burma. All travelers are advised to bring a complete and detailed list of regularly used medicine, and dosages, in case of an emergency. HIV/AIDS is widespread among high-risk populations, such as prostitutes and illegal drug users. Malaria, dengue fever, tuberculosis, hepatitis, and other infectious diseases are endemic in many parts of the country.

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: As of this posting Burma does not impose ISPM15 regulations for wood packaging material (WPM).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Embassy of Myanmar: http://www.mewashingtondc.com/home_en.php

Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1077.html

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

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

JVK International Movers: Yangon, Myanmar

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.