



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.

- Shipment can arrive 30 days prior to and 120 days after the shipper's entry into Colombia.
- Returning Residents must have resided overseas for at least 2 years.
- Shipper must not have had another household goods shipment in the previous 7 years.

Personal Effects are subject to duties and must arrive within 90 days of the shipper's entry into Colombia.

Electrical Appliances:

- The Colombian customs authority permits only one unit of an electrical appliance of any type. Any duplications 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.

Notes:

- 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.
- Personal effects shipment up to a value of US \$1,500.00 per adult is allowed if the overseas stay has been less than 7 days.

Notes (continued):

- A value of US \$4,000.00 per adult is allowed for overseas stays exceeding 7 days.
- Minors (under 18 years of age) are entitled to half the adult allowance. No electrical appliances allowed.
- Only 1 shipment from a country is permitted unless the electrical current from the origin country is 110 volts.
- Shipper must be present for Customs Clearance.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Itemized inventory in Spanish listing make, model and serial numbers for all electrical appliances.
- ✓ Original valid Passport and Visa for 1 year
- ✓ Resident or Work Visa
- ✓ Original Bill of Lading / Air Waybill
- ✓ Certificate of Residence issued by Colombian Consulate verifying shipper's stay abroad has been for at least 2 continuous years.
- ✓ Transmittal document listing weights/volumes and delivery details.
- ✓ Baggage Certificate

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.

DIPLOMATIC SHIPMENTS; RESTRICTED/PROHIBITED ITEMS; IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES AND PETS

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.

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.

IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES (CONTINUED):

- A sales tax of 35% of CIF value plus the assessed duties will be charged.
- Annual road taxes range between \$250 to \$850.
- Colombian law requires a third-party liability policy issued by a Colombian firm before the vehicle can be registered. Insurance can cost between \$800 to \$8,500 a year.
- 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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

- 4moversww.com, April 2000.
- Portan, <http://www.portan.com/faq/faq.html>, January 2000.
- MoveHome International S.A., November 1999.
- OMNI, http://www.omnimoving.com/frameset_about.html, October 1999.
- 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.