



Importing Personal Property Into

COLOMBIA

IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

ENTRY OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

Household Goods are subject to duties, except for Diplomatic shipments.

- Returning residents must have resided overseas for at least 2 years, and must not have been in Colombia for more than 30 days in the last year.
- Shipper must request a **Baggage Certificate** from the airport customs office upon arrival in Colombia to enable shipment to clear customs.
- The shipper must notify the Colombian customs authority upon arrival in Colombia if an unaccompanied shipment is forthcoming.
- Each family is permitted one shipment from one origin.
- Shippers themselves must arrive within 120 days of his/her shipment.

Electrical Appliances:

- The Colombian customs authority permits only one unit of an electrical appliance of any type. Any multiples are subject to confiscation. The only exception is air conditioning units; 3 are permitted.
- The serial numbers of all appliances should be recorded for customs clearance.
- All electrical appliances should be packed in one container, if possible.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ✓ Itemized inventory in Spanish listing make, model and serial numbers for all electrical appliances.
- ✓ Original valid passport and visa valid for 1 year
- ✓ For unaccompanied baggage via aircraft, a form called "Declaracion de viajeros" (Traveler's declaration) must declare unaccompanied goods, whose value must not exceed US \$2,500.00 and must not include furniture.
- ✓ Original Bill of Lading / Air Waybill

- ✓ Baggage Certificate
- ✓ For returning Colombians: Certificate of Residence issued by Colombian Consulate verifying shipper's stay abroad has been for at least 2 continuous years.

DIPLOMATIC SHIPMENTS

- Diplomats are permitted duty and tax-free entry of household goods if the proper documents are obtained.
- Personal firearms are allowed, but a carrying permit must be obtained.
- Vehicles must be shipped separately.
- Demurrage or handling charges from Customs will be invoiced at delivery.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR DIPLOMATIC SHIPMENTS

- ✓ Original Air Waybill/ Bill of Lading
- ✓ Inventory in Spanish with values
- ✓ Original Passport Diplomatic Franchise (for foreigners) obtained in advance from the Ministry of Foreign Relations
- ✓ Certificate of Customs Clearance (for Colombians) obtained in advance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- ✓ Diplomatic Entry Form

RESTRICTED/DUTIBALE ITEMS

- ✓ Firearms require prior approval from the Ministry of Defense and are limited to one sporting weapon per family.
- ✓ Bedroom furniture is restricted and must relate to the number of family members.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Weapons, ammunition and explosives
- Pornographic materials
- Excessive quantities of tobacco and foodstuffs are prohibited.
- Narcotics and other drugs
- Uniforms or other equipment similar to that being used by the Police or Armed Forces.

IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES AND PETS

IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

- An Import License must be obtained prior to shipping a motor vehicle.
- Motor vehicles must not be included as part of a household goods shipment.
- Except for diplomats, only new cars can be imported into Colombia.
- Vehicles must be 6 cylinders or less.
- Duties will be assessed at approximately 150-200% of the CIF (Cost Insurance Freight) of the automobile.
- A sales tax of 35% of CIF value plus the assessed duties will be charged.
- Annual road taxes range from \$250 to \$850.
- Imported vehicles must be exported back to the country of origin when the shipper departs, or left with customs authority if the shipper plans to return to Colombia.
- The vehicle must be inspected by a firm such as Bureau Veritas or SGS at origin.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ✓ Import Permit – all documents must agree with the Import Permit.
- ✓ Original Ocean Bill of Lading
- ✓ Original Commercial Invoice
- ✓ Registration
- ✓ Title
- ✓ Copy of Bill of Sale

Note:

- All documents must be in place before shipping the vehicle. If violations occur, the vehicle will be seized and stored at the shipper's expense.

IMPORTATION OF PETS

- It is recommended that the shipper be present for customs clearance. Pets arriving at the airport after 2:00 p.m. will be cleared the following business day. There are no airport pet facilities.
- Quarantine is not required for cats and dogs.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR IMPORTATION OF PETS

- ✓ Import License if more than 2 animals are imported.
- ✓ Vaccination Certificates
- ✓ Notarized Health Certificate from a veterinarian.

RETURNING COLUMBIAN CITIZENS

- Must have proof they have lived abroad for 2 consecutive years, and have been in Colombia no more than 30 days in the last year.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

- HHGFAA, 2005.
- 4moversww.com, April 2000.
- Portan, <http://www.portan.com/faq/faq.html>, January 2000.
- Latin America Caribbean Movers Association, Colombia Customs Regulations, May 1999.

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.