

CHINA

This guide is compiled from the FIDI Customs Guide for reference only. Customs regulations change frequently; please consult your Seapoe relocation consultant for the latest requirements before shipping.

Updated 2026

Removal Goods-HHG/PE - Foreigner

Documents Required

- Original Passport with Residence Permit.
- Original Work Permit.
- Original Employment Approval Letter issuing by the Foreign Expert Bureau (for Beijing).
- Application form for export of personal effects.
- Copy of arrival country working visa/ permanent visa, work contract to validate moving to other than home country.
- Power of attorney of customs declaration of non-trading goods.
- Packing list.
- Air shipments: authorization form for the export of personal effects.

Remarks

- Residence Permit needs to show full year validity, if have recently renewed passport and one-year residence permit is attached to old passport, your local agent requires both the old and new passports.
- Original Work Permit needs to show full year validity, if not, previous work permit needs to be provided or Copy of Work Permit and Original Cancellation Letter as long as Work Permit is cancelled. If both the valid Residence Permit and valid Work Permit are less than 365 days, which happens sometimes, an extra company Statement Letter will be required.
- Beijing: if the Residence Permit or Work Permit is less than 365 days, or the Residence Permit or Working Permit is cancelled, the shipment cannot be exported from Xingang Port.
- Starting December 1, 2024, China implemented a significant change for foreign workers by integrating the foreigner's Work Permit feature into the Social Security Card portal.
- China Foreign Permanent Residence ID Card
- holder will only need provide this card to replace Residence Permit and Work Permit.
- Once packing is completed, your removal agent we will collect the aforementioned documents to initiate customs clearance procedures, which typically take 3 working days. Therefore, please plan your travel arrangements with sufficient flexibility, as your agent will only be able to return your passport to you after this 3-5 -day period.
- It is recommended to coordinate with your moving coordinator to review your schedule, ensuring that both your relocation and travel plans are properly aligned.

Removal Goods - Chinese

Documents Required

- Shanghai required documents for export customs clearance are as follows:
- Chinese to Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan:
- Original valid Exit-Entry Permit to HK, Macau or Taiwan
- Power of attorney for customs declaration of non-trading goods
- Declaration Form

- Air shipments: Authorization Form for the export of personal effects
- Chinese to Other Countries:
- Original Passport with Visa of destination country
- Power of attorney for customs declaration of non-trading goods
- Declaration Form
- Air shipments: Authorization Form for the export of personal effects
- Beijing required documents for export customs clearance are as follows:
- Chinese to Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan:
- Original Valid Exit-Entry Permit to HK, Macau or Taiwan
- Valid (for one year) Destination Visa on Original Valid Exit-Entry Permit
- Original Company Statement or Proof of residence in Beijing
- Original letter to Beijing Customs with client's signature
- Latest entry record (China)
- Power of attorney for customs declaration of non-trading goods
- Declaration Form
- Chinese to Other Countries:
- Original Passport with Visa of destination country
- Original Company Statement or Proof of residence in Beijing
- Original letter to Beijing Customs with client's signature
- Latest entry record (China)
- Power of attorney for customs declaration of non-trading goods
- Declaration Form

Remarks

- Destination visa must be valid.
- Original passport with visa of destination country (valid at least a full year).

Removal Goods - Hong Kong Resident

Documents Required

- Original HK ID card, Entry permit for HK resident
- Residence or Original Residence Permit (Ju Zhu Zheng)
- Application form for export of personal effects
- Power of attorney for customs declaration of non-trading goods
- Air shipments: Authorization Form for the export of personal effects

Remarks

- Shanghai:
- From the arrival date to the date of export clearance must be more than 365 days.
- Beijing:
- Original Residence Permit (Ju Zhu Zheng) needs to show 12 months validity.

Removal Goods - Taiwan Resident

Documents Required

- Original Tai Bao Zheng or Original Entry Permit for Taiwan resident
- Original Residence Permit
- Application form for export of personal effects
- Power of attorney for customs declaration of non-trading goods
- Air shipments: Authorization Form for the export of personal effects

Remarks

- Shanghai:
- From the arrival date to the date of export clearance must be more than a full year.
- Beijing:
- Original Residence Permit (Ju Zhu Zheng) needs to show 12 months validity.

Removal goods - Diplomatic Personnel

Documents Required

- Passport copy
- Diplomatic ID card copy
- Letter to be stamped by your embassy / consulate authorizing moving company
- Customs permit issued by China customs to your diplomatic mission

Customs Prescriptions

- Moving company needs to provide the following information to the embassy / consulate so they can apply for the export permit at customs:
- Packing list
- Number of packages
- Weight of the shipment
- Freight booking order

Remarks

- Due to the special status of diplomatic shipments, the Consulate will have to arrange for the Export Permit Application.
- Documents & Process for diplomats:
- Per law, export permits for diplomats and those on service passports in post in China must be processed by their diplomatic mission and not a customs broker. This should be applied after the move and can take 3-5 working days.
- The following documents will be needed:
- Diplomatic ID Card
- Packing list provided by mover
- Application form for export permit
- If shipper owns a vehicle registered under a diplomatic license and is shipping this car, the proof of de-registratgion from the Transportation Bureau. If the car is not being shipped, customs will require proof that the car was sold on.

