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## CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR IMPORTS

### HOUSEHOLD GOODS REMOVAL

#### A. Documents Required

##### Non-Diplomat

- Original passport
- Residence permit valid for one year
- Original work permit if residence permit is obtained due to employment in China
- Application form
- Authorization form
- Airway bill or original / express release bill of lading
- Packing list

##### Diplomat

- Diplomatic identification card or diplomatic passport
- Airway bill or original / express release bill of lading
- Packing list

##### Citizen

- Passport
- Valid visa (verifying residence in origin country for more than 6 months)
- Baggage declaration form (stamped)
- Chinese residence certificate
- Airway bill or original / express release bill of lading
- Packing list

#### B. Specific Regulations

- Client must be present for customs clearance process.
- If importing more than one shipment into China, shipments must be declared together; otherwise the second shipment will be fully dutiable.
- Wood-cased shipments or shipments that include wood packing materials must be heat treated or fumigated with methyl bromide and marked with IPPC stamps
- Manufactured wood such as plywood, particleboard, oriented strand board, fiberboard and chipboard are exempt.
- Wood packing material made from wood pieces is also exempt, but only if the wood particles are less than 6 mm in any dimension.
- Regulations apply to all shipments, regardless of origin.
- Additional costs due to delays, fumigation, destruction or return of the shipment, caused by not following these regulations will be charged to the shipper or booking agent.

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### Non-Diplomat

- Must obtain a 1-year work permit and a residence permit (or at least more than 11-1/2 months) before applying for an import permit.
- Without a 1-year work permit and residence permit, shipment(s) cannot be cleared from the terminal and storage and demurrage costs will be charged.
- If shipper's residence permit and work permit are less than 11-1/2 months, shipper may be charged duty on entire shipment.

### Diplomat

- Exempt from customs inspection, duties, and taxes.
- Shipper must obtain diplomatic cards before import shipment can be cleared.

### Citizen

- If working abroad for at least 6 months, the shipper may import used household goods and personal effects duty free back with passport and valid visa. However, if the shipper comes into China territory twice within 15 days, the shipper must pay customs duty on entire shipment.
- Shipments must arrive at the port of entry within 6 months of shipper's arrival.
- Shipper must have visa from origin country.
- Shipper must provide one stamped *Baggage Declaration Form* copy for customs clearance.
- Baggage declaration form is available upon arrival at airport.
- Will be charged a custom duty on golf clubs starting with the first set.

## MOTOR VEHICLES

### A. Specific Regulations

- Diesel vehicles cannot be imported into China.
- Shipper must inquire with each destination city's Environmental Bureau to see if imported vehicle meets local environmental standards.
- While some old cars have problems getting car plates, car models listed in China Compulsory Certificate are generally safe for importation.
- On January 1, 2008, Chinese authorities implemented the requirement that all cars registered for the first time in Beijing meet Euro IV standards.

**Note:** *In February 2008, the local environmental protection agency notified post orally that cars manufactured before January 1, 2005, will not be registered without undergoing, and passing, an exhausting testing regimen, costing over USD1200.*

### Non-Diplomat

- Foreigners may import one new or used car per person if the import permit was approved by customs.
- Shipper must pay full import duties on vehicle.
- An import permit must be obtained before shipment.

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### Diplomat

- Diplomats are exempt from paying customs duties and taxes.

### Citizen

- Cannot import automobiles without a green card from a third country.

## **ANTIQUES, ART EFFECTS, CARPETS, AND PAINTINGS**

### **A. Specific Regulations**

- Oriental antiques and objects must be declared in detail, otherwise re-exportation may be prohibited.

## **PETS**

### **A. Documents Required**

- Health certificate
- Original certificate of rabies vaccination

### **B. Specific Regulations**

- Only dogs and cats may be imported.
- Only one animal is allowed for each passport owner.
- Animals will be quarantined for 30-45 days at airport.
- A Veterinary examination must be arranged by owner upon arrival.

