



## *Importing Personal Property Into Chile*

### **HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS**

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

##### **Customs Regulations:**

Client must be in Chile at the time of Customs clearance. Customs Authority physically inspects most shipments. Such inspections incur a cost and delay clearance up to one day. The Agricultural Office (SAG) inspects all household goods shipments into Chile. If items which are expressly forbidden are found, the offender is placed at the disposal of the Customs Tribunal. This authority can order the confiscation of such items, the levying of fines, and/or arrest. All goods that are subject to tax and duty will pay a rate of approximately 28% over the CIF value.

**Foreigners** with a temporary Residence visa or a Work visa for at least one year may import household goods and personal effects up to 5000.00USD tax and duty free. Overage amount over 5,000 incurs tax and duty at the non-exempted rates. This applies to the total imported whether it is one shipment or multiple. Without either the Residence or Work visa household goods are assessed 6% duty over CIF value plus a VAT of 19% over CIF. The Customs valuation of household goods considers depreciation for use and should be comparable to the value of similar articles in the country of origin. The fee structure strictly applies to the used goods imported. Importation must be done within 120 days.

**Returning nationals** are allowed duty and tax exemption based on time abroad. Exemption is up to 500.00USD for 6-12 continuous months abroad, 3000.00 for 1-5 years abroad so long as return visits to Chile do not exceed 30 days per year and 5000.00 for stays over 5 years, with no more than 60 days per year of time outside of host country. Importations under these exemptions are subject to a 1% surcharge on CIF value. The re-importation of goods previously exported from Chile is exempt from tax & duties so long as corresponding export documents are included: export declaration, pack list and BL.

Exemption benefits shall not be extended to the same beneficiary again until 3 years have passed from the importation date of the previous entry.

**Re-Importation of Household Goods** whether from a returning citizen or foreigner returning to Chile can re-import the original goods with an exemption from tax and duties. To assure they are the same goods the below documents are to be presented. Re-importation is required to be cleared through Customs by a Customs Broker, without exceptions.

##### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ BL/AWL/CRT – showing the same exported goods
- ✓ Export Declaration
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory

### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Passport – copy, including photo page, last entry into Chile stamped in the Passport
- ✓ Residence Visa – copy, 1 year minimum or visa subject to employment confirmation
- ✓ Work Visa – copy, 1 year minimum, Application is acceptable, must be stamped indicating status
- ✓ BL/AWL/CRT – originals, w/number of pieces/boxes & weight, typed not handwritten
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory - typed, in English or Spanish; each lift van must have individual inventory lists for clearance
- ✓ Power of Attorney – notarized, giving authority for Destination Agent to clear shipment

### **Additional Required Document for Returning Chileans:**

- ✓ Travel Certificate – issued by Interpol at interested parties' request, all entrances & departures of the requestor are documented

### **Diplomat Status:**

Foreign diplomats are granted duty and tax free entry upon receiving the Chilean Government Decree of Exemption. Returning Chilean Diplomats will need also need the Decree of Exemption

**Note:** If all documents arrive timely, clearance can be affected before the vessel arrives, allowing for immediate delivery upon arrival.

### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise/Exemption – obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ✓ Liberation Form - obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, upon request of the organization/mission to which the diplomat belongs
- ✓ Passport - copy
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – in English or Spanish
- ✓ Power of Attorney – notarized, giving authority for Destination Agent to clear shipment

### **RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS**

- ✓ Sporting guns and ammunitions- Require prior authorization from the General Directors of National Mobilization (DGMN)
  - Request Form – obtained from DGMN
  - Customs Retention document – copy
  - Payment of duty
  - Receipt for firearms- copy ○ Criminal Record – returning Chileans
  - Character Certificate – obtained at origin embassy (foreigners)

- ✓ Alcohol – each adult may import 2.5 litres duty free in excess of this amount incurs duties & taxes of 15% for wine and 27% for liquor
- ✓ Tobacco – per person regardless of age; 400 cigarettes & 500 gr of loose tobacco & 50 cigars. In excess of this amount is subject to duties & taxes
- ✓ New furniture requires invoices for all pieces – Duty is approximately 44% of CIF value ✓ Caviar, pearls, synthetic furs, uncut precious, semi-precious or synthetic stones (personal use only) ✓ Food - only non-perishable items allowed, only in amounts for immediate consumption; discouraged from including in shipment due to stringent controls
- ✓ Medication – requires a physician’s prescription & Health Certificate; for necessary prescriptions submit documents to the National Health Service, in Chile several weeks prior to gain approval before departure. Otherwise medications will be turned over to the Health Service for screening and will not be returned to the client for several weeks

