



COSTA RICA



CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION FOR IMPORTS

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

Documents Required

- Copy of Passport (copy must be certified by a lawyer)
- Rated Original Bill of Lading (OBL) / Airway Bill (AWB)
- Packing list in English or Spanish
- Proof of residence abroad from origin country

Specific Information

- Customs clearance takes approximately 10 business days from the date of shipment arrival.
- The items and weights identified on the OBL must match the actual items in the shipment or a fine of 250 USD will be levied and clearance will be delayed.
- All shipments are subject to physical inspection.
- Diplomat shipments are duty free.
- Returning citizens may receive a partial tax exemption if having lived abroad for at least 24 months preceding import; proof from the Costa Rican consulate in the origin country is required and must indicate the number of years of residence lived abroad.
- Lift vans, air vans, wooden crates, and boxes arriving in containers or single shipments must be fumigated per ISPM-15 guidelines and visibly marked on at least two opposite sides of the container in permanent black ink.
- Certain wood packing materials are exempt from ISPM-15 regulations; contact the destination agent for specific information.

MOTOR VEHICLES

Documents Required

- Original Title
- Original Purchase Invoice
- Emissions Certificate in Spanish (or translated), verified by the Consul at origin
- OBL

Specific Information

- Duties range from 45% to 70% of the retail value of a vehicle.
- The import of motor vehicles is not recommended as duties may exceed the value of the vehicle.
- Contact the destination for additional information.

PETS

Documents Required

- Rabies Vaccination Record
- Veterinary Health Certificate (2 copies)
- International Certificate (APHIS Form 7001) is recommended
- Authorization from the Costa Rican Health Ministry obtained at origin from the Consulate / Embassy

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Specific Information

- Documents must be received by the destination agent prior to the pet's arrival and are subject to examination upon arrival.
- Animals over 3 months of age must be vaccinated against rabies.
- Quarantine is not currently required unless the pet is deemed unhealthy upon examination then the pet may be kennelled in a government facility.

RESTRICTED / DUTIABLE ITEMS

- The following items are subject to taxes:
 - Arms and ammunition (a permit from the Ministry of National Security is required for returning citizens or residents)
 - Dangerous objects (a permit from the Ministry of National Security is required for returning citizens and residents)
 - Plants (a Phytosanitary Certificate and permit from the Ministry of Agriculture are required prior to import)
 - New household goods/new furniture (an original invoice or a statement under oath of the value of the item is required)
 - Household/electrical appliances (the brand, serial number and model must be listed on the packing list)
 - Wedding trousseaux, inheritances, gifts and souvenirs
 - Carpets
 - Antiques and works of art
 - Furniture (wooden items/ornaments require a permit from the Ministry of Agriculture)
 - Precious metal objects, such as jewelry, coins, etc. (purchase receipts/invoices are required)
 - Non-motorized vehicles, such as bicycles, watercraft, etc. (duties depend on value, year, model, cubic centimeters and features)
 - Wine and alcohol (permits from the Ministry of Health /Ministry of Economy are required)
 - Tins and food (a permit from the Ministry of Health are required) (3 copies)

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Narcotics, drugs and medicines (permits from the College of Pharmacy and Ministry of Health are required)
- Pornographic and subversive materials
- Explosives

CONSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Recommended: Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air / sea shipments.

IAM Note: *Customs regulations can change at any time with or without notice. This document is provided as a guide and for information only. While IAM has exercised reasonable care in publishing this document, IAM makes no representation, either expressed or implied, as to its accuracy or applicability.*

Helpful Website(s):

<http://www.costarica-embassy.org>

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1093.html

<http://costarica.usembassy.gov/catsdogs.html>