



Customs Procedure for Moving Household Goods into Japan

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

- Passport for every member of the family (clear copy of all the pages which have Japanese entry stamps) and copy of page with photograph
- Residence and Working Visa (valid for over one year)
- Original and two copies Declaration for Unaccompanied Baggage stating number of pieces in each shipment (Form C 5360-2 for non-Japanese and Form 5360 for Japanese).
 - Forms are obtained on the airplane travelling to Japan or at the Airport in Japan upon arrival.
 - Two originals required
 - Can be used to declare any other shipments arriving within six months.
 - If this form is not presented at time of arrival, Customer must prepare a "Letter of Apology" to Customs office which will delay clearance and Customer may have to pay import duty
- Inventory (detailed in English or Japanese)
 - PBO - "packed by owner" and miscellaneous are NOT ACCEPTABLE!
 - Air shipments require a detailed list with carton numbers and items in each carton, along with the total number of pieces
- Keys to locked trunks/suitcases
- Delivery address and telephone number

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

- **CUSTOMER MUST BE IN JAPAN AT TIME OF CUSTOMS CLEARANCE**
- Used household goods and personal effects are duty-free provided the goods have been in owner's possession and utilization for at least one full year
- Most shipments inspected
- Shipment must arrive within six months of Customer

DUTIABLE/RESTRICTED ITEMS

- Alcohol, tobacco, rice and video cassettes
 - Items must be stowed for easy access in the container
 - Large quantities require separate clearance as a commercial shipment
 - Must be clearly noted on inventory (including the weight of the rice)
 - Detailed list of video cassette tapes
- New items (less than a year old), especially furniture
 - It is recommended that new items be re-packed
 - Invoices required
- Electrical appliances

RESTRICTED GOODS

The following items may be imported duty free in limited quantities:

- Three (3) bottles (around 760cc) alcoholic beverages
- 400 pieces of cigarettes per adult
- 100 pieces of cigars (if there is no other tobacco)
- 500 grams pipe tobacco
- If there are more than 2 kinds of tobacco, up to 500 grams in total weight
- 2 ounces perfume

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Rice, flower seeds/bulbs, flour, straw and straw items
- Fresh fruit, meat products and vegetables (pineapples, green bananas excluded)
- Items requiring Quarantine Certificate are rooted plants, furs, straw products, shells, meats and stuffed animals
- Wildlife products from protected and endangered species
- Narcotics and drugs (including over the counter cold medicines containing Pseudoephedrine)
- Counterfeit or altered currency
- Pornographic or politically sensitive material such as books, pictures or sculptures
- Firearms and other lethal weapons particularly swords, spears, blowpipes, daggers, bolos, bows and arrows if the blade is more than 15 centimeters in length
 - **Importation and/or possession of any type of weapon is strictly prohibited and will result in fines**
- **If above items are included in the shipment, they will either be shipped back to origin or abandoned; additional costs for either option will be charged to Customer.**

MOTOR VEHICLES

- Duty-free for foreigners establishing residence
- Must not be sold for two years after date of Import Permit
- Must meet import requirements
- Documents required:
 - Original Passport
 - Alien Registration Card
 - Form C 5360-2 or 5360
 - Original Registration
 - Engine & Chassis Number
 - Purchase receipt
 - Proforma invoice
 - Drivers License (copy)
 - Car Manual
 - Documents stating vehicle has been in owner's use and possession abroad
 - Affidavit stating that you will not sell your auto while in Japan
- NOTE: Foreign cars must be modified to meet Japanese emission and safety regulations; charges are very high and for customer's account

If the above requirements are not met, import duty will be assessed at 5% of the depreciated assessed market value.

PETS

- Dogs and cats:
 - Health and Resident Certificate from Quarantine Office at origin endorsed by USDA/APHIS/VS required (certificate issued by private veterinarians not acceptable)
- Original Rabies Certificate issued by the pets veterinarian - must be issued within past 6 months but more than 1 month old
- Quarantine at least 15 days required for dogs
- Pets must be shipped aboard direct non-stop flights, from origin city where certificate was issued to destination
- Pets not meeting these requirements will be returned to origin (at owner's expense)