



Importing Personal Property Into

JAMAICA

IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

DUTY-FREE ENTRY IS PERMITTED IF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS ARE MET:

- Goods have been in use abroad for at least 6 months
- The goods are for the continued use by the shipper

Notes:

- Electrical and electronic equipment may not be compatible with Jamaica electrical system 220/110V 50 cycle.
- The shipper must be in Jamaica for customs clearance.
- Duty, if applicable, is determined after customs examination of goods at the stripping station. Duty is based on the CIF value and will be between 5% to 40% plus a government consumption tax of 15%, depending on the item being assessed.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ✓ Passenger Declaration, C-27 form to be completed upon shipper's arrival at the airport/seaport, if unaccompanied baggage/household effects are expected to arrive before or after his/her arrival in Jamaica. The form is only good for 3 months, at which time it must be renewed. Extracts must be obtained if more than one shipment is expected.
- ✓ Passport
- ✓ Visa
- ✓ Residence Permit
- ✓ Work Permit
- ✓ Inventory

Returning Residents must also provide the following documents:

- ✓ Customs Declaration Form C.5 provided to the Customs Officer at the time of arrival at the airport in Jamaica
- ✓ Documents proving the shipper has lived abroad for at least 3 years
- ✓ Documents stating the shipper's intention to establish permanent residency in Jamaica.

- ✓ If the shipper is a student who was studying abroad, a letter is required from the university, college or educational institution confirming the duration of the course of studies or time spent at the institution.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR DIPLOMATS

- ✓ Bill of Lading
- ✓ Consular letter requesting free entry
- ✓ Inventory

RESTRICTED/DUTIBALE ITEMS

- Medicines should be accompanied by Doctor's prescription. It is recommended that the shipper hand-carry these items.
- Tins and foods are permitted only in sufficient quantities for immediate use by family. Duty may be assessed by customs.
- Plants require a permit from the Ministry of Agriculture and a Fumigation or Certificate of Health.
- All items less than 6 months old will be subject to duties for non-returning residents. Invoices are required.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Firearms and ammunition, except if prior permission is obtained from the Commissioner of Police and the Trade Administrator.
- Drugs
- Pornographic materials
- Dogs for racing or affiliate equipment
- Tablets containing diphenhydramine hydrochloride
- Certain brands of crayons from China and Thailand.
- All items banned under the Customs and Plants Protection from Disease Act
- Goods prohibited entry into the U.K. under the Anthrax Prevention Act of 1919
- Animals and carcasses of animals prohibited under the Animals Diseases and Importation Act
- Brandy less than 30-proof

IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES, PETS, AND WORKS OF ART

PROHIBITED ITEMS (CONTINUED)

- Base or counterfeit coins of any country
- Narcotics
- Oil of gin or cognac
- Rum coloring solutions
- Spirits and wine
- Fictitious stamps and instruments
- Sugar, except under license

IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

- A returning resident is allowed to import 2 new or used autos (one commercial and one personal) during a 3 year period.
- Used vehicles can not be more than 4 years old.
- Autos must not exceed 2800cc's
- The shipper will require a customs broker to clear an auto
- Duty is applicable and will be assessed by Customs authorities, according to the auto's value on the local market.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ✓ Passport
- ✓ An Import License must be obtained prior to the auto's departure
- ✓ Driver's License – the shipper can drive in Jamaica for one year before a Jamaican license is required
- ✓ Insurance Certificate
- ✓ Proof of ownership/ Title or Registration

- ✓ Tax compliance certificate
- ✓ Invoice detailing the model, accessories and CIF value

IMPORTATION OF PETS

- Pets born and raised in the United Kingdom are permitted entry

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ✓ The pet must not be vaccinated against rabies
- ✓ A permit must be obtained prior to importation from the Ministry of Agriculture, Veterinary Department
- ✓ Quarantine may be required

IMPORTATION OF WORKS OF ART OR ANTIQUES

- Duty-free if works of art are part of a bona fide household goods/ personal effects shipment
- Large quantities to be accompanied by certificate from Antique Dealers Association from the country of exportation

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ✓ Certificate, only if there are large quantities included in a shipment

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

- Embassy of Jamaica in the USA, <http://www.emjamusa.org/visitors.htm#customs>, 2004.
- 4moversww.com, April 2000.
- The Gleaner, Returning Residents, Inside Customs, <http://www.jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/rresidents/customs.html>, April 1999.
- B. L. Williams, 1999.

The information presented herein is based on customs data available at the time of printing and is frequently subject to change without notice. It is the responsibility of the owner or importer of the household goods to comply with the current customs restrictions, regulations, and duties of the country to which the goods are imported. We strongly advise customers to contact the consulate or embassy of the destination country for the most current information on customs regulations, restrictions and duties for importing household goods, personal effects and vehicles.