



## *Importing Personal Property Into New Zealand*

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

#### **Customs Regulations:**

Client **MUST** be in the country at the time of Customs clearance, otherwise duty and tax will be charged on the shipment and non-refundable even if all other criteria are met.

Used household goods and personal effects including furniture and appliances are GST and duty-free provided the goods are for their own personal use; will not be sold, lent, given as gifts or exchanged.

Fumigation of shipment may be required; charges for this service will be applied to the client's account. **New Ruling Effective 1 June 2015:** All goods being shipped via Air or Ocean to New Zealand must be unpacked at a warehouse approved by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). Goods will be inspected for biosecurity risks at the warehouse. Sole-use full container load shipments that were previously delivered directly from port to residence will no longer be allowed. Upon clearance from an MPI inspector goods can be delivered to the residence.

Any items contaminated with soil or containing wood boring insects/worms will be cleaned and/or fumigated at the client's expense. Consignments containing alcohol, tobacco, medicines/prescription drugs may be delayed, incur additional costs and be subject to a physical inspection.

**Returning New Zealanders:** Must have resided outside of New Zealand for 21 consecutive months. Their goods must be owned used abroad to be considered GST and duty-free.

Goods from deceased relatives are duty-free provided a copy of the Death Certificate and will is presented. Goods sent to a person in New Zealand as a gift will be admitted GST and duty-free provided the value does not exceed \$110.00NZ

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Passport – certified copy of biographical page
- ✓ Residence Visa/Permit – valid for 12 months minimum, must be issued before shipment arrives
- ✓ Work Visa/Skilled Migrant/ Long Term Business Visa - valid for 12 months minimum ✓ Visitors Visa/Permit – issued for 3 year minimum
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, (express B/L is acceptable)
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory –stating contents of each carton in detail. “Misc” and PBO (packed by owner) are unacceptable and will draw the shipment to be fully inspected by Customs officials.  
New items must have receipts
- ✓ Unaccompanied Personal Baggage Declaration (MAF) – completed upon arrival in New Zealand
- ✓ Supplemental Declaration Form – if applicable for personal effects
- ✓ Proof of Transfer of Funds to New Zealand bank
- ✓ Certificates of Clearance of Goods – obtained by Ministry of Primary Industry
- ✓ CITES Permit - if applicable
- ✓ Copies of Prescriptions

### **Diplomat Status:**

Foreign diplomats are granted duty free entry

### **Required Documents:**

- ✓Diplomatic Franchise
- ✓Passport copy
- ✓Comprehensive inventory list in English

Restricted items are subject to tax and duty at varying per centages client obtaining an import permit, license or proper certification. Subject to inspection, possible cleaning/fumigation at client's expense. Items are subject to discretion by Customs & MPI to be seized, returned to origin or destroyed at the client's expense.

- ✓Firearms - Require a New Zealand Firearms License (can take up to 6 months to acquire) once this is obtained an Import Permit is issued by the New Zealand Police Department, must be packed separately, listed individually on the inventory and loaded near the container door for easy access. If either the license or permit has been declined when the firearms arrive they will be liable to seizure and destruction. More information can be found at [www.police.govt.nz/service/firearms](http://www.police.govt.nz/service/firearms)
- ✓Alcohol and tobacco products– are subject to tax and duty - must be part of the HHG contents or part of a collector's cellar
- ✓Medication must have the physicians prescription and be in original containers
- ✓New items– are subject to tax and duty
- ✓Jewelry, cosmetics, & perfume
- ✓Handbags, briefcases, baby strollers, bed linens, blankets, curtains, sleeping bags
- ✓China, cookware, cutlery, lamps & toys
- ✓Radio transmitting equipment
- ✓Antiques - Require a B.A.D.A Certificate of Authenticity from an approved Antique dealer and must be over 100 years old, not for resale and part of one's personal effects. If recently purchased, (owned/ used less than 12 months) 12.5% GST is applicable & must have a commercial invoice.
- ✓Furs, skins, ivory, tusks, clam, turtle & tortoise shells, (allowed with CITES certificate)
- ✓Taxidermy of animals or reptiles & hunting trophies,
- ✓Bamboo, cane, rattan, basket ware and mats, wood carvings, shields, masks etc
- ✓Seeds, pine cones, potpourri
- ✓Saddles, riding equipment, camping gear, wet suits, farm equipment, and footwear with spikes
- ✓Inheritance – Death Certificate copy or Attorney's letter, copy of will or certified copy of extract showing beneficiary and his/her legacy

If any of the prohibited items below are found in the consignment they will be destroyed at the client's expense. In some accounts court action may follow.

