



Importing Personal Property Into Zimbabwe

IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

DUTY-FREE ENTRY IS PERMITTED IF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS ARE MET:

- A rebate of customs duty may be granted to a new immigrant or returning resident who has returned after at least a 2 year absence. Items eligible for duty-free entry include personal and household effects, other goods, and one car OR motorcycle per adult family member. Proof of ownership must be provided to Customs prior to importation.
- Returning residents who are returning after a stay of less than 2 years outside of Zimbabwe are eligible for a rebate of duty of personal and household effects, other goods and motor vehicles only if proof can be provided of original export from Zimbabwe.
- Goods imported by immigrants may not be sold within 24 months of the date of their importation unless customs duties are paid.
- The shipper must be present at the time of Customs clearance.

Notes:

- **Immigrants** are defined as individuals entering Zimbabwe to take up employment or permanent residence in Zimbabwe
- **Returning Residents** are persons who previously held residence in Zimbabwe and have resided out of the country but still qualify for the Right of Residence to Zimbabwe.
- **Personal Effects:** clothing, used personal objects and furniture, tools, farm and gardening tools and workshop equipment. Excluded is firearms, motor vehicles, motor caravans, except for special cases.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Customs documents for new immigrants and returning residents must be filed by the shipper with the Department of Customs & Excise.
- ✓ Bill of lading or Airway bill with detention number stamped on it at point of arrival by the airline.
- ✓ Inventory listing the serial numbers of electrical appliances.
- ✓ Customs Form 170 for customs clearance
- ✓ Rail Advise Note
- ✓ Consignment Note
- ✓ Immigrants or returning residents after an absence of at least 2 years require:
 - ✓ Declaration of Undertaking – Form C38
 - ✓ Passport
 - ✓ Residence or Work Permit
- ✓ Returning Residents after an absence of less than 2 years require:
 - ✓ Immigrant's Declaration Form
 - ✓ Proof of original export
 - ✓ Application for duty, if goods were obtained while living abroad.

FOREIGN DIPLOMATS

- Diplomats include members of any organization designated by the Zimbabwean Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- All diplomats must hold a Zimbabwean Diplomatic Identity Card.
- Diplomats will be granted a rebate or remission of all customs duties on goods imported for the official use of the diplomat's mission or for the private use by the diplomat or his/her family.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Zimbabwe Customs Form C151 for motor vehicles
- ✓ Zimbabwe Customs Form C1532 must be completed and presented to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

RESTRICTED/ PROHIBITED ITEMS; IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES AND PETS

RESTRICTED/DUTIBALE ITEMS:

- Immigrants may not receive a duty rebate on business equipment including computers, copy machines, typewriters, cash registers, fax machines, etc.
- The following items are restricted by quantity:
 - One motor vehicle
 - One stove
 - Two television sets
 - 5 liters of alcohol with only 2 liters being spirits.
- New furniture and household goods are subject to duty.
- Firearms and ammunition require an import license from the Secretary of Home Affairs.
- Citrus fruits, deciduous plants and seeds require an import license from the appropriate agricultural authorities.
- Precious metal
- Antiques and works of art

PROHIBITED ITEMS:

- Drugs and narcotics
- Pornographic materials
- Offensive weapons
- Forged documents
- Counterfeit money

IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES:

- Each adult (over 18 years old) family member is allowed to import one motor vehicle duty and tax-free if purchased by the shipper prior to entry into Zimbabwe.
- The vehicle must not be sold, leased or other wise disposed of within 12 months after the date of importation without obtaining permission from the Controller of Customs.
- Single immigrants may not import more than one vehicle and families are limited to two vehicles unless an import license is obtained prior to importation.

IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES (CONTINUED):

- After arrival in Zimbabwe, duty will be assessed on future importation of motor vehicles.
- Only under certain conditions will duty-free entry be extended to returning residents who are returning after an absence of less than 2 years.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES:

- ✓ Immigrants and returning residents after an absence of at least 2 years:
 - ✓ Customs Form 171 (MV)
 - ✓ Immigrant's Declaration
 - ✓ Passport
 - ✓ Residence Permit
 - ✓ Import License if the shipper has owned the vehicle for less than 6 months prior to importation.
 - ✓ Sales invoice
 - ✓ Proof of ownership
 - ✓ Registration Certificate

IMPORTATION OF PETS:

- Pets may be imported, but are subject to import control.
- Prior approval for importation must be obtained from the Director of Veterinary Services.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Import License obtained from the Director of Veterinary Services.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

- 4moversww.com, April 2000.
- OMNI, http://www.omnimoving.com/frameset_about.html, October 1999.
- Excess Baggage Company, August 1999.
- Glens Removals and Storage, 1998.

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.