



## *Importing Personal Property Into St. Lucia*

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

#### **Customs Regulations:**

Used household goods and personal effects are duty free provided goods have been owned and used by the customer for a minimum of one year. All new items will be levied a tax. The goods must be imported within three months before or after taking up residence. Items can not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of during stay. Items that do not qualify will attract import duty, consumption tax, excise tax service charge and or environmental levy.

**Returning Nationals** must have resided abroad for a minimum of 10 years to be allowed tax free exemptions on used and new personal and household goods. This concession is only allowed one time for returning nationals. Returning Nationals will be required to undertake an interview with customs Authority. A security deposit equivalent to the amount of Import Duties is held pending the examination of the household goods.

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓Passport - original
- ✓Residence Permit or Work Permit
- ✓Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, Express Release not allowed
- ✓Comprehensive Valued Inventory – dated & signed by owner ✓Pack list
- ✓Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

#### **Diplomat Status:**

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted tax and duty free entry of their personal effects and household goods. All documents must arrive to the Destination Agent 15 days prior to arrival to obtain free entry from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓Diplomatic Franchise
- ✓Passport - original
- ✓Comprehensive inventory – dated & signed by owner, include quantities if items
- ✓Pack List
- ✓Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

## RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Appliances/Electronics – must have invoices/receipts
- ✓ Prescription medications – require a health certificate
- ✓ Firearms & ammunition- requires a permit from Police Commissioner; must provide 2 Passport photos, criminal record forms and medical certificate
- ✓ New items – (less than 6 months) must have invoices/receipts
- ✓ Tobacco – 200 cigarettes or 250 grams of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty
- ✓ Tools of Trade – free of Import & Consumption taxes only

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind and coordinating paraphernalia
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions knives, air guns and any other weapons unless otherwise approved
- ✓ Counterfeit items of any kind
- ✓ Uncertified food items
- ✓ Matches with white or yellow phosphorous
- ✓ All items associated with the occult, black magic and witchcraft
- ✓ Shaving brushes made in or exported from Japan
- ✓ Condoms made by Monkok Latix of South Korea
- ✓ Furs, skins, tusks and any endangered animals or any products there of as outlined by CITES

Animals that arrive without all requirements will be destroyed. Contact the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries – Dept. of Livestock Services for more detailed instructions & restrictions.

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, less than 6 months prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - by a Veterinarian at origin
- ✓ Proof of Microchip
- ✓ Import Permit – obtained prior to departure

The OBL must show chassis & engine numbers, cubic capacity, year of manufacture, brand and model.

**Returning Nationals** can import one new or used vehicle with a CIF value not exceed 30,000USD to be imported free of duty and taxes. Vehicles valued over this amount will attract full duties and taxes.

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original

- ✓Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓Drivers License & International Insurance Policy (green card)
- ✓Circulation Permit
- ✓OBL

**NOTES:**

**Entry & Exit Requirements:** The U.S. Department of State is unaware of any HIV/AIDS entry restrictions for visitors to or foreign residents of Saint Lucia. Verify this information with the St. Lucian Embassy before travel. One should carry a copy of their passport with them at all times. One can be taken in for questioning if unable to present their passport.

**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.

**Crime:** Violent crime is on the rise and often connected to narcotics trafficking. Tourists are often targets of petty crime such as purse snatching. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in St. Lucia are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines

**Special Circumstances:** The U.S. does not operate an embassy on St. Lucia. If you are in need of consular services, the nearest embassy is in Bridgetown, Barbados.

**Health:** Individuals with disabilities will find accessibility and accommodations very different from the U.S. There is no legal requirement in St. Lucia mandating access to buildings for persons with disabilities. Buses and taxis do not have accommodations for the disabled. Sidewalks (if they exist) are very uneven and will only occasionally have ramps at intersections. Pedestrian crossings are also very infrequent. In general, restaurants, hotels and residential buildings have stairs at the entrance without wheelchair ramps, except perhaps major hotels and retail areas.

Serious medical problems requiring hospitalization and/or medical evacuation to the United States can cost thousands of dollars. Doctors and hospitals often expect immediate cash payment for health services.

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



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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

Hunte's International Packing & Storage: Castries, St Lucia, West Indies

Embassy of St. Lucia: <http://www.stlucia.gov.lc/>

Department of State: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1027.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1027.html)

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

St. Lucia Customs & Excise: <http://www.customs.gov.lc/travellers.php#declarations>

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

**The information presented herein is based on customs data available at the time of publishing 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.**