

CHINA

Customs hints on importing shipments of household goods for Returning Chinese Citizens from overseas following a business trip

The Customs clearance procedure and documents required to import shipments for returning Chinese citizens from overseas following a business trip are different than for foreigners.

1) CUSTOMS CLEARANCE :

Import Permit is not required and the shipment can be effected anytime to China provided that you have been staying overseas on a business trip of not less than 6 consecutive months prior to importation and that you will be in China at the time of arrival of the shipment. In general, the documents required for Customs clearance are:

- Original Chinese Passport (not foreign passport)
- Documents approving your overseas business trip
- Copy of packing list in English
- Ocean Bill of Lading and/or Airway Bill

NOTE : During clearance, each package is subject to thorough examination by Customs based on the packing list, and the applicable import taxes and duties will be levied. Any items not properly declared on the packing list may be confiscated, detained, or may incur penalties.

2) PROHIBITED ITEMS :

- Weapons, firearms (including air-rifles), bow & arrow and replica gun
- Drugs and narcotics
- Counterfeit or pirated goods
- Pornographic materials
- Materials found to be morally or politically offensive, or anti-communist
- Endangered species, alive or dead
- Meat products
- Plants and seeds
- Soil, fertilizer and pesticide
- Gambling paraphernalia (such as poker chips)
- Certain type of food products, wine, liquor, beverages and alcoholic drinks are prohibited to be imported in certain cities in China (you must check with Asian Express prior to importation)

3) RESTRICTED ITEMS :

- Pets which only refer to dogs and cats (excluding any other animals such as birds and rabbits etc.) require a special Import Permit and prior approval of Customs before importation into China
- Grand piano and baby grand piano are not allowed to be imported unless you can provide adequate and appropriate professional certificates

- Copying machine is classified as office equipment and not allowed to be imported as personal and household effects
- Alcoholic drinks and wine are restricted for importing into Beijing
- Motor vehicles, motorcycles and mini-bikes are restricted for importing into China except with diplomatic status
- Satellite receiver and antenna
- Large lawn mower
- Diving equipments
- Model (cars & air planes, etc) with large engine
- Maximum 6 kilos of certain milk powder per shipment
- Furniture of any kind (restricted for shipment to Shanghai)
- FCL container shipment (restricted for shipment to Shanghai)
- LCL shipment of over 7 cubic meters (restricted for shipment to Shanghai)

4) **IMPORT DUTY & TAX :**

As a general guideline, clothing and kitchenware can be imported into China duty free. Personal effects, furniture, electrical and electronic items, stereo equipments, office equipments, wine, liquor, alcoholic drinks, cigarettes and tobacco, motor vehicles and motorcycles, are subject to import tax and duty. In general, the import tax and duty charged on furniture and personal effects is approximately 10% to 30% based on Customs assessed value. If more than one of each type of the major appliances is included in a shipment (i.e. refrigerators or televisions etc.), Customs may consider the shipment containing commercial goods thus making clearance very difficult.

Alcohol attracts very high import tax & duty and is prohibited to be imported in certain cities in China. It is strongly recommended not to import this item into China as either it will be confiscated or heavy penalties and fines will be levied. Please refer to the "**China Import Duty Calculator**" on our website: www.aemovers.com.hk for a rough estimation of the import tax & duty of the shipment. In general, a reasonable quantity of CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes and cassette tapes may be imported free of duty, subject to the sole discretion of the Customs officer. These items will be examined and screened by Customs, and any objectionable scenes found may result in heavy fines and penalties, confiscation, prosecution and detention of the entire shipment.

5) **CUSTOMS CLEARANCE & QUARANTINE INSPECTION :**

During clearance, each shipment will be subject to extreme close scrutiny and thorough examination by Customs and Quarantine based on the packing list, and the applicable import taxes & duties are levied. Any items not properly declared on the packing list may be confiscated, detained, or incur penalties.

Please ascertain that the contents of all packages are clearly marked on the packing list and that there are no miscellaneous cartons or packed-by-owner packages. Please ensure that ALL electrical and electronic items are clearly listed on the packing list with MAKE and SIZE (e.g. 29" Sony Television (LCD), Philips mini-combo Stereo System, Hitachi 3-door 280 liters refrigerator, 14" Computer Monitor (CRT), Ink Jet HP Printer, Epson Laser Printer etc.).



Please also ensure that the TYPE of Sofa Set is clearly listed on the packing list (e.g. 3-seater leather sofa, 2-seater cloth sofa, 1-seater PVC sofa etc.). The Customs assessed value is dependant on the MAKE and SIZE of the particular item and will affect the final taxes & duties levied. Any discrepancies between the packing list and the actual content of the packages may cause the shipment to be detained, confiscated or immediately returned to origin. Normally it will take around 5 working days to clear your shipment subject to all necessary import documents are in order and available.

Please note that for most cities in China, FCL shipments cannot be delivered in its own container due to road restrictions. If such arrangement is required, special permits and pre-arrangement must be required subject to the delivery address and road access conditions. Additional charges will be levied and the container can only be delivered after 10:00 in the evening.

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.



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