



## *Importing Personal Property Into Thailand*

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

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

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

The customer does not need to be present during Customs clearance however his/her original passport has to be presented to Customs Authorities. All shipments are subject to inspection at additional charge.

Foreigners are allowed only ONE air and ONE ocean shipment as duty free, additional shipments will incur full import duty charges.

Used personal effects must be at least six months old & clearly identifiable for person use such as clothing, shoes or books must be clearly marked to be considered for duty free status. Other household goods are subject to tax and duty. Items must arrive not more than one month before arrival and not more than six months after arrival.

Thai Customs assess taxes and duties based on CIF value at an average of 30-40%. Duties and taxes must be paid prior to release of the shipments in addition to any other charges imposed on Customs Authorities.

**Returning Nationals:** Must present proof of living abroad for more than one year. Goods must come from the country one has lived while abroad. Only one shipment (either air or ocean) is allowed entry.

**Prohibited items or any items found that are not declared on the Inventory are subject to heavy fines and/or confiscation.**

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

- ✓ Passport – original,
- ✓ Visa – Residence or non-Immigrant Visa, valid for one year minimum
- ✓ Work Permit – one year minimum
- ✓ Permission for Thai Police department for owner to establish residence
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, must state “Used Personal Effects Only”
- ✓ Itemized Inventory w/Value of items - 2 legible copies in English, submitted prior to arrival for assessment of tax & duties by Thai Customs officials

##### **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.

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

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise ✓ Passport copy
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill - Destination Agent must receive 2 weeks prior to arrival
- ✓ Itemized Inventory - 2 legible copies in English

## RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Appliances & Electronics – only ONE of each item is allowed entry to qualify for duty exemption
- ✓ New furniture & household goods require receipts, are subject to duty, wooden furniture is taxed 28-40 % of CIF value
- ✓ Inheritance is dutiable unless Thai citizen satisfies Government residence requirement
- ✓ Wedding trousseaux are dutiable per the appropriate tariffs
- ✓ Works of Art, carpets, jewelry, coins & precious metal objects do not require additional documentation if included in household effects
- ✓ Antiques do not require additional documentation: it is suggested to specify any on the import documentation & have photos of each to facilitate the export later. Some Asian antiques especially religious artifacts require approval from the Thai Government Fine Arts Department prior to re-exportation whether part of original HHG or purchased during stay in Thailand
- ✓ Alcohol – requires an Import License and Wine requires an Import Permit, duty is 315% for either
- ✓ Tobacco and food stuffs require special permits prior to exportation, subject to duty of 72%
- ✓ Plants – require a Health Certificate; several plants, fruits and their products are prohibited from many countries. Please consult with the Consulate or other authority prior to consigning
- ✓ All toys, sporting goods, office equipment & documents, luxury items such as chinaware and silverware are subject to duty

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind unless proof of medical prescription is provided. Penalties are severe. Importation of heroine may result in life imprisonment or the death penalty.
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Firearms, explosives, ammunitions, weapons & short-wave radios

## IMPORTATION OF PETS

Quarantine is not required however details of the animal(s) (i.e. breed, sex and quantity) must be reported to the Bangkok Airport Animal Quarantine Station. Origin Agent should notify Destination Agent 10-15 days in advance of shipping the pet (s). It is advisable to have the pet arrive prior to 4pm. Pets arriving after 4pm must have special Customs clearance arranged 48 hours in advance and provide flight itinerary details. Pets that can travel as excess baggage may not be subject to duty or the Customs process. Please seek the advice of your service agent well in advance of departure for the most current information. The Department of Livestock Development of Thailand has banned the importation of the following into Thailand: Pitbull Terriers and American Staffordshire Terriers.

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, must not be more than 10 days old at date of arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - dated less than 30 days prior to arrival
- ✓ AWB - copy

## IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles are subject to high duties. Expect to pay 228% of CIF value for automobiles with 2400 cubic centimeters and 265% for automobiles over 2400cc. Motorcycles pay duty of 95% of CIF.

Duty-free exemptions are provided to diplomatic organizations.

Vehicle & driver's license must be in owner's possession for a minimum of one year prior to importation.

NOTE: Permission from the Ministry of Commerce is very difficult to obtain for owners of foreign passports, thus one is strongly discouraged from importing any vehicle.

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Permission from Ministry of Commerce prior to importation
- ✓ Letter from Government office/organization – for government employees or diplomats
- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice ✓ Driver's License – from origin
- ✓ Import Permit – must be obtained prior to importation

### NOTES:

**Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:** As of this printing Thailand does not require ISPM15 for wood packaging material (WPM).

**Health:** Typhoid and cholera vaccination is advised. Hepatitis B is highly endemic, A and E occur. Japanese encephalitis and dengue fever also occur and vaccination is suggested. HIV infection is rife.

NOTE: Those suspected or confirmed of carrying AIDS may be refused entry.

Food and water-borne diseases are common. It is strongly advised to only use bottled or sterilized water. Non pasteurized milk should be boiled. Uncooked meats and vegetables should also be avoided and fruit must be peeled before consumption.

**Entry/Exit Requirements:** Thai Immigration stamps in his/her passport the date on which the authorized stay in Thailand will expire. Anyone remaining in Thailand beyond this date without having received an official extension will be assessed an immediate cash fine of 500 Baht per day, up to a maximum of 20,000 Baht, when departing Thailand. Any foreigner found by police to be out of legal status prior to departure (during a Thai Immigration "sweep" through a guesthouse, for example) will be jailed, fined, deported at his or her own expense, and may be barred from re-entering Thailand.

In this regard, U.S. citizens should be aware that private "visa extension services," even those advertising in major periodicals or located close to Immigration offices or police stations, are illegal. A number of U.S. citizens are arrested at border crossings each year when the visas and entry stamps they have obtained through these illegal services are discovered to be counterfeit.

**Consignment Instructions:** Owner's documentation must be identical to name on Passport with full address and telephone number in Thailand

Declaration on AWB or BL should read as: "Used Personal Effects". Do not declare household goods on the AWB or BL



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**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

Expat Movers Co., Ltd – [www.expatmovers.net](http://www.expatmovers.net)

Royal Thai Embassy - <http://www.thaiembdc.org/>

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

IATA Travel Centre

Visa HQ

**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.**