



# Importing Personal Property Into *Honduras*

## IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

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

- The goods are used.
- The shipper is one of the following:
  - immigrating to Honduras and has obtained their visa (i.e. Work Permit)
  - a Honduran Citizen returning after 2 years abroad
  - a member of the diplomatic core or international mission/organization.

### **Notes:**

- Shipper must be present for customs clearance.
- Customs inspection is mandatory. Usually inspection is at the Customs' site, but it may be performed at the shipper's residence or the agent's warehouse. An extra fee will be charged depending on the size of the shipment and the time of inspection. Also, the fee must be paid at the time of the inspection.
- A dispensation request should be made of the Honduran authorities prior to shipping new furniture, household appliances, works of art, presents, machines, and wine, to reduce or eliminate heavy duties. This is regardless to the shipper's entry status.
- It is recommended that the shipper mail all necessary instructions and documentation well in advance of shipping his/her household goods and personal effects. This will facilitate customs clearance and reduce the risk of extra charges.
- An inspection is not required upon exportation of the household goods if a declaration is made stating the shipment does not contain colonial or archeological items, precious or semi-precious stones or metals and wood in its natural state.

### **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:**

- Honduran citizens, diplomats and citizens of other countries require a Permit (Dispensa Especial) issued by the Treasure Department authorizing the importation of household effects. Immigrants require the same permit issued by the Ministry of Interior and The Treasury Department.
- Three original ocean bills of lading or air waybills
- Valid passport of the shipper
- Four copies of the inventory list in Spanish.
- Residence Visa
- Work Permit
- Proof of Employment

### **DIPLOMATIC SHIPMENTS:**

- Diplomats must obtain a franchise or permit for free entry. The franchise can be obtained from a lawyer 90 days prior to the arrival of the shipment or 60 days after its arrival.

### **RESTRICTED/DUTIBALE ITEMS:**

- Firearms and ammunition may be imported with a special permit, which is granted only by the ministry of Defense and Public Security.
- Sporting firearms and ammunition may be imported with a permit from the Secretary of Defense and the Treasury Department.
- Tobacco products are only allowed in limited quantities.
- Plants require a health and/or quarantine certificate. Additionally, special permission must be obtained from the Ministry of Natural Resources prior to importation.
- New items and electrical appliances must be accompanied by the original purchase invoices and four copies.
- Antiquities, artifacts and business equipment are subject to strict customs regulations.

## **PROHIBITED ITEMS; IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES AND PETS**

### **PROHIBITED ITEMS:**

- Illicit drugs
- Alcohol
- Explosives
- Gun powder
- Toxic waste
- Pornographic films and literature
- Subversive films and literature

### **IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES:**

- New or used automobiles may be imported. They are, however, heavily taxed by the Treasury Department.
- Automobile must not be more than 7 years old
- Diplomats and members of international organizations may import automobiles duty-free.

### **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES:**

- ✓ Original title
- ✓ Original purchase invoice

### **IMPORTATION OF PETS:**

- Live animals may be imported into Honduras.
- Special permission must be obtained from the Ministry of Natural Resources prior to importation.

### **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:**

- ✓ Health and Quarantine certificate
- ✓ Photo-sanitary permit from the country of origin
- ✓ Complete vaccination record
- ✓ Original airway bill

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

- Mudanzas International, 2002
- U.S Department of State Travel Warnings, July 2001.
- 4moversww.com, April 2000.

**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.**