Books

Customs Prescriptions

- Prohibited items:
- Manuscripts and historic books that have historic/artistic/scientific values
- Pirated books
- Books that promote illegal content such as anti – communist ideas, promote illegal sects or contain maps that do not accurately depict China's border
- Books with pornographic contents

Remarks

- Must be within reasonable quantity of personal use.
- Chinese shippers should be aware of import restrictions.

CD-DVD

Customs Prescriptions

- Prohibited items:
- Pornographic materials
- confiscated CDs/DVDs

Remarks

- Must be within reasonable quantity of personal use.
- Chinese shippers should be aware of import restrictions.

Furniture

Customs Prescriptions

- Furniture are allowed to export for both expatriates and Chinese Passport holder.
- Grand pianos cannot be exported through Shanghai.
- Pianos are allowed to export for both expatriates and Chinese Passport holder through Beijing.

Office items

Documents Required

- Documents required for Export Permit are the same as household goods.

Customs Prescriptions

- The reasonable amount of office computer, books, decoration or small amount of files could be exported with the personal effect at the same shipment.
- Office items could not be sent alone.
- Copier is not allowed to export.

Remarks

- Contact your agent for specific advice and information.

Cars and Mini vans

Documents Required

- Docs required for used car export from Nanjing port (port used for Shanghai region shipment for export of privately owned vehicles): 1. Original passport 2. Original residence permit
- 3. Original work permit 4. Motor vehicle registration certificate 5. Vehicle License 6. Original purchase invoice of car 7. Copy of Vehicle tax payment certificate

Customs Prescriptions

- Export restrictions are governed at the local level.
- Only diplomats can export used cars from most cities.

Remarks

- Contact your agent for specific advice and information.
- EVs and hybrids are now very hard to export as almost no shipping lines will accept these.
- Cars made in mainland China cannot be imported in Taiwan province.
- Nanjing customs will need these documents at least 2-3 weeks prior to handover of car for customs clearance they require a precheck.

Food

Customs Prescriptions

- Must be dry goods in original/sealed packaging, canned or vacuum packed in Shanghai. Beijing does not recommend packing any food.
- Cannot be fresh, dairy, eggs, honey, unprocessed grains; seeds; nuts, live plants/bulbs or any perishables (no live animals or fresh milk).
- Milk powder, chicken essence, beef or chicken extract, meat products and/or meat by-products are not allowed (this includes all forms of pet food).

Forbidden and Restricted Items

Customs Prescriptions

- Forbidden Items:
 - Weapons
 - Imitation weapons
 - Ammunition
 - Drugs
 - Pornographic and politically subversive material
 - Liquor (Beijing)
 - Lithium batteries for scooters (Shanghai)
- The following items are restricted in all export shipments per China laws and regulations :
- All materials which are illegal to possess in the PRC. This can include (but is not limited to):
 - Guns
 - Blade weapons such as daggers and swords (kitchen knives are authorized)
 - Satellite receivers not approved for China market
 - Pornographic or indecent materials
 - Any material that is contrary to public morals, glorifies illegal cults or brings into disrepute China or communism
 - Maps and globes that depict incorrect borders of the PRC.
 - Any object made from or that contains materials from endangered species as defined via the CITES convention. This includes certain types of corals, woods, animal parts, ivory, etc
 - Commercial use goods
 - Some types of “motorized” goods such as lawn mowers
 - Lithium batteries such as those for use in electric scooters

Remarks

- Air shipment – further restrictions:
- Per CAAC regulations, the following items are not allowed to be included into AIR shipments :
 - Any liquid, gel or powder
 - Any battery including core batteries (this means IMACs or such appliances will not be accepted)
 - Any magnet or item emitting magnetic force
 - Plants or other living items
 - Flammable, pressurized or explosive materials
 - Appliances driven by a motor
 - All knives, including kitchen knives, table knives
 - Food items and medications
 - Any item or material listed as
 - “Dangerous Goods” by IATA
- Please note that the above restrictions are currently in place in China, as it has not full

ratified the IATA convention. Contravention of these restrictions can lead to delays and extra fees / fines being imposed.

- As of summer 2020, CAAC security department has upgraded its equipment to much more powerful automated X-Ray and scanning equipment, thus making compliance to the above regulations even more important than before.

Computers

Remarks

- Computer with build-in battery is not allowed to export via air shipment in Shanghai.
- Reasonable computers are allowed to export.
- Please contact your agent for more details.

Alcohol

Remarks

- Only reasonable quantity of alcohol (currently 30 bottles, but it is recommended to double check before making commitment). is allowed export via sea
- shipment in Shanghai. Please contact your origin agent for specific advice and information.
- Alcohol is not allowed export in Beijing.

Dutiable Items

Customs Prescriptions

- Chinese customs do not charge duty for export shipment.

Fumigation / Disinfection

Customs Prescriptions

- Chinese Quarantine Bureau does not have fumigation/disinfection requirement for export shipment.

Antiques

Customs Prescriptions

- Items made before 1795 CANNOT be exported, as set down by Chinese law.
- Items made between 1795 and 1949, and items that were made in 1966 or before from the ethnic minorities can be exported but require a label by the Relics Control Committee.

Remarks

- Anything considered of cultural or of historical importance will not be chopped for export.
- Relics Control Committee grant a label for items which are allowed to export.
- In practice, relics inspection is now only done in Beijing.