



Importing Personal Property Into Zimbabwe

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Client must be physically present during Customs clearance process to participate in an interview with Customs Authority. All shipments undergo a physical inspection. Clients who do not meet this requirement will be assessed duties. Used household goods and personal effects are duty free provided goods have been owned and used by the client for a minimum of six months. Items can not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of during stay.

All documents for non-diplomats will be lodged with the Department of Customs & Excise by the individuals personally. All charges related to the physical inspection will be charged to all non-diplomats.

Returning Citizens: who have lived abroad less than 2 years must submit an application for “No Currency involved” import license for goods acquired after emigrating. Returning nationals must have lived outside of Zimbabwe for a minimum of two years to be eligible for duty-free status. The Passport must show exit date and “Acceptance as Returning Resident” (accepted RR) to be exempt from paying duty. Must be present during clearance process and goods must arrive within three months of arrival of returning citizen. By law returning citizens must complete the clearance process on their own. An agent is not allowed to represent him/her.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - copy
- ✓ Residence Visa/Work Permit or Letter from Employer attesting to client’s employment contract
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, Express Release not allowed
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – in English, dated & signed by owner
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Declaration of Undertaking (Form C 38)

Returning Citizens:

Required Documents:

- ✓ Appointment Letter (employment contract) & Termination Letter – provided by employer
- ✓ Declaration of Undertaking (Form C 38) – if returning citizen has lived abroad over 2 year
- ✓ Immigrant’s Declaration, Proof of original export & inventory - if returning citizen has lived abroad less than 2 years

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. All documents must be signed by the diplomat and submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Diplomatic Exemption Letter – obtained from Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ✓ Passport - original
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory – all computers, electronics & appliances must state serial numbers
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Appliances & Electronics – must list serial numbers on inventory
- ✓ Firearms - require an approved application from the Secretary of Home Affairs
- ✓ New furniture – subject to duty
- ✓ Alcohol – (Must be at least 18 yrs old) 5 litres per person of which only 2 litres can be spirits
- ✓ Tobacco – 200 cigarettes or 250 grams of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and weapons – with out approval (See Restricted Items above)
- ✓ Counterfeit currency & forged documents

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Animals including pets are subject to import control. Applications for the appropriate license can be obtained from the Director of Veterinary Services.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies
- ✓ Health Certificate - by a Veterinarian

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Up to two vehicles are allowed to be imported per family duty-free provided vehicles have been owned for at least six months. Vehicles may not be disposed of in anyway for at least 1 year without prior approval from Controller of Customs. Taxes on car will depend on age, power etc. 100% to 110% CIF. The OBL must show Chassis Number, Engine number, Cubic Capacity, year of manufacture, brand and model Returning nationals, who have lived abroad less than 2 years will not usually be allowed duty-free importation.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport, Residence Permit & Immigrant's Declaration
- ✓ Form C38 MV
- ✓ OBL
- ✓ Import License – required if client owned vehicle less than 6 months
- ✓ Certificates of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Purchase invoice - copy

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: U.S. citizens intending to reside or work in Zimbabwe must obtain a work permit approved by the Zimbabwean Chief Immigration Officer before entering the country. Work permit applications should be submitted by the person's sponsor at any Zimbabwean immigration office, typically take a minimum of six weeks to process, and have a \$500 application fee. The Embassy of Zimbabwe in Washington, DC is unable to process work permit applications. Since January 2008, several U.S. citizens applying for or renewing residency or work permits have had their applications denied without explanation and been forced to depart the country.

U.S. citizens who intend to work in Zimbabwe as journalists should contact the Zimbabwean Embassy in Washington for information about accreditation at least one month in advance of planned travel. The Government of Zimbabwe uses an extremely expansive definition of journalism and any formal interviews, filming or photography may be considered “presenting oneself as an accredited journalist,” a crime punishable by arrest or detention.

Currency: Zimbabwe has become a cash society, with very few establishments accepting international credit or debit cards. ATMs in the country are generally incompatible with international networks and are unreliable. Check cashing facilities are effectively nonexistent. While there is no set legal limit on the amount of foreign currency that a person can carry into Zimbabwe, the maximum foreign currency that can be taken out of the country is U.S. \$5,000.

Safety & Security: If traveling by road, Americans should make sure they have working communication devices, evidence of their citizenship, and a valid visa. Such evidence should include photocopies of the face page of their passport and their Zimbabwe visa approval stamp. Resident and visiting U.S. citizens have been arrested, detained, and threatened with expulsion for activities that would not be considered crimes in the U.S., including the administration of humanitarian aid and the expression of opinions regarding the current political regime in Zimbabwe.

Crime: Residential crime targeting Westerners (who are perceived as wealthy) is increasing. US citizens should exercise extreme caution while out in the evening and especially while driving. Drivers should be alert for “smash and grabs,” where thieves break the windows of cars stopped at intersections and take visible items from inside the car. Car doors should always be locked and the windows rolled up. Drivers should always leave sufficient maneuver room between their vehicle and the one in front so they can drive away from danger. Travelers who suspect that their vehicle is being followed should drive to the nearest police station or other protected public area for assistance. Reducing even the shortest amount of idle times at traffic lights at night by slowing in advance to anticipate the changing of the light is an effective deterrent.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

AGS Fraser: Harare, Zimbabwe

Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1063.html

Embassy of Zimbabwe: <http://www.zimbabwe-embassy.us/>

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

International Association of Movers

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.