



Importing Personal Property Into JAPAN

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

- Household goods must be imported within 6 months of shipper's arrival.
- Personal effects and professional equipment are duty-free, provided the shipper will live in Japan for at least 1 year. The articles must be considered appropriate and not for resale.
- Household goods must have been used by the shipper for at least 1 year.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Copy of shipper's passport, including the current visa (**see below) and entry stamp for Japan page; photo and signature page; passport issuing authority page; and all stamped pages. (Note that the entry stamp in the shipper's passport must match the date stamped on the *Unaccompanied Articles Customs Form*—see below.)
 - ✓ The visa must be a working visa valid for at least 1 year, or a spouse visa, or a diplomatic visa.
 - ✓ If a working visa is not available, or is in the process of being obtained, an explanatory letter (on business letterhead) from the shipper must be submitted to the Customs Office where the shipment is expected to arrive.
- ✓ *Unaccompanied Articles Customs Form, C5360-B*:
 - ✓ 2 originals must be completed upon entry into Japan.
 - ✓ Originals must be submitted to the customs officer who will stamp the forms with a customs seal. One set of forms will be retained by the customs officer and the other set will be returned to the shipper. The shipper must provide one set of the forms to the destination agent for customs clearance purposes.
 - ✓ The form is available on the flight to Japan or at the airport of arrival in Japan. Sometimes it can also be found at a travel agency or some airline check-in counters.
- ✓ Packing list
- ✓ Ocean Bill of Lading or Air Waybill
- ✓ Detailed alcohol listing, if applicable
- ✓ Video list, if applicable
- ✓ Invoices of any new items, if applicable
- ✓ *Report for the Import of Rice* must be submitted to customs and the local food office for free import of up to 100 kg of rice per year

Notes:

- Customs clearance requires that the shipper enters Japan and provides all of the required documentation to be submitted to the Customs Office. The shipper's presence at clearance is not required.
- It is helpful for the customs authority to know how long the shipper will reside in Japan, for the purpose of determining the quantity of items considered reasonable and appropriate for the use of the shipper.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Opium, narcotics, stimulants, psychotropic substances, illicit drugs, and paraphernalia
- Counterfeit, altered or imitated articles of coins, paper money, banknotes, or securities
- Books, drawings, carvings and other items which harm public security or morals, including obscene or immoral materials, such as pornography
- Articles that infringe upon patents, utility-models, designs, trademarks, copyrights or neighboring rights
- Firearms (pistols, rifles, machine guns, etc.), swords, all types of ammunition, firearm parts, explosives, and gunpowder
- Fresh fruits including apples, pears, quinces, nectarines, peaches, plums, apricots, and cherries.
- Tylenol Cold, Nyquil, Nyquil Liquicaps, Actifed, Sudafed, Advil Cold & Sinus, Dristan Cold/No Drowsiness, Dristan Sinus, Drixoral Sinus, Vicks Inhaler, Lomotil.
- Some plants and meat products are prohibited or restricted.
- Animals classified as endangered species

Note: Importation of all fresh fruit, vegetable or meat products should be avoided.

RESTRICTED ITEMS

- Cosmetics are restricted to 24-pieces per each product.
- Medicines are restricted to a 2-month supply for prescribed medicines obtained in pharmacies and a 1-month supply for prescriptions obtained from hospitals. Prescription details and slips are required for customs clearance.
- Rooted plants, fur, meat, shell, and stuffed animals require a quarantine certificate
- Precious metals
- Currencies (including traveler's checks, securities, etc.)
- Allowance for tobacco: 100 cigars or 400 cigarettes, or 500 grams total
- Allowance for perfume: 2 ounces
- Allowance for alcoholic beverages: 3 bottles per adult. Any additional alcoholic beverages are dutiable and may cause delays in customs clearance. Alcoholic beverages must be included in a detailed list and loaded for easy access in the container or lift van.
 - Duty on alcohol exceeding the limit:
 - Whisky : 600 Yen/bottle
 - Brandy: 560 Yen/bottle
 - Gin, vodka, rum, liqueurs: 375 yen/bottle
 - Other distilled alcohol: 225 Yen/bottle
 - Wine & other liquor: 150 Yen/bottle
- Duties on cigarettes: 5,500 Yen/1000 (5.5 Yen / cigarette)
- Rice is limited to 100 kg per year.
- Total overseas market value of all articles (other than alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, and perfume) must be under 200,000 Yen. Items with an overseas market value under 10,000 Yen is free of duty and/or tax and is not included in calculating the total overseas market value of all articles.

