



## CHINA

### *Customs hints on exporting shipments of household goods*

The Customs clearance process for exporting shipments of personal and household effects in China can sometimes be difficult and complicated, as each shipment may have different requirements depending on Customs and port of exit. In general, the documents required to apply for an Export Permit are:

#### 1) EXPORT PERMIT :

- Export Permit application form
- Original Passport
- Original Resident Permit (issued for at least 12 months)
- Original Work Permit (issued for at least 12 months)
- Letter from your employer verifying your departure
- Authorization letter to Asian Express in handling the clearance of your shipment
- Copy of air or train ticket
- Original packing List

#### 2) EXPORT RESTRICTIONS :

##### ▪ **Antiques & Refurbished Furniture**

For many clients moving out of China, there is the issue of antiques. As a general guideline, anything from before 1949 can be considered an antique by Chinese authorities, and may therefore be prohibited from leaving China. It is often very difficult to determine just how old a piece of furniture or porcelain really is.

##### ▪ **Antiques Inspection**

If you have purchased antiques, refurbished furniture resembling antiques, or any items that look old, you must have an antique inspection performed by the Antiques and Relics Bureau prior to Asian Express packing your shipment; otherwise your entire shipment may be detained by Customs for thorough inspection at the port resulting to delay, demurrage and other additional fees. Upon request, Asian Express can arrange for the antique inspectors from the Bureau to visit your residence for a physical inspection.

During the inspection, please ensure that anything that could be considered an antique is made available for the inspectors to examine. You must also present your original passport and pay the fees in Renminbi cash to the inspectors. If the pieces are permitted for export, an easy-to-remove wax seal will be placed by the inspectors on each item. Please do NOT clean nor wash away the wax as it is the proof of the items being inspected and approved for export. If the pieces are not approved for export, it may be confiscated immediately by the inspectors. It is advisable to have a person who speaks Mandarin (the local language) to be present during the inspection and to assist with the arrangements. Asian Express can assist in acting as a translator.

After the inspection, a Certificate listing the items that are approved for export will be given by the inspectors. Asian Express will submit the Certificate to Customs for export Customs clearance of your shipment. Please note that Customs at the port are not experts in identifying antiques. Therefore, if an item resembles an antique, but has not been inspected or approved for export and is detected by Customs in the shipment during inspection, the entire shipment may be detained by Customs for further inspection.



Please note that Asian Express will not knowingly pack items of antiquity and shall not be responsible or liable for any costs and/or consequences that may occur if any are detected by Customs.

▪ **Chinese Medicine & Herbs**

Chinese herbs and certain kinds of Chinese medicine may be prohibited from export. Should you have any traditional Chinese medicine and herbs, Asian Express may assist you to determine whether the items are qualified for export.

▪ **Pirated CD's & VCD's**

Due to Chinese Customs regulations concerning piracy, it is strictly forbidden for any pirated CD's and VCD's to be exported in your shipment.

▪ **Animal Products**

Rare animal products, such as ivory and skins, are strictly prohibited for exported.

▪ **Motor Vehicles & Motorcycles**

Motor vehicles and motorcycles are restricted for exporting from China except with diplomatic status.

**3) FUMIGATION :**

Subject to the importation requirements of certain countries, Asian Express will arrange for the appropriate fumigation of shipments for export.

**4) EXPORT CUSTOMS CLEARANCE :**

When the shipment is ready to be exported out from China, Asian Express will take the Export Permit and shipping documents to the terminal for Customs clearance. Please note that your original passport will be kept and used for a few days during Customs clearance and inspection.

All shipments (apart from Diplomatic shipments) are subject to 100% Customs inspection and are checked against the packing list. You do not have to be present during clearance. Any items that are not properly declared and/or approved for export may be confiscated and penalties levied. Owner-packed cartons can lead to extensive scrutiny from Customs officials. It is advisable to have Asian Express pack all items of your shipment.

**DISCLAIMER**

The above information herein is correct at the time of preparing, however, changes in laws and convention can alter from time to time which may affect the importation of Goods. Whilst every effort is made to keep this information as up to date as possible, Asian Express will not accept any responsibility or liability for any changes in import and export regulations.

