



Importing Personal Property Into *Guatemala*

IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS & PERSONAL EFFECTS AND MOTOR VEHICLES

IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS & PERSONAL EFFECTS:

- New items are considered a “commercial entry” and are subject to normal customs entry, paying full taxes and duties.
- Used household goods and personal effects are also subject to taxes and duties. Customs officials will determine the value of the items by taking into consideration the values listed on the packing list and a visual inspection. Duties range from 5% to 50% of CIF value plus 10% of Value Added Tax (subject to change).
- Customs clearance generally takes 4 to 8 days depending on shipment method and size.
- The shipper must provide a contact address in Guatemala.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Original Passport with immigration entry stamp
- ✓ Original packing list in Spanish and a separate valued packing list (for customs),
- ✓ Original Bill of Lading/Airway Bill
- ✓ Original or copy of NIT card (Tax Identification Number) given to shipper at Finance Ministry of Guatemala upon presentation of valid passport with entry stamp.

DIPLOMATIC SHIPMENTS:

- Diplomats can import household goods/ personal effects and automobiles duty-free.
- Automobiles require proof of ownership and the original commercial invoice.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS(cont.):

- ✓ Original Bill of Lading
- ✓ Original packing list in Spanish and a separate valued packing list (for customs),
- ✓ Diplomatic franchise/ letter of promise

PROHIBITED ITEMS:

- Weapons and ammunition.
- Narcotics
- Pornographic material

IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES:

- Duty will be calculated by Customs officials according to the make, model, year and engine size of the vehicle. If the car has “luxury” items such as radio/cassette/CD player, air conditioning, magnesium wheels, etc. the car will incur very high duties.
- C.I.F. value as determined by Customs will influence the amount of duty.
- Cars with foreign license plates may enter on a temporary permit of 30 days, but may not leave the country until the car is re-exported or until all customs duties have been paid.
- Custom clearance generally takes between 1-2 weeks, depending on current work load.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Original Passport with the immigration entry stamp
- ✓ Original or copy of NIT card
- ✓ Original Title for proof of ownership.
- ✓ Copy of auto invoice
- ✓ Original Bill of Lading
- ✓ Copy of auto registration card
- ✓ Report of Auto Mechanical Conditions

IMPORTING PETS

IMPORTATION OF PETS:

- Importing dog, cats and other animals will be subject to customs duties.
- The amount of duty to be paid for pets will be determined at the time of entry
- Please allow at least four weeks prior to your move for pet travel arrangements.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Health/Vaccination Certificate legalized by the Guatemalan Consulate in the country of origin. The Certificate must be dated 30 days prior to the pet's arrival in Guatemala.
- ✓ Certificate of pedigree legalized by the Guatemalan Consulate at origin. The Certificate expires 30 days from the date of issue. The pet must enter Guatemala at least 5 days before the expiration date.
- ✓ Original Airway Bill

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

- Caniz Van Lines, <http://ww.caniz.com>, 2002
- North American International, Country Fact Sheets, <http://cls.navl.com/cfs/GT.HTM>, August 1999.
- LACMA, Customs Regulations for Guatemala, July 1999.
- Household Goods Forwarders Association of America, inc. "Commercial Shipper's Guide" 1998.

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.