- ✓ Controlled drugs – including HGH, steroids & narcotics unless prescribed; all illegal drugs
- ✓ Drug paraphernalia
- ✓ Weapons - Semi-automatic Firearms, military type firearms and other weapons such as knives, knuckledusters bayonets, swords etc are not allowed, ammunitions regardless of approval to import a firearm
- ✓ Pornographic or obscene materials that promote violence, incite/instruct crime - subject to seizure
- ✓ Goods designed with the intent to facilitate crimes
- ✓ Canned meat, spices, honey, dairy and egg products or bee keeping equipment
- ✓ Plants, including cuttings and potted plants, straw for crafts or packaging

Prohibition and restriction on are strictly enforced. Some of the dog breeds prohibited are the American Pit Bull, Brazilian Fila, Dogo Argentino and Japanese Tosa. Depending on the type of animal and country of origin these restrictions may vary. Consult with your Destination Agent regarding the restrictions. Details can be found on the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries at [www.maf.govt.nz](http://www.maf.govt.nz)

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Vaccination Record - including rabies certificate
- ✓ Health Certificate – issued by a licensed Veterinarian

Importation of motor vehicles into New Zealand is strictly controlled however, one can import a vehicle duty and tax-free provided that the client is taking up permanent residence for the first time and have owned and used the vehicle for a minimum of one year prior to departure to New Zealand.

Client must attend Customs clearance interview. You will be asked to sign a **Deed of Undertaking** to confirm the vehicle is for your own use and that it will not be sold for a period of two years.

Duty and GST may be applicable on other vehicles such as motor homes.

Vehicles entering New Zealand must comply with Ministry of Transport Vehicle Standard regulations.

Upon arrival, the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry inspects all vehicles to ensure that they have been cleaned to an appropriate standard. If the vehicle is not up to the standards they will arrange to have it steam cleaned at the owner's expense.

See the New Zealand Customs Service website for further details.

For a list of New Zealand new vehicle distributors refer to: [www.itsa.govt.nz/importing/mia-list.html](http://www.itsa.govt.nz/importing/mia-list.html)

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓Passport – copy
- ✓Residence Visa/Permit, Returning New Zealander's Visa or Permit
- ✓Certificate of Title and Registration
- ✓Import Permit- From the Ministry of External Affairs must be approved before importation
- ✓Commercial Invoice and maintenance receipts to prove length of ownership
- ✓Insurance Policy & log book showing length of ownership if vehicle is used
- ✓Statement of Compliance - obtained from the manufacturer in origin country
- ✓Client Code Form
- ✓Supplier Code Form
- ✓Freight and insurance costs for the vehicle

#### NOTES:

**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:** Quality medical care is widely available, but waiting lists exist for certain types of treatment. Doctors and hospitals often expect immediate cash payment for health services. Every new building and major reconstruction in New Zealand must provide "reasonable and adequate" access for people with disabilities, but be aware that most buildings pre-date this requirement. Most facilities have wheelchair access. Some buses are equipped to cater to the disabled, but most public transport is not.

**Prohibited Items:** Regulations on items on the "Prohibited Section" are strictly enforced. If any items are found in the consignment they can be destroyed at the owner's expense. In some cases legal action could follow.

**Imports:** There are strict regulations regarding what can be imported. If one does not declare items that are subject to quarantine you can face fines up to 80,000USD and/or 5 years in prison.

**Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: Treated shipments MUST have the ISPM 15 mark.**

Treatment certificates will not be accepted for wood packing material that is treated in compliance with ISPM 15 but not marked as specified in ISPM 15. Shipments not meeting both the treatment and labeling requirements of ISPM 15 will be considered "untreated." For more details refer to [www.maf.govt.nz](http://www.maf.govt.nz)

#### Treatment Certificate Requirements

All certifications must be original, free of alterations and erasures, and printed in English. Treatment Certificates must contain the following information:

- A full description of the consignment and wood component •  
All relevant identification marks and brands
- The number and/or volume of items treated
- The container number (where applicable)



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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

Embassy of New Zealand: <http://www.nzembassy.com/usa-washington>

Department of State: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country/new-zealand.html>

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

World Moving and Storage Ltd, Auckland, New Zealand: [www.worldmoving.co.nz](http://www.worldmoving.co.nz)

New Zealand Customs Service: [www.customs.govt.nz](http://www.customs.govt.nz)

APHIS: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plants/plant\\_exports/wpm/country/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_exports/wpm/country/index.shtml)

Household Customs: <http://customsinformation.org>

**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.**