



## **Customs Procedure for Moving Household Goods into Thailand**

### **1) Exemption from Import Duty and VAT (7%) is applicable in the following cases:-**

#### **A. Diplomatic shipments:**

Diplomatic shipments must be processed through the Foreign Ministry of the Thai Government. This process is completed by the Embassy concerned and usually takes 10-14 days from the arrival of the shipment.

All items, including cars, are afforded duty free entry upon acceptance and approval by the Foreign Ministry. Please send all documentation as early as possible prior to shipment arrival so that we may pass to the Embassy for earliest processing.

#### **B. Non-diplomatic shipments**

One air and one surface shipment is allowed to enter Thailand duty free if the shipper has one of the following:-

- **1 year work permit**

Only a full 1 year work permit issued in Thailand will be accepted by customs for duty exemption. No other work permit will be considered. Original permit must be presented to customs for inspection. There are no customs bond facilities available pending issuance of a work permit. Please note that some applicants are initially only issued with a 6 month work permit and this has to be extended to 12 months before it is acceptable

- **1 year Category “B” Non-Immigrant Visa**

This visa is issued in Thailand by the Immigration Department and is not to be confused with a visa of the same name issued by a Thai Embassy overseas

- **B.O.I. Letter**

Persons working for a company or project that has the Thai Government Board of Investment (BOI) approval, may obtain a letter from the B.O.I. to Thai customs granting exemption from duty and tax.

### **C. Returning Thai Nationals**

Thai citizens who have been living overseas in the country of shipment origin for 12 consecutive months or longer will be exempted from duty and tax. Too frequent travel back to Thailand during this period may cause a problem should customs deem the owner not to have been permanently in the foreign country. Thai citizens with dual nationality must re-enter Thailand using their Thai passport.

**Note that foreign individuals** who seek to retire and seek residency in Thailand may not be granted any duty free privileges.

**Furthermore**, the following conditions always must be met for paragraph B+C above or the entire shipment will be classified as non – exempt:-

- 1.1 The shipment must originate from same country as owners last residence or place of work.
- 1.2 The shipment must arrive in Thailand not earlier than the owners arrival/return to Thailand
- 1.3 The shipment must arrive in Thailand not later than 6 months after owners arrival/return to Thailand.
- 1.4 Only 1 of each electrical item is allowed i.e. if owner has 3 refrigerators, full duty will be assessed on two units.
- 1.5 Only goods over 6 months old are eligible for duty exemption. New goods are subject to full duty

### **2) Non-Exempt from Duty**

High duties are placed on all goods not falling under section 1 above. Especially high duties apply to electrical goods, carpets, pianos and luxury goods such as cars. We suggest not to ship alcoholic beverages and food-stuffs as such commodities require an import license.

**Note: Prohibited articles** include firearms, ammunition, pornographic literature, short-wave radios, medical equipment, gold and silver.

**Note: For all inbound shipments (except diplomatic) we must have person's original passport for clearance.** The person must therefore have already arrived in Thailand with an Immigration entry stamp in their passport.

With all documentation in order, clearance typically takes 3-5 working days.

**For more information, please visit the following website at [www.customs.go.th](http://www.customs.go.th)**