

# 2021 - CHINA CUSTOMS & IMPORT SERVICE INFORMATION - CLIENT

## 1 - SERVICE INCLUDES

- ✓ Foreign management overseeing the service
- ✓ Professionally trained staff at delivery
- ✓ Provide all documents required for customs clearance process
- ✓ Assist in Import Permit application (Shanghai, Beijing & Guangzhou only)
- ✓ Normal Customs clearance & Inspection fees
- ✓ Haulage from port/airport to Import Bond facility
- ✓ Weekday /Normal working hours delivery within 30 km of Customs bond
- ✓ Delivery to residence and room placement
- ✓ Unpacking of furniture and simple assembly (6 pieces)
- ✓ Removal of debris on delivery day
- ✓ Assistance with insurance claims and repair service

## 2 - SERVICE EXCLUDES

- Import Customs duties - if charged
- Import Permit application assistance outside of Shanghai, Beijing & Guangzhou - POA
- Extensive Customs inspection
- Quarantine inspections & Food quarantine inspection costs
- Demurrage & Port storage
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Debris pick-up (unless specified in costs above)
- Assembly of IKEA or similar items & new flat pack furniture
- Assembly of furniture requiring 3<sup>rd</sup> party services
- Stair carry above 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor (G+1) without elevator
- Heavy lifting, long carry over 20 metres & shuttling service
- After-hours, weekend or holiday delivery service

## 3 - IMPORT DUTY – updated 1 September 2020

Mandatory import duty on inbound shipments for expatriates has ceased. China Customs announced that expatriates can import their first shipment into China Duty Free, with full duty levied on their second and subsequent shipments imported.

However, China Customs has implemented several caveats in regard to this duty free status, including a stricter control on the number of multiple items that can be included in a shipment.

Customs will assess the shipment contents on 'a reasonable amount for personal use' basis, with items deemed by them to be in excess of such an amount to be dutiable.

A consequence of this new procedure, is that a more detailed list is required by China Customs of items that are potentially dutiable. To this end we will work closely with your agent in providing the necessary lists as close to your packing as possible, in order to make it easier to complete them properly.

We would remind you that China Customs continues to perform a 100% inspection of ALL shipments.

For expatriates returning to work in China after previously working in the country several years ago who had imported a shipment at that time, the bad news is that this new shipment would be considered as a second shipment and therefore, the contents fully dutiable.

Importantly, Customs will allow one 'small' air shipment to be imported on a passport, ahead of the main shipment, which will not be considered your first shipment in this instance; however, if the air shipment has to be imported with an Import Permit, then it would be classed as your first shipment, thus making the following shipment you import your second and thus it will be fully dutiable.

## 4 - DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR CUSTOMS CLEARANCE

- Valid residence visa – 365 day duration minimum
- Valid work permit – 365 day duration minimum
- Rental contract

Customs in Shanghai will accept one of the above documents valid 11 months, as long as the other document is valid 365 days or longer.

### VERY IMPORTANT

*If client has above documents that are both less than 365 days in duration, customs will consider client a temporary visitor and limit the size of shipment to be imported to just items required for daily use. Import of a container sized shipment in this instance would be prohibited.*

*Negotiations with customs on this particular matter have been greatly reduced and there are limited options available to us, so it is very important that the client and the client's account are aware of this 365 day duration requirement.*

Accompanying documents required to complete import application:

- Import Permit application (supplied by our office) requires client's signature and stamp (chop) of client's company.

Import Permit application assistance outside Shanghai and will affect the clearance time and incur additional service cost.

## 6 - IMPORTANT SHANGHAI CUSTOMS REQUIREMENT

Shanghai Customs has put a directive in place in which ALL cartons/wrappings in the shipment must be labelled in the name of the consignee. Failure to do this, may cause Customs to request the consignee to be present at the time of inspection.

Understand that above possibility could prove an expensive exercise, especially if the client needs to travel from another city to Shanghai to be present for the inspection.

## 5 - CUSTOMS CLEARANCE PROCESSING TIME

**ALL sea shipment must be customs cleared with an Import Permit. Client can only apply for an Import Permit once s/he has a Work Permit and Residence Visa in place.**

The clearance process for a sea shipment is approximately 10 - 11 days\*.

The client's original passport and Work Permit is required for the first 3 working days\* of the process in order to apply for the import permit after which these documents can be returned.

The import process continues for an additional 5 working days\*, in which quarantine and physical customs inspections are performed.

\*Note that times may vary due to the busyness of Customs at peak moving times.

## 7 - PROHIBITED ITEMS

Chinese Customs authorities prohibit the importation of:

- Pornographic literature and media
- Subversive or secessionist literature or media
- Fire arms, weapons & ammunition
- Narcotics, hallucinatory & psychotropic drugs
- Illegal drugs of any kind
- Swords, Daggers and other similar weapons
- GPS & Satellite systems, including dishes
- Radio Controlled aircraft (includes toy aircraft / helicopters / drones)
- Grand Pianos (only if client is a documented musician)
- Diving equipment & Para-gliding equipment
- Commercial photocopiers
- Ivory of any kind – fines and legal consequences apply
- Dairy (milk), egg & meat products

Do not include these items in a shipment under any circumstances. In some instances, the importation of such prohibited items can have financial & legal consequences not only for YOUR client, but also for OUR Company!

## 8 - CHINESE PASSPORT HOLDERS

Chinese passport holders are limited to the amount of personal effects that can be imported, with a maximum of a 20 foot container.

Shipper can only import a personal effects shipment from overseas by providing documented evidence s/he was living/working overseas for more than 12 months.

A Baggage Declaration Form is required for each shipment imported by a Chinese passport holder.

All shipments are subject to import duty based on Customs assessed values with duty free relief up to Rmb 5,000 against total duty levied.

