



## QUICK ANSWERS TO THE MOST FREQUENT QUESTIONS ABOUT IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS INTO MEXICO

**CAN HOUSEHOLD GOODS BE IMPORTED BY A FOREIGNER BEFORE THE PERSON HAS OBTAINED THE RESIDENT VISA? NO**

**CAN A NON-DIPLOMATIC MEXICAN IMPORT HOUSEHOLD GOODS WITHOUT A CONSULARIZED LIST? NO, UNLESS THE IMPORTER CAN GET AN IMPORT PERMIT FROM THE AUTHORITIES IN MEXICO, WHICH IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE EXCEPT FOR CERTAIN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.**

**CAN A MEXICAN CITIZEN OBTAIN A CONSULARIZED LIST ONCE IN MEXICO? IF THE LIST IS NOT OBTAINED AT ORIGIN WITH THE NEAREST MEXICAN CONSULATE, THE OWNER OF THE GOODS HAS NO ALTERNATE OPTION TO GET THIS IN MEXICO.**

**CAN MEXICAN CITIZENS IMPORT AUTOS? GENERALLY NO (UNLESS DIPLOMATIC), BUT THE SHIPPER CAN CHECK THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION AT <http://www.sat.gob.mx/aduanas/>**

**CAN NON-DIPLOMATIC FOREIGNERS BRING IN AN AUTO? UNDER AN FM-3 VISA YES, BUT ONLY ON A TEMPORARY BASIS. THE OWNER MUST CLEAR THE VEHICLE AT THE PORT OF ENTRY DIRECTLY WITH THE AUTHORITIES, NO ONE CAN DO THIS ON HIS/HER BEHALF..**

**WILL NON-DIPLOMATIC GOODS BE INSPECTED? YES, USUALLY ONCE BY THE CUSTOMS BROKER AND CUSTOMS CAN INSPECT THE GOODS ONCE OR EVEN TWICE.**

**WHAT ITEMS ARE NOT CONSIDERED USED HOUSEHOLD GOODS IN MEXICO? ALCOHOL, FOODSTUFFS (INCLUDING SPICES AND FOOD SUPPLEMENTS), FIREARMS (INCLUDING PELLET GUNS, GUNS FOR GAMES SUCH AS PAINTBALL, ETC.), NARCOTICS, MEDICINES, VEHICLES (AUTOS, MOTORCYCLES, BOATS AND SIMILAR ITEMS), PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL, NEW ITEMS (ANY ITEMS WHICH CLEARLY HAS NO USE REGARDLESS OF DATE OF PURCHASE) AND ANY TYPE OF ITEM IN QUANTITIES WHICH LEADS CUSTOMS TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS NOT FOR HOUSEHOLD USE.**

**CAN THE SHIPPER GET AWAY WITH A LITTLE FOOD OR A LITTLE ALCOHOL? ANY QUANTITY OF FOOD OR ALCOHOL CAN BE A PROBLEM AND HOLD UP THE CUSTOMS CLEARANCE UNTIL REMOVED. IF THE SHIPPER IS ADAMANT, WE SUGGEST HE/SHE BRING THE ITEMS IN WITH HIS/HER LUGGAGE.**

**MUST THE SHIPPER BE IN COUNTRY TO CLEAR THE SHIPMENT? USUALLY NO, AS LONG AS ALL THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED**

**WHAT IS CONSIDERED AS A NEW ITEM? BASICALLY ANY ITEM WHICH HAS NOT BEEN USED, REGARDLESS OF DATE OF PURCHASE, VALUE, OR TYPE.**

**DO NEW ITEMS POSE A PROBLEM? YES, ALTHOUGH THE MAGNITUDE VARIES FROM PORT TO PORT, WHICH IS WHY WE STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT NONE BE INCLUDED.**

**CAN A SHIPMENT OF PERSONAL EFFECTS BE IMPORTED WITHOUT A CONSULARIZED LIST OR WITHOUT A RESIDENCE VISA? YES, BUT ONLY BY AIR AND ONLY IF IT STRICTLY ADHERES TO THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES' LIST OF WHAT CONSTITUTES UNACCOMPANIED BAGGAGE.**

**CAN USED HOUSEHOLD GOODS BE IMPORTED INTO MEXICO BY PAYING DUTIES? IT IS POSSIBLE, BUT SO COMPLICATED THAT ALMOST NO CUSTOMS BROKER WILL EVEN ACCEPT THIS TYPE OF CLEARANCE, WHICH MEANS THAT UNLESS THE CUSTOMER CONTRACTS A BROKER DIRECTLY, WE CANNOT BE INVOLVED IN THE CUSTOMS ASPECT OF THE SHIPMENT.**

**WHY DO CUSTOMS BROKERS PRE-INSPECT THE GOODS? MEXICAN CUSTOMS LAW MAKES THE CUSTOMS BROKER LIABLE FOR ANY ERRORS IN CUSTOMS DECLARATION OR INCLUSION OF UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS AND, IF DETECTED BY THE CUSTOMS INSPECTORS, THEY CAN BE FINED, HAVE THEIR LICENSE SUSPENDED OR LOSE THE LICENSE ALTOGETHER.**

**WHAT RISK DOES THE CUSTOMER HAVE IF PROHIBITED OR UNDECLARED ITEMS ARE FOUND IN THE SHIPMENT? THE RISK FOR THE OWNER OF THE GOODS IS BASICALLY TWOFOLD: FIRST IS THE LOSS OF THE ITEM OR ITEMS AND, SECONDLY, IN THE CASE OF OCEAN FREIGHT SHIPMENTS, INCURRING IN ADDED EXPENSES AT THE PORT, WHICH CAN BE SUBSTANTIAL, AS MANY TIMES THE CONTAINER MUST BE MOVED TO ANOTHER AREA TO REMOVE THE ITEMS AND SEVERAL DAYS MAY BE LOST WAITING FOR CUSTOMS TO PROVIDE THE OFFICIAL AUTHORIZATION FOR THE REMOVAL.**