

LAOS

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 2025

Household goods/personal effects

Documents Required

- Diplomat status: letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs verifying status.
- Shipper works for a registered foreign company and has obtained a valid Laos work permit: copies of the employer's investment license and business license will also be required.
- Shipper relocating to Laos - documents necessary to gain entry and establish permanent residency:
- Passport (copy)
- Residence permit or work permit (copy) if private shipment
- The Lao Foreign ID Card If diplomatic or semi-diplomatic shipment
- Seaway Bill, Express Release Bill of Lading/Air Waybill
- Inventory List (dated and signed by owner)
- Weight and volume Certificate (if any)
- Employer's business and investment licenses (copies) if private shipment

Customs Prescriptions

- Duty free shipments are limited to one air and one sea shipment and can include only one of each type of electrical appliances and only diplomatic goods, NGO's and International Organisation are exempted of import taxes and duties.

Remarks

- All other shippers may import household goods and personal effects into Laos but they will be subject to tax and duty. The duty amount varies and is often determined through negotiations with customs officials.
- All shippers must have Visa Entry to Laos for non-diplomatic statut and Visa to Laos and The Lao Foreign ID Card for diplomatic statut before your removal agent can start to process the import paperworks to the Lao Authority and customs clearance at the International Border Points.

Prohibited items

Customs Prescriptions

- Illegal drugs and narcotics
- Explosives
- Chemicals and fertilizers
- Plants and plant products
- Anti-communist literature and publications
- Pornography and subversive materials

Restricted items

Customs Prescriptions

- Weapons, firearms and ammunition
- Electronics and appliances (one of each permitted)
- Medications (prescription required)
- New items (less than six months old, require invoices/receipts)
- Alcohol (two bottles of wine and one bottle of spirits permitted duty free)
- Tobacco (500 cigarettes or 500 grams of loose tobacco permitted duty free)
- Religious materials and statues of Buddha, Buddha Head and Hand
- Receivers and transmitters through satellites, internet, and broadcasting equipment

Remarks

- Some articles are limited to certain quantities or require special authorization/ payments of duties and taxes to clear customs in Laos. These items include but are not limited to the list provided in this document.