Chinese passport holders holding foreign residence visa returning to China to take up employment with a foreign company can import a larger shipment, but must provide the same documentation as a foreign expatriate.

China Customs limit the number of foreign published books and discs that can be imported by a Chinese passport holder. Special approval is required for books and discs over the allowance and is subject to a Special Customs Approval Service Charge. Currently 50 Foreign Published books and 100 discs allowed before approval required.

**9 - FOOD / INFANT MILK POWDER**

- Fresh & perishable food cannot be imported
- Meat, Egg & Dairy (milk) products cannot be imported
- Canned & vacuum packed food can be imported, but are subject to import duty of 13% of declared value
- Infant milk and formula is tightly restricted. Contact our office regarding the inclusion in a shipment as special exemption will need to be arranged and the amount authorized based on the needs of the infant. Supporting documentation concerning the infant will be necessary.

**12 - REASONABLE AMOUNT**

Chinese Customs retain the right to refuse the importation of personal effects in quantities it believes is more than a 'reasonable amount' for personal use.

When prohibited items or quantities of items are greater than a reasonable amount Customs will either confiscate those items or at the very worst, request that these items to be returned to the origin in a sole use container, regardless of the quantity or volume.

**14 - OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT**

Chinese Customs, more importantly, Shanghai Customs prohibit the importation of USED office equipment & furniture.

NEW furniture & equipment can be imported, but only as a commercial shipment.

A reasonable amount of office items can be imported in a personal effects shipment, though the amount is restricted to company files, several pieces of furniture and equipment. As the amount and type of items to be allowed are restricted, we suggest contacting our office beforehand.

**16 - BUILDING MATERIALS & KITCHENS**

Wood flooring, tiles, counter tops and kitchen cabinets can be imported, but the client is required to provide a good reason for importing these items for Customs to accept.

Experience has shown that customs will approve the importation of such items only if a client can show proof of purchase of a home in China.

**17 - SWORDS, KNIVES & DAGGERS**

Even if ceremonial and blunted, customs will confiscate, so do not include in shipment. Kitchen knives accepted.

**10 - SMALL AIR SHIPMENT - CLEARANCE ON PASSPORT**

Small air shipments no greater than 300 kg gross can be customs cleared on client's original passport. Client must hold either 'F, Z or M' visa at time of clearance.

Only daily necessities - clothes, shoes, toys, kitchenware and the like - allowed. Furniture, electronic and electrical items not allowed. Maximum of 50 published books and 100 discs can be included in the shipment

Import duty is applicable an ALL items in the shipment in this instance, but client's enjoy duty relief of up to Rmb 2,000 against total duty charged.

**13 - CIGARETTES**

**Foreign passport holders:** 4 cartons allowed MAXIMUM  
2 carton duty Free and 2 carton dutiable

**Chinese passport holders\*:** 2 Cartons allowed MAXIMUM  
1 carton duty fee and 1 carton dutiable

Quantities greater than allowance will be confiscated by customs

\*Taiwan & Hong Kong passport holders included

**15 - BAGGAGE DECLARATION FORM**

A Baggage Declaration Form is required for the customs clearance of ALL air shipments and should be collected by the client at the customs counter at the baggage claim area of the international airport when s/he enters China.

Client will need to complete 1 form and present it to the airport customs to be stamped. This form must be retained by the client, as this document is required for the customs clearance process for the air shipment.

For Chinese passport holders, regardless of whether importing an air or sea shipment, a Baggage Declaration Form must be completed. Chinese language forms are available.

A second set of the Baggage Declaration Form is also required for customs clearance of sea shipments for clients living in other cities, other than Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou.

**18 - CHINESE CUSTOMS' DECISIONS ARE FINAL**

Customs can be flexible/inflexible depending upon the case at hand and though we enjoy good relations with customs, we exercise this relationship with caution & discretion.

Sometimes special requests cannot always be granted: remember we have to deal with customs tomorrow!

**11 - WINE, ALCOHOL & LIQUOR**

With immediate effect, China Customs have severely reduced the amount of Alcohol allowed in a shipment.

- Foreign passport holders:** 4 Bottles allowed MAXIMUM  
2 bottles duty Free and 2 bottles dutiable
- Chinese passport holders\*:** 2 Bottles allowed MAXIMUM  
1 bottle duty fee and 1 bottle dutiable

Alcohol in quantity greater than allowed will be confiscated or client will have the option to ship back to origin country.

All alcohol regardless of the percentage of alcoholic content is subject to import duty of 60% of the Customs assessed value.

Tick box 6

Write Personal Effects

Remember the Customs Stamp

**CUSTOMS**

those who are exempted from examination or regulations and those under the age of 16 should truthfully declare the form in an envelope and submit it to the Customs.

The "Dual Channel" system is available. Articles included in items 9-17 shall follow the "RED CHANNEL", marked "RED", while goods through the "NOTHING TO DECLARE" channel.

This form refers to passengers residing in China's territory. Items 9 and 10 shall be the Customs value verified in local currencies in cash exceeding USD 5,000 if accompanied baggage, shall fill out two forms, after being endorsed by the Customs, be used at the time when the currencies are taken for use of going through Customs formalities.

Formalities by the Customs.

**PORTAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

and explosives of all kinds.

and negotiable securities.

gramophone records, cinematographic films, discs (audio and video), storage media for which are detrimental to the political, economic, and cultural interests of the Republic of China.

and other addictive drugs and psychotropic substances.

animals (except dogs and cats as pet), animals of animals and plants, pests and other organisms, soil, genetically modified organisms, relevant and other quarantine objects from countries or regions with epidemic diseases.

articles coming from epidemic stricken areas and are capable of spreading diseases.