

Customs Information India

The following has been provided as a general guide to customs procedures in India. These regulations are subject to change at any time. While the information provided has been gathered from reliable sources, it should not be considered absolute.

The owner must be physically in India before customs clearance can take place. Air shipments must be shipped within 15 days and surface shipments must be shipped within one month of the owner's arrival in India. All shipments are subject to customs examinations and customs duties will be assessed based on the customs evaluation. Household items which have been in your possession for more than one year may be imported duty free (except electrical items). However, if these items are less than 12 months in your possession, duty will be applicable at 36.05% of customs assessed value.

Items to Avoid Moving

The following items should generally be excluded from your shipment to avoid problems with customs or insurance cover.

- \ Any inflammable or corrosive items.
- \ Jewellery, watches, cash or other valuables.
- \ Stamp or coin collections of a high value.
- \ Used computer ink-jet cartridges. They may leak.
- \ Batteries should be removed from all items for Sterling to pack separately. They cannot be included in an air shipment.
- \ Aerosols cannot be included in an air shipment
- \ Alcohol – very high duty and taxes apply.
- \ Gold or silver, in any form, other than ornaments. It is ideal to hand-carry such items and not include the same in the shipment.

Prohibited Items

The following items are strictly prohibited by Indian customs. If any of these items are found, they will be confiscated and fines will be levied:

- \ Firearms, weapons or ammunition of any type.
- \ Narcotics, medicines or drugs (unless a doctor's prescription is available).
- \ Obscene literature and pornographic material.
- \ Politically undesirable literature.
- \ Antiques
- \ Cigarettes exceeding 200 or cigars exceeding 50 or tobacco exceeding 250 gms

Required Documents for Customs Clearance

The following documents will be required for **Foreign Nationals:** (will be collected upon arrival in India).

- \ Owner's Passport – must reflect a minimum 1 year employment visa, and must possess a Residence Permit. In addition the return visits to India in the last two years must collectively not exceed 180 days preceding last arrival. Owner must be present in India at the time of customs clearance.
- \ Signed declaration of goods with values – this form will be provided in India.
- \ Authority letter from owner to clear customs.
- \ Original Ocean Bill of lading – provided by Sterling.
- \ Packing inventory – provided by Sterling.
- \ Separate inventory for any wine/alcohol/all electronics for declaration to customs.

The above also applies to a returning Indian who holds a foreign passport. If he has a PIO card then it is necessary that the shipper must also have a Residence Permit to avail of duty concession under Transfer of Residence.

The following documents will be required for **Returning Indian Nationals:** (will be collected upon arrival in India).

- \ Passport – must reflect a minimum 2 year stay abroad. In addition the return visits to India in the last two years collectively must not exceed 180 days preceding last arrival.
- \ Signed declaration of goods with values – this form will be provided in India.
- \ Authority letter from owner to clear customs.
- \ Bill of Lading – provided by Sterling.
- \ Packing inventory – provided by Sterling.
- \ Separate inventory for any wine/alcohol/electronics for declaration to customs.

Electronic Appliances

The following electronic appliances are allowed in your shipment, but you will be charged a duty of 15.45% of the value of the appliance subject to a value limit of approximately US\$11,100. The items include televisions, DVD players, video home theatre systems, dishwashers, music systems, air conditioners, domestic refrigerators above 300 litres, deep freezers, microwave ovens, video cameras, word processors, fax machines, portable photocopiers.

The following items can be imported duty free: VCR/VCP/VCD players, washing machine, cooking range, personal computer (desktop), laptop computer (notebook) and refrigerator (up to 300 litres). However, the following conditions apply:

- \ The combined value of these items must not exceed INR 500,000
- \ There should be no duplicate items in the shipment. If there are duplicates, duty will apply at 36.05% on the duplicate items.
- \ The transferee's (Indian passport holder) return visits to India must not collectively exceed 180 days preceding the last arrival.
- \ For an Indian national holding a foreign passport the same criteria will apply as that of a foreign national.

A separate inventory showing the brand, model and serial number of all major appliances is required for customs clearance of electrical items.

Food Stuffs

Foreign nationals can import foodstuffs in their main shipment duty free up to a limit of INR 100,000 provided they have a one year employment visa and a Residence Permit. If not, duty will be charged at full rate.

For a returning citizen duty will be at the rate of 36.05%. It is advised to avoid shipping foodstuff in large quantities as this will fall into a commercial value and there are chances that the same will be confiscated by customs.

Alcohol

Import of wine/alcohol is permissible. However, duty is approximately 218%. In addition, fines and penalties are extra and at customs discretion. It is strongly advised not to ship any alcohol.

Motor Vehicles

Indian or Foreign nationals transferring their residence to India are allowed to import one vehicle. A car that was in the importers ownership or possession for over a year is allowed providing:

- \ Shipment is done within 6 months of arrival.
- \ Only right hand drive cars are allowed.
- \ Only cars which meet Euro III pollution norms are allowed. (Must have certificate from manufacturer).

Please note: Used vehicles have import duties which need to be paid (approximately 180% of CIF value). There are no fixed rates as the process is seen case-by case; as such it is advisable that research is conducted prior to the move.

Electrical Information

In India it is: 220 volts at 50 cycles AC

In the UK it is: 240 volts at 50 cycles AC

Plugs: Two or three round pin type plugs are available.

Televisions

In India the system is: PAL.BG

In the UK the system is: PAL.I

DVDs

Region

Region 2

Lamps

Most lamps can be easily adapted by changing the plug. Light bulbs are available in bayonet fittings.

Moving with your Pets to India

Two pets (cat/dog) per passenger may be imported into India without any import license. However all pets must be issued with a No Objection Certificate from the Animal Quarantine Station, prior to landing in India. The N.O.C. takes approximately 5 working days to obtain (if the pets are travelling with you, you will need to arrange for this to be applied for on your behalf). Documentation required prior to obtaining this document is:

- \ All vaccination records for the pet.
- \ Government issued veterinary certificate from the exporting Country.
- \ Flight details / confirmation of passenger's travel into India / Copy of airway bill.
- \ Veterinary Certificate.

The procedure is to obtain the N.O.C. from the Quarantine Officer at the Animal Quarantine Station in India. A duplicate copy has to be fixed on the crate of the pet during air travel. The original has to be produced in India in order to release the pet from customs. On arrival in India, an appointment is to be arranged with the Quarantine Officer for issue of a temporary Health Certificate (on examination of the pet). Within 30 days a Certificate of Health is to be obtained from a local veterinarian and produced at the Animal Quarantine Station, the pet will then be issued with a permanent certificate of health.