



## IMPORTING PERSONAL EFFECTS IN HONG KONG

### HOUSEHOLD GOODS & PERSONAL EFFECTS:

Hong Kong is a duty-free port and there is no tax or duty for importing household goods; however, it does carry various restrictions. Normally, the client does not have to be physically present during Customs clearance and inspection. Customs control on import goods is done through inspection of documents such as manifests, and where necessary, physical examination of the goods. Physical examination is conducted on a selective basis. Selected consignments will be detained for physical examination by Customs officers. In general, the Customs clearance process for air and sea shipment takes around 3 to 5 working days.

#### **Diplomatic Status:**

Foreign diplomats are granted duty free entry

### DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

#### Documents required for Household goods/personal effects Customs Clearance:

- ✓ Copy of Passport including photo page
- ✓ Bill of Lading/ Air Waybill (express B/L is acceptable)
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory list in English
- ✓ Authorization Letter to Hong Kong Customs & Excise Department to authorize Destination Agent to handle Customs clearance

#### Documents required for Diplomatic Shipment:

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise
- ✓ Passport copy
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory list in English

### RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEM:

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

- ✓ Alcohol – import duties range from 10 to 100%--if imported, should be packed together and clearly declared on the packing list.
- ✓ Tobacco products
- ✓ Firearms and ammunition
- ✓ Weapons, such as 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 issued by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, and a valid Phytosanitary Certificate. Shipper must also provide the following documents: Original Purchase Invoice, Certificate of Registration, and Insurance Certificate.



### **PROHIBITED ITEMS:**

- ✓ Controlled chemicals, Psychotropic Substances and Antibiotics
- ✓ Pornography, obscene or subversive publications, videos & software
- ✓ Reproductions of copyright materials and videos and counterfeit goods
- ✓ Weapons, clasp knives, fireworks, explosives and ammunitions
- ✓ Telecommunication equipment, strategic commodities
- ✓ Plants, animals (other than pets) meat, game, poultry and smokeless tobacco
- ✓ Animals, feathers, furs, skins and tusks of animals on the Endangered Species List
- ✓ Firearms require a certificate from the local police department controlling the area the customer will be residing in.

### **IMPORTING VEHICLES:**

Right-hand drive vehicles only may be imported to Hong Kong

Vehicles are subject to high duties / taxes

Owner must be in possession of vehicle at least 6 months prior to departure Vehicles must be reported to Transport Department within 14 days of arrival in Hong Kong

### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Original Purchase Invoice
- ✓ Valid driver's license
- ✓ Registration Certificate showing the dimensions
- ✓ Deregistration Certificate of origin country
- ✓ Passport
- ✓ Hong Kong Insurance Certificate
- ✓ Export License in origin country stating engine and chassis number
- ✓ Authorization letter for Destination Agent to handle Customs clearance
- ✓ Emission Test Certificate (obtained prior to departure from origin)

### **IMPORTING PETS:**

Pets are subjected to a quarantine period at a designated government facility for a period of at least 30 days depending on country of origin. All pets must be carried and caged in way to ensure humane management at all times. Pets under two months old are not allowed to be imported or transshipped.

### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination - (copy) including rabies must be stamped by a government or state approved agency. Rabies shot must be done at least 30 days prior to departure
- ✓ Import Permit-Issued by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department valid for 30 days from issue.
- ✓ Microchip - dogs and cats must be implanted with a microchip and the number must be printed on the Health Certificate
- ✓ Residence Certificate and International Health Certificate - Prepared and endorsed by USDA/APHIS/VS. Must be done not more than 14 days before departure



***Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:***

***Effective July 1<sup>st</sup> 2008, importation of shipments containing wood packing materials must be in accordance with ISPM 15 requirements and are required to have the wood fumigation mark ISPM 15 and IPPC logo***

\*\*Customs requirements are established by the country of import and not by Servile Relocations Pvt. Ltd. The regulations, however, are subject to change without notice by the Hong Kong Customs. Servile Relocations Pvt. Ltd. assumes no liability for the changes in the law.