



Importing Personal Property Into HONG KONG

IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

DUTY-FREE ENTRY IS PERMITTED IF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS ARE MET:

- The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (HKSAR of the PRC) is a free port and does not levy any Customs tariffs or taxes on imports.
- The shipper can import personal and household goods by air, sea, or both only once within the first 6 months after the Import Permit is issued. Any subsequent shipments are subject to greater import tax and duty and/or seizure by the Chinese Customs authorities.
- Returning local residents who have spent less than 24 hours outside HKSAR and persons under the age of 18 are not eligible for duty-free concessions.

Notes:

- You must have a contact address and telephone number in Hong Kong.
- You must be in China at the time your goods and effects clear Customs.
- All air shipments will be inspected and surface shipments are inspected randomly.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Residence Visa
- ✓ Work Visa
- ✓ Detailed Inventory - avoid using term "miscellaneous" to describe items.
- ✓ Original Bill of Lading or Air Waybill
- ✓ Copy of the shipper's passport, re-signed by the shipper.
- ✓ Letter of authorization to Customs and Excise Department (Power of Attorney)
- ✓ Completed and signed "Application Form for Import/Export of Personal Effects."

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Narcotics (such as Opium, Morphine, Heroin, Cocaine, Cannabis, Methadone, etc.)
- Psychotropic drugs including most stimulants, hypnotics, tranquilizers and sedatives
- Antibiotics
- Controlled chemicals (such as Acetic Anhydride, Ephedrine, etc.)
- Perishable food items
- Pornographic or politically subversive material.
- Endangered Species – including animals and plants or parts or derivatives of such species.
- Counterfeit goods, or infringing copies of computer software, compact discs or music cassette tapes. You will be subject to criminal prosecution if you import these items.

RESTRICTED/DUTIBLE ITEMS

A license is required for the importation of any of the following items:

- Alcohol, which is defined by any liquid containing more than 1.2% of ethyl alcohol.
- Tobacco products
- Firearms and ammunition
- Weapons – Chinese-style throwing dart, knuckle-duster, gravity knife and gravity-operated baton.
- Fireworks
- Personal Computers (import permit required for machines with a power level higher than Pentium III)
- Plant and vegetable products require an Import License and a valid *Phytosanitary Certificate*. Shipper must also provide the following documents: Original Purchase Invoice, Certificate of Registration, and Insurance Certificate.

IMPORTING PETS, FIREARMS AND MOTOR VEHICLES

IMPORTATION OF PETS:

You must obtain a permit from the **Agriculture and Fisheries Department** prior to importing mammals, birds and/or reptiles. Quarantine is usually required and the length depends on type of pet and origin.

Agriculture and Fisheries Department

8/F, Canton Road Government Offices
393 Canton Road
Kowloon, Hong Kong
Phone: (852) 2733 2142
Fax: (852) 2375 3563
Web site: <http://www.info.gov.hk/afd>

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ International Health Certificate dated no more than 14 days prior to departure, endorsed by a Government approved Veterinarian.
- ✓ Import License.
- ✓ Rabies vaccination certificate. The rabies vaccination must be administered at least 30 days prior to departure and not more than 6 months before departure.

IMPORTATION OF FIREARMS:

A license must be obtained from the Trade Department for importing firearms and ammunition.

Strategic Commodities Section of the Trade Department

Room 516B, 5/F, Trade Department Tower,
700 Nathan Road
Kowloon, Hong Kong
Phone: (852) 2398 5575 – for licensing advise.
Phone: (852) 2398 5582 – for technical assessment.
Fax: (852) 2396-3070

IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES:

- All motor vehicles are subject to a First Registration Tax assessed on the published retail price of the vehicle.
- An import return must be filed with the Customs and Excise Department within 30 days of importation.
- The shipper must have owned the vehicle for at least 6 months.

For additional information contact:

The Motor Vehicles Valuation Group of the Customs and Excise Department

11/F, North Point Government Offices
333 Java Road
North Point, Hong Kong
Phone: (852) 2804 2637
Fax: (852) 2804 2599

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Import license Form 3 for right-hand drive vehicles.
- ✓ Bill of lading or airway bill
- ✓ Passport
- ✓ Hong Kong Insurance Certificate
- ✓ Full Exhaust Emission Test Certificate – obtained prior to departure.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

- Santa Fe Transport Intl. Ltd., 2002
- 4moversww.com, Country Fact Sheets, "Hong Kong," <http://4moversww.com/Hong%20Kong.htm>, April 2000.
- Global Silverhawk, 2000.

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.