MOTOR VEHICLES

- Automobiles are excluded from unconditional duty-free entry; however, they may be imported duty-free under Article 15-1-(9) of the Customs Tariff Law for specified usage.
- The conditions for the duty-free entry are as follows:
 - The automobiles must have been used for at least 1 year prior to importation
 - The automobile must not be sold for 2 years after duty-free importation.
- A consumption tax of 5% is levied on automobiles; however, if the vehicles are recognized as a part of a household goods and personal effects shipment, the consumption tax may also be exempted.
- Once imported, automobiles must be registered with the Prefectural Transportation Office. Prior to registration, the automobiles must conform to the safety and environmental standards stipulated in the Road Vehicles Act. Registration and inspection fees vary with the automobile's engine size and body type. Unless built for import to Japan, most models will have to be modified to meet Japanese exhaust and safety standards. Testing for exhaust gas clearance may cost in excess of 350,000 Yen.
- Importation of automobiles is not recommended.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Three copies of the *Application for Duty Exemption Form T-1280*
- ✓ The sealed *Customs Declaration Form C5360-B*
- ✓ Shipper's passport
- ✓ Any document certifying that the automobile has been owned by the shipper or the shipper's family prior to importation, for example, vehicle registration, receipt of payment, etc.

VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT

- Vessels and aircraft are required to have been in the possession of the shipper or the shipper's family for at least 1 year, for duty-free importation.
- Vessels/aircraft must not be sold for 2 years after duty-free importation is permitted.

DOGS AND CATS

- All dogs and cats imported into Japan from the U.S. require a quarantine exam and quarantine period upon arrival in Japan. The owner must notify the appropriate Animal Quarantine Station *at least 40 days prior to* the pet's arrival.
- Dogs can only be imported through 18 seaports in Japan. For a listing of the ports and detailed information, see <http://www.maff-agq.go.jp/english/ryoko/newquarantine-eng/quarantinesystem/import/newquarantine.htm>.
- *Four Steps to Importation of Dogs/Cats:*
 1. Dog/Cat must be fitted with an ISO-compliant (11784 & 11785) microchip.
 2. Dog/Cat must be vaccinated for rabies at least twice after being fitted with a microchip. The second vaccination must occur at least 31-days after the first vaccination. Dogs/Cats must be at least 91-days old at time of vaccination.
 3. Dog/Cat must undergo a blood test for rabies antibody levels. This test must be administered after the second rabies vaccination.
 4. Dog/Cat must wait at least 180-days following the blood test before importation into Japan.

Note: Dogs/Cats must be inspected upon arrival by an animal quarantine officer. Omissions in required documents or individual identification of the dog/cat may require a quarantine lasting up to 180-days.

Required Documents:

- ✓ *Form A & Form C*—both can be downloaded at the link listed under the second bullet point
- ✓ Rabies Certificate and a Health Certificate, both validated (stamped on the back) by the USDA APHIS (United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service).

ART AND ANTIQUES

- “Antiques” are defined as works of art that are at least 100- years old. Works of art and antiques are exempt from duties and taxes, as long as they are a part of a household goods and personal effects shipment. Shipper should supply documents noting the value and period of manufacture for each item.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Animal Quarantine Service, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, <http://www.maff-agq.go.jp/english/ryoko/ba.htm>, 2008.
- Japan Customs, www.customs.go.jp/index_e.htm, 2008.
- Fukuoka Soko Co, Ltd, 2007.
- C.L.C, Crown Lines Corporation, Kobe, Japan, 2006.

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.