



Importing Personal Property Into New Zealand

IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

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

- The shipper has the intent and the proven legal authority to take up permanent residence such as purchase of a home, an employment contract or transfer of funds to New Zealand.
- The shipper has lived outside of New Zealand for at least 21 months
- The goods are used and have been used by the shipper before departing for New Zealand.
- The goods are for the shipper's own personal use.

Notes:

Returning New Zealand residents (who return within 21 months) are required to pay duty and GST on all items purchased overseas (excluding clothes, shoes, jewelry and toiletries). Shipper must provide proof of export from New Zealand for applicable items to be duty free.

The shipper must be present for Customs clearance, or make the necessary arrangements for concessionary entry.

Household goods from deceased estates will be accepted free of duty and GST if Customs is provided with a copy of the Will and Death Certificate.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Copy of Passport
- ✓ Copy of Bill of Lading/Airway Bill
- ✓ Copy of Inventory
- ✓ Insurance Value of shipment
- ✓ Customs and quarantine form (to be completed upon arrival)

RESTRICTED/DUTIBALE ITEMS:

- New items
- Firearms
 - Shotguns with a barrel length of less than 508 mm (20 inches) are not permitted.
 - Firearms (excluding pistols) with an overall length of less than 762 mm are not permitted.
- Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products are subject to duty and GST. It is possible to avoid paying duty and tax if included as part of a normal household shipment or part of a collector's cellar and the shipper is an immigrant or a returning New Zealander who has resided abroad for 21 months. All shippers are required to provide a full list of alcohol included in a shipment, including the type, volume and purchase price.
- Radio transmitters and telecommunication equipment may not be permitted entry.

The following items may be subject to inspection by Quarantine and must be declared upon arrival:

- Food stuffs and dairy products
- Herbs and spices
- Stuffed animals and reptiles
- Bamboo, cane, rattan, basketware and mats
- Unprocessed wool and animal hair
- Dried flowers, bulbs, corms etc.
- Seeds, pine cones and potpourri
- Saddles and riding equipment
- Artifacts (wooden carvings, shields, masks etc.)
- camping equipment
- Farm clothing, footwear and equipment
- Furs, skins and hunting trophies
- Vacuum cleaners (be sure to empty all bags prior to arrival)

IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS (CONT.)

PROHIBITED ITEMS:

- Live animals except those with import permits.
- Eggs and egg products
- Honey
- Meat and meat products (except canned)
- Plants including potted plants and plant cuttings
- Straw (handicrafts or packaging)
- Clam shells and coral (except with CITES certification)
- Ivory (except with Cites certification)
- Turtle and tortoise shells (except with CITES certification)
- Firearms with folding or telescopic stocks (see "RESTRICTED DUTIBLE" items list on previous page for firearms restrictions)
- Shotguns with exposed hammers
- Pistols, revolvers and military style semi-automatics
- Restricted weapons (such as stun guns, mace)
- Plants including potted plants and plant cuttings

IMPORTATION OF FIREARMS:

- The shipper must contact the New Zealand Police Department before importing firearms to obtain the necessary permits – an import to permit and a permit for ownership.
- Customs will not release the entire shipment until documentation is received from the Police.
- Firearms and weapons must be packed separately and individually listed on the inventory.
- Once imported, all firearms must be securely locked away in a firearm cabinet.

TAX-FREE IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES:

- Must be first time residents and hold a permanent residency visa in their passport

- Vehicle must have been owned and used overseas for a minimum period of 12 months prior to shipping
- Vehicle must be for shipper's personal use in New Zealand (not for sale, gift or disposal)
- Motor vehicles and motorcycles require a MAF quarantine and border check examination. Vehicles must be steam cleaned and thoroughly vacuumed prior to shipping and may require steam cleaning in New Zealand to meet quarantine requirements (at additional cost to shipper). Steamcleaner must pay special attention to the underside of the vehicle.
- Immigrants are allowed to import one vehicle, duty and GST free, if the shipper has owned the vehicle at least 1 year. The vehicle must be imported for personal use and not to be sold within 2 years.
- Vehicles must comply with New Zealand Ministry of Transport Vehicle Standard regulations.
- Vehicles less than 20 years old must meet frontal impact standards (depending on class) see <http://www.ltsa.govt.nz/>
- Shipper must attend an interview with Customs at vehicle's port of entry

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Registration papers showing proof of ownership.
- ✓ Invoice with proof of purchase price and date of purchase.
- ✓ Certificate of Title
- ✓ Bill of lading clearly showing vehicle's chassis number
- ✓ Shipper's passport
- ✓ First time immigrants will need to provide copy of their driver's license.
- ✓ Certificate of steam cleaning
- ✓ Insurance Certificate
- ✓ FMVSS (US Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards compliance plate) or Statement of Compliance in most cases.
- ✓ Log Book, service book or repair accounts.

IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS (CONT.)

IMPORTATION OF PETS (CONTINUED):

- The shipper will be responsible for costs associated with quarantine and for making the necessary arrangements with an approved quarantine facility.
- To qualify for importation dogs and cats must have been in the country of origin for at least 6 months prior to departure.
- The pet must also be at least 9 months old and less than 42 days pregnant.
- All travel arrangements for the pet need to be made in advance.
- Import Permits must be obtained prior to the pet's departure.
- Detailed requirements and import permits can be obtained from the Director of Animal Biosecurity, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, PO Box 2526, Wellington; <http://www.maf.govt.nz/MAFnet/index.htm>.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Import Permit
- ✓ Health Certificate
- ✓ Zoo-Sanitary Certificate
- ✓ Veterinary Certificate A
- ✓ Veterinary Certificate B

IMPORTATION OF WORKS OF ART OR ANTIQUES:

- Works of art and antiques are allowed duty-free entry provided art consists of original paintings, drawings, or sculptures executed entirely by hand.
- Antiques are subject to examination to determine age.

Antiques under 100 years old are subject to duty and sales tax.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Commercial invoice, if purchased.
- ✓ BADA Certificate for antiques from the United Kingdom.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

- Transworld International Removals, 2003.
- New Zealand Embassy, <http://www.nzemb.org>, April 2003.
- New Zealand Customs Service, <http://www.customs.govt.nz>, 2003
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, "Declare it for New Zealand", 2003
- John Mason International Movers, January 2000
- Household Goods Forwarders Association of American, Inc., "Commercial Shipper's Guide," 1998.
- Land Transport Safety Authority website <http://www.ltsa.govt.nz/>

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.