



Importing Personal Property Into South Korea

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Client must be present for Customs Examination. All shipments receive a full inspection.

Used household goods and personal effects are duty free for foreigners provided client intends on residing in Korea for over one year with a family or two years if the client is single. If estimated stay is less than two years (single status) shipment is classified as quasi-immigrant removal, resulting in higher duties. The goods must be imported within six months of client's arrival (three months if transferring from another Southeast Asian country).

Returning Koreans: must have lived abroad two years (single status) or one year with a family to be eligible to re-import used household goods and personal effects are duty free

NOTES: Client's name (as on Passport) must be shown on ALL documents otherwise shipment(s) will not be released by Korean Customs. If client does not meet ALL criteria all items even used is dutiable. Commercial commodities and new high value items are subject to duty.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - original, and each member of the family
- ✓ Visa – valid for over one year
- ✓ Work Permit – obtained from Embassy at origin, stating client will be in Korea for over 12 months
- ✓ Residence Card - obtained from Immigration Office in Korea for each member of the family or an Employment Certificate (terms of stay should state over 2 years)
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – copy
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – all electronics, computers etc must state make, model & serial numbers on the inventory, signed by client
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Customs Declaration forms

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. Those with Diplomatic status are granted clearance based on full documentation free of physical Customs inspection.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Application for Duty Exemption – issued by Foreign Affairs Ministry of Korea
- ✓ Passport copy
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – copy
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory – all high-tech equipment, computers, electronics, stereos etc must state make model & serial number
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Any item new or used valued over \$1,500.00USD is dutiable
- ✓ CD's – 5 allowed, in excess of that must meet approval by the Secretary of Culture & Athleticism with a Letter of Recommendation completed by the customer
- ✓ Plants – require Quarantine certificate at POA
- ✓ New electronics (6 months or less) 20%
- ✓ TV's over 50" or a second TV (29"- 49")
- ✓ Golf clubs (2nd sets and more) 8%
- ✓ Skis (2nd sets and more) 20%
- ✓ New furniture – 22.5% - 54.8% New carpet/rugs 24.3%
- ✓ Pianos – Upright: free if over 6 months old / Grand: free if over 6 months old (piano major diploma holders only) other wise 20% on assessed value for both types
- ✓ Air cleaners 20%
- ✓ Alcohol – 1 bottle of wine/spirits per adult in excess of the limit will incur tax & duty
- ✓ Tobacco
- ✓ Food in “reasonable quantities” – subject to 20% duty if deemed too large for HHG shipment

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Products originating from communist countries
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and weapons
- ✓ Rifles/sport guns – require permission from Korean Police prior to import, declaration upon arrival
- ✓ Counterfeited money & coins

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Dogs & cats are examined by an animal quarantine official at the Port of Entry. If all documents are cleared your pet will be released within 24 hours.

Birds – Quarantine is 5 days. Parrots require CITES documents prepared at origin and destination

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated at least 30 days to 11 months prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - (including birds) dated no more than 7 days prior to arrival

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Diplomat - Vehicles are duty free provided they are not be sold or transferred to non-diplomats for three (3) years. Sale or transfer between diplomatic individuals is authorized. In the event of sale/ transfer to a non diplomat within the three (3) year period Customs duty/taxes will be incurred. Vehicle must be listed on the Inventory stating make, model, plate number, year etc.

Non-Diplomat status – subject to duty on vehicles, boats, and/or motorcycles either new or used.

Vehicles must pass these government tests without fail: Emissions Test, Noise & Vibration Test

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original, state chassis & engine numbers, make & model
- ✓ Drivers License & Insurance Policy – original or copy
- ✓ Customs Declaration

NOTES:

New Consignment Instruction Effective 1 April 2110

Air/Ocean shipments - Must state client's full name as in Passport with Destination City stated (should match city on client's Korean Customs documents)

c/o Korean Agents name, address, phone/fax & email

Shipment description must now be included on OBL/AWB. Description should read as "Used Household goods and personal effects (furniture, appliances, cloths, books, toys)" etc up to 200 characters. These items should be on the packing list & described on the manifest.

New Customs House: Daejoeon, mid-location on Korean Peninsula servicing Chungchung Province, Kwanglu & Jeola Provinces via POE of either Buson or Incheon

Entry Restrictions: Korea does not have a written policy regarding entry to Korea for foreigners with HIV/AIDS. However, Section 11 of the Korean Immigration law stipulates that an immigration officer has the right to deny entry to those who may have communicable diseases. Also, E-6 visa applicants such as singers, dancers, or other entertainment workers have to submit HIV/AIDS test results in order to be eligible for that visa category.

Exit Restrictions: The Government of the Republic of Korea sometimes seizes the passports and blocks departure from Korea of foreigners involved in commercial disputes. While the U.S. Government may reissue a passport to a U.S. citizen who applies for one in such circumstances, the Korean exit ban remains in effect, thereby preventing departure.

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: As of 1 June 2005 Korea implemented requirements adopting ISPM 15 for wood packaging material (WPM)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

FIDI Global Alliance 2010

IATA Travel Centre

Transworld Moving Ltd 2010

Department of State

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.