



IMPORTING PERSONAL EFFECTS IN INDIA

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS:

Indian nationals, foreign nationals including those of Indian origin, transferring their residence to India or coming to India on employment, can import their personal effects and household goods into India duty free subject to the following conditions.

1. Transferee must have lived overseas for at least 2 years and must be transferring his/her residence to India. Transferee must not have visited India for more than 180 days in the preceding two years.
2. Foreign nationals must have a resident / business / work / entry visa or a PIO card.
3. Goods must be shipped out within one month of arrival of the owner into India; automobiles can be shipped within 6 months of arrival of the owner. If there is a delay then goods can be cleared only if customs condone the delay. Each case will be decided on merits.
4. The owner's presence is NOT required during customs clearance but owner should arrive in India before the shipment and be present in country until the shipment clears customs or else demurrage / container detention will be quite heavy.
5. All household goods (old and used) and personal effects are duty free except electronic items, food stuff, liquor and cosmetic items @ 16.05% under TR if in owners possession for at least 1 year (and used) under the Transfer Residence rule.

NOTE: 'Transfer of Residence' is the best option for non diplomats importing a shipment. It provides the most benefit and lower customs duties. This benefit is available to both Indians and foreigners.

Diplomatic Status:

A diplomat's personal or household effects either new or used may be cleared free of any duty. The diplomat's mission must apply to the Ministry with a complete list of items (in the shipment) on which duty exemption is sought.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

Documents required for Household goods/personal effects Customs Clearance:

- ✓ Original Passport will need to be turned over to Indian destination agent until shipment clears customs
- ✓ Authority Letter
- ✓ Baggage Declaration Form (provided by destination agent in India)
- ✓ Inventory with valuation of each item
- ✓ Indian Customs Declaration Form (provided by destination agent in India)
- ✓ Bill of Lading

Documents required for Diplomatic Shipment:

- ✓ Authority Letter (provided by destination agent in India)
- ✓ Baggage Declaration Form (provided by destination agent in India)
- ✓ Copy of Passport duly attested and Duty free Exemption Certificate issued by Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India through Diplomatic Mission in India
- ✓ Bill of Lading
- ✓ Inventory List



RESTRICTED ITEMS:

The below items unless otherwise stated incur duty of 15% either new/old. Only one each is allowed. Duplicate items are subject to 40% duty. All electronics and appliances must be stated in a separate inventory with serial numbers, make and model, value and year of manufacture.

- ✓ Home Theater Systems, Music Systems, TV's, DVD/DVR players
- ✓ Video camera and accessories, sound recording equipment, video reproduction equipment, cinematographic films of 35 mm and above
- ✓ Fax machines, portable photocopiers, word processors
- ✓ Dishwashers, Air-Conditioners, electric cooking range, electrical or gas cooking ranges, washing/drying machines, microwaves
- ✓ Gold or silver in any form other than ornaments.
- ✓ New items & Furniture - subject to duty
- ✓ Alcohol, liquor or wines is restricted to 2 litres - subject to duty above 2 liters; pack separately & identify clearly on box
- ✓ Golf Set, Grand/Upright Piano & Printers (old or new) - subject to duty
- ✓ Import of plants is very complicated (and regulations keep changing), so please take our advice before shipping such goods
- ✓ Tobacco - no more than 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250 gram of loose tobacco

PROHIBITED ITEMS:

- ✓ Firearms, weapons, & ammunition of any type
- ✓ Drugs and narcotics
- ✓ Obscene literature
- ✓ Pornographic material
- ✓ No more than 50 firearm cartridges
- ✓ No more than 200 cigarettes
- ✓ No more than 50 cigars
- ✓ No more than 250 grams of tobacco
- ✓ Alcoholic liquor or wines in excess of two liters
- ✓ Gold or silver, in any form, other than ornaments.

IMPOTING MOTOR VEHICLES:

Motor vehicles/bikes can be imported under Transfer of Residence status if the below requirements are met. Vehicles must be in owner's possession for at least one year. Must have separate Bill of Lading if shipping in same container as household goods. Foreign nationals must secure a bank bond from the import trade control authorities prior to importation. Bond must state vehicle will not be sold for a specified amount of time. Seek the advice of your service agent for requirements as they change often.

Returning Indians are not under the bond requirement.

- ✓ The vehicle should not be older than 3 years from date of manufacture.

Website: www.servilerelocations.com

Email: info@servilerelocations.com



- ✓ The vehicle should be with right hand steering and controls
- ✓ Have a speedometer indicating the speed in Kilometers
- ✓ Have photometry of the headlamps to suite “keep left” traffic

Required Documents:

- ✓ Owner’s passport – verifying 2 years residence abroad
- ✓ Original Manufacturing Invoice of the vehicles (NOT from a dealer or any other sources)
- ✓ Vehicle Registration/Title - for at least one year, in the name of the shipper
- ✓ Insurance Certificate/Policy
- ✓ BL must state make, model, year, VIN, engine and chassis numbers

IMPOTING PETS:

One pet either dog, cat or parrot is allowed with valid health and inoculation certificates, subject to a clearance of the Animals Quarantine and Certificate Service authorities in India. Parrots require a certificate that they were subjected to a fixation test for psittacosis, with negative results, within 30 days prior to embarkation. Consult the Destination Agent regarding current regulation for importing pets into India,

A diplomat’s pet may be cleared free of duty against a Duty Exemption certificate issued by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs

Required Documents:

- ✓ Veterinary Health Certificate - from a Veterinary Officer at origin attesting pet is free from Aujosky’s disease, Distemper, Rabies, Leishmaoiasis and Leptospirosis
- ✓ Vaccination Record from Veterinary officer
- ✓ The Import License - issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and the Import Sanitary Permit is issued by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

Vaccination Certificate must contain a complete record of vaccinations, vaccine used (which should have passed the satisfactory potency tests), brew of the vaccine and the name of the production laboratory and to the effect that the pet (dog/Cat) was vaccinated against Rabies more than one month, but within 12 months (for nervous tissue vaccine; and 36 months for chicken embryo vaccine) prior to actual embarkation.

NOTE: Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: New notification has been passed by the Indian Ministry of Agriculture which requires all inbound shipments containing wood packing material to be fumigated/ treated (& marked as per ISPM-15) & accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate.

****Monsoon Season is June – Oct: Liftvans and containers must be properly waterproofed.**

**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 Indian Customs. Servile Relocations Pvt. Ltd. assumes no liability for the changes in the law.