

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION FOR IMPORTS

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

Documents Required

- Passport
- Original Bill of Lading (OBL) / Air Waybill (AWB)
- Detailed inventory in English or Spanish
- Resident Visa (if the shipper is requesting a tax exemption)
- Proof of residence abroad for at least 2 years (returning citizens)
- Commercial Invoice (if new furniture and household goods are included in the shipment)
- Diplomatic Franchise (Diplomats)
- Marriage / Divorce Certificate, if applicable
- Proof of time abroad (for at least 2 years) (returning citizens)

Specific Information

- New and used appliances are subject to taxes and duties.
- The shipper's presence is only required at Customs clearance upon the shipper's request or if the shipper has a Dominican residence and is requesting an exemption from taxes and duties on used electrical appliances and furniture.
- All shipments are subject to demurrage charges; contact the destination agent for additional information and rates.
- Customs clearance takes approximately 2-3 weeks.
- Diplomats may import household goods and personal effects shipments duty free by request from the Embassy or Consulate at origin through the Dominican Foreign Relations Office.
- Returning citizens having lived abroad for at least 2 years with no more than 180 days stay in the Dominican Republic during that time may qualify for a tax exemption.
- Wood packaging materials must comply with ISPM-15 regulations.

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MOTOR VEHICLES

Documents Required

- Original Title / Registration
- OBL
- Purchase Invoice

Specific Information

- Diplomats may import motor vehicles duty free.
- Returning residents living abroad for more than 2 years with less than 180 days in the Dominican Republic stay during that time may apply for a partial exemption.
- Vehicles must be less than 5 years old from the date of manufacture.
- Non-motorized bicycles may be imported free of duties if part of the household effects shipment.
- Motorized boats must pay approximately 20% of the purchased price.
- Motorcycles are subject to duties.

PETS

Documents Required

- Rabies Vaccination Record
- Veterinary Health Certificate

Specific Information

- Birds will be quarantined for a minimum of 10 days.
- Pets may be imported duty free.
- The Veterinary Health Certificate must be issued at origin within 15 days prior to import and indicate that the animal(s) has been free of disease for the 3 months preceding arrival.
- Authorization from the Department of Agriculture and the National Zoo is required for importation.

RESTRICTED / DUTIABLE ITEMS

- Live plants (a Phytosanitary Certificate from origin prior to arrival and a permit from the Dominican Agriculture after arrival are required; plants should not be sent as part of the household goods shipment or risk confiscation/destruction upon arrival)
- Alcohol and wine (only small quantities for personal consumption are permitted)
- Food items (only small quantities for personal consumption are permitted)
- Medicines, narcotics and drugs (a doctor's prescription is required and are duty free; otherwise, the shipper may face criminal prosecution and penalties or deportation)
- Household goods and new furniture (a Commercial Invoice is required and the items are subject to payment of duties)
- New electrical appliances (subject to duties)
- Firearms (a military permit for personal firearms must be obtained in-person after the arrival of the shipper but prior to shipment arrival; the shipper may face criminal prosecution and penalties if unauthorized items are found in the shipment)
- Appliances, spare parts and machines (are subject to duties)

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Dangerous objects / weapons
- Explosives
- Pornographic and subversive materials
- Illegal drugs

CONSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

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

Important Note: Customs regulations can change at any time with or without notice. This document is provided as a guide and for information only.

It is normally take 1 – 7 working days for customs clearance of sea shipment and 1 – 3 working days for customs clearance of air shipment provided we have all the documents at hand, including the authorization of the exemption from customs taxes if applicable.

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