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind: Medicines require a prescription
- ✓ Firearms and weapons of a non-sporting nature with out the proper permits
- ✓ Pornographic materials
- ✓ Meat & other foodstuffs not in cans

## IMPORTATION OF PETS

All animals must meet specific inoculation requirements of their origin country. Pets are generally duty free unless commercial use is intended. Cats and dogs are exempt from quarantine. Exotic pets are liable to quarantine. Consult with your destination agent and the Agricultural & Livestock Service (SAG) of Chile regarding these types of pets. Notify the agent in advance of the date and arrival flight of any pets to ensure immediate clearance.

**Parrots are strictly prohibited.**

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination - original, including rabies by a certified veterinarian at origin
- ✓ International Health Certificate – issued by authorities at country of origin
- ✓ Pro-forma invoice
- ✓ Statement to Destination Agent – notarized, allowing agent to clear pet upon arrival
- ✓ Phyto Sanitary Certificate

## IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Client's presence including diplomats is required for clearance. Only one vehicle is allowed importation. If the vehicle will be included with the household goods shipment, the BL must specify both owners. The weights and shipping value of both the vehicle and household goods must be listed separately. Optimal solution is to have two separate BL's. Motorcycles must be new and without use.

**Foreigners** can only import a car that is new. Businesses can import new large trucks.

**Foreign diplomats & officials** are exempt from paying duties and taxes on new vehicles.

**Chilean diplomats & officials** can no longer import a vehicle under their exemption status. If choosing to import a vehicle, it must be imported under the name of the spouse. Duties and taxes will apply. **Returning Chileans** with stays abroad over 1 year can import one new or used car or small truck but are subject to pay tax & duties. Weight & freight of household goods and vehicle must be on the BL along with vehicle description. The international driver's license must be obtained in the United States prior to arrival. Subject to 6% duty and taxes at 19% of CIF.

**Free Zones:** Iquique and Punta Arenas allow importation of used cars and small trucks so long as those vehicles stay within those areas and are not sold or are in transit to other countries.

**Importation of used motorcycles is strictly prohibited attempt to import will incur heavy fines and risk the return of the entire shipment to port of origin.**

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration – for new or used vehicles
- ✓ OBL/AWB - Original
- ✓ Commercial Invoice or proof of purchase – applies to new vehicles
- ✓ Declaration - for used vehicles; sworn notarized statement, list value & all technical items
- ✓ Insurance Certificate – stating amount of premium paid

### NOTES:

**Entry & Exit Requirements:** Dual nationals must enter and exit Chile using their Chilean passport, and they must enter and exit the United States using their U.S. passport. A naturalization certificate is not a valid travel document.

**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. Protest and anarchist groups are known to place small explosive devices at ATMs and other

Chilean government/business locations. Exercise caution while at these facilities.

Minefields are found in Chile's northern border region with Peru and Bolivia and around the southern border with Argentina in Patagonia. Minefields are generally marked, but markers may have shifted or may not be visible. Follow clearly identified roads and trails when traveling in minefield areas. Border crossings should only be made at authorized locations.

**Health:** Air pollution is a major source of health concern in Santiago, resulting in severe bronchial ailments affecting infants, small children and the elderly. The most severe air pollution occurs during the winter (May through August). The ozone layer is especially thin at the bottom of the world. Take precautions to protect yourself from ultraviolet radiation.

**Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:**

Chile has adopted measures in line with ISPM15 for wood packaging material (WPM). Please note while Chile will accept a Phytosanitary certificate in lieu of the official mark under ISPM15, it is against APHIS policy to issue a Phytosanitary certificate for wood packaging used in the transport of commodities.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

Ward Van Lines: Santiago, Chile

Bureau of Consular Affairs

International Association of Movers

Embassy of Chile: <http://www.chile-usa.org/>

Department of State: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1088.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1088.html)

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

APHIS

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.