## **RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS**

### **Alcohol**

- Duties and taxes for alcohol are extremely high.
- It is recommended not to include wine and spirits in the shipment.

### **Personal Effects/Household Goods**

- Furniture is dutiable.
- Grand pianos are dutiable in Beijing, but the first upright piano is duty free.
- In Shanghai, only professionals are allowed to import Grand pianos.
- Lighting equipment is dutiable.
- Foreigners with a one-year residence permit and a work permit may get duty free entry for up to 200 DVDs and 200 CDs.
- Foreigners can import books duty free as long as the residence permit and work permit are valid for 1 year and this is the first importation.
- Beginning January 1, 2007, 30% of the customs duty will be charged on golf clubs if importing more than one set in the shipment.
- For returning Chinese, the following applies:

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- Less than 20 items or 3 sets may be imported duty free for audiocassette tapes, videotapes, compact discs, etc.
- Less than 20 laser discs may be imported duty free.
- Less than 20 videotapes or 3 sets may be imported duty free; any excess is subject to duty.
- Books over 10 or 3 sets are dutiable.
- Duties are assessed on golf clubs beginning with the first set.

### Electrical/Electronic Appliances

- Major electrical/electronic goods (both new and used) are subject to import duties. This includes televisions, video cameras, video players, video recorders, air conditioners, audio equipment, refrigerators, washing machines, cameras, fax machines, programmable switchboards, computers, telephone sets, wireless paging systems, electronic calculators, printers, typewriters and word processors.
- Photocopiers cannot be imported as household goods or personal effects. However, portable copiers may be imported.
- Portable and cordless telephones require a special import permit.

### Food/Beverages

- Each individual can import a maximum of 50 kgs of foodstuff and beverages as personal effects.
- Food items are subject to customs duties.
- It is recommended not to include food in shipment as food cannot be imported from epidemic-stricken areas, and the Chinese government's definition of epidemic-stricken area changes without notice.

### Motorcycles

- The importation of motorcycles is prohibited unless the owner is a diplomat.
- Even if the owner has diplomatic status, the motorcycle will need to remain in a bonded warehouse until it has been registered and issued with a number plate.

**Note:** *Restricted/dutiable items must be clearly indicated on the inventory and loaded last for easy access.*

## CONSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

**Recommended:** Once the shipment is booked, please fax your pre-alert to the agent office along with a copy of the AWB / BL, packing list, passport copy, and full contact details of the consignee.

### Helpful Tips

- Mark the waybills very clearly "Used household goods and personal effects."
- Packing list should be in English or Chinese.
- Do not attach the inventory list used for the insurance purposes with the documents enclosed with the shipment.
- Pre-alert along with the copies of the waybill, packing list, and shipping schedule should be sent well in advance in order to secure import permit.

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- Check with preferred destination agent well in advance to obtain updated consignment instructions as they may change since this guide was published.

### PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Firearms and ammunition
- Narcotics, drugs, medicines or anaesthetics
- Food, medicine or other products from epidemic-stricken areas
- Printed or recorded material deemed to be detrimental to the political, economic or social interest of China
- Seeds
- Milk products
- Meat products
- Plants (includes samples)
- Animals, including endangered species (other than approved pets)

***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.



March 23, 2010

**CHINESE CUSTOMS ALERT: 2010 WORLD EXPO**

The World Expo is to be hosted in Shanghai China from May 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. For those who managed shipments into Beijing before, during, or after the Olympics in 2008, you will already be aware of the extreme security measures undertaken by the Chinese Government during events like this.

From April to November 2010, 100% inspections of all air shipments both INBOUND and OUTBOUND are expected. Customs has informed local agents in China that there will be delays with clearances starting almost immediately and that there will be zero tolerance for prohibited items in air shipments. Heavy fines and penalties will apply for non-compliance (up to and including revocation of customs licenses).

Please advise clients and accounts accordingly. We highly recommend requesting updated customs information prior to packing and/or sending air shipments so that there are no issues when the shipment arrives in China.

Please check back as IAM will continue to update this alert whenever there is any news.