

PHILIPPINES

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 2024

Household Goods & Personal Effects - Returning Residents

Documents Required

- Exemption requirements as follows.
- Affidavit of End-Use/Ownership.
- Authorization Letter.
- Original Passport with the latest arrival stamp
- Cert. of Employment.
- TIN ID/BIR Form with importer's TIN
- Signed Sea Waybill (Express Release BL) / AWB.
- Copy of Packing list
- There are three categories of returning residents and for the application of tax-free entry the following documents are required:
 - Returning Resident (OFW)
 - Original Passport with the latest arrival stamp.
 - Copy Certificate of Employment.
 - Original Authorization Letter.
 - Original Affidavit of Ownership.
 - Copy dated & signed Bill of Lading/AWB.
 - Copy of Packing List.
 - Returning Resident (non - OFW)
 - Original Passport.
 - Copy Birth Certificate.
 - Copy Proof of Residence abroad.
 - Copy Employment or Resident Visa ID card.
 - Original Authorization Letter.
 - Original Affidavit of Ownership.
 - Copy dated & signed Bill of Lading/AWB.
 - Copy Packing List.
 - Dual Citizen (Filipino and foreign passport holders)
 - Original & valid Philippine & foreign Passport
 - Original Oath of Allegiance.
 - Original Certificates of both Retention and Identification.
 - Copy Birth Certificate.
- TIN ID/BIR Form with importer's TIN
- Original Authorization Letter.
- Original Affidavit of Ownership.
- Copy dated & signed Bill of Lading/AWB.
- Copy of Packing List.

Customs Prescriptions

- The privilege for the exemption of the duties and taxes for Returning residents / Returning Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) as stated below:
- The personal effects and household goods must accompany the returning residents/ returning OFW's upon their return from abroad or arriving within a reasonable time, which shall not exceed sixty (60) days after the owner's return.
- For those who have stayed abroad for a period of at least ten (10) years and have not availed of this privilege within ten (10) years prior to the Returning Residents/OFW's arrival the allowed amount covered is Php350,000.00.
- For those who have stayed abroad for a period of at least five (5) years but not more than ten (10) years and have not availed of this privilege within (5) years prior to the Returning Residents/OFW's arrival the allowed amount covered is PhP 250,000.00.
- For those who have stayed abroad for a period of at least six (6) months but not more than five (5) years and have not availed of this privilege within six (6) years prior to the Returning Residents/OFW's arrival the allowed amount covered
- is Php150,000.00.
- In addition to the privilege stated above, Returning OFW's are allowed to bring in tax and duty-free, home appliances and other durables limited to one (1) of a kind.
- Any amount in excess shall be subject for corresponding duties and taxes.
- Duty and Tax Free Exemption Indorsement (TEI) must be filed at Revenue Office of the Department of Finance (DOF).
- Port storage is free for five days while demurrage for containerised shipments will be charged normally as per carrier's discretion of free time

Remarks

- A returning resident is one who is a holder of a Philippine passport and has been away from the country for work.
- Tax exemption for the shipment is secured from the Department of Finance upon presentation of original passport and copies of shipping documents Shipment must arrive in the Philippines within 60 days from shipper's arrival.

Household goods & Personal Effects - Non- residents with a 9(g), 9(d), 47(a)2, 13G or 13A visa

Documents Required

- Original passport with a stamped.
- 47(a)2 13G or 13A visa.
- Dated & signed Sea Waybill (Express Release BL) / AWB.
- Signed Authorization printed out using company letterhead
- Signed Affidavit of Ownership
- Copy of Packing list.
- Copy Certificate of Employment for 47(a)2
- Visa application documents (submitted / received stamp by the Bureau of Immigration)
- TIN ID/BIR Form with importer's TIN
- Copy of Alien Certificate of Registration ICard (for 13G/134A)
- Copy of Marriage Contract (for 13A visa) – prepare for the original as DOF may require
- Copy of spouse's Birth Certificate (for 13A visa)- prepare for the original as DOF may require

Customs Prescriptions

- All household goods and personal effects are dutiable.
- Port storage is free for five days while demurrage for containerised shipments will be charged normally as per carrier's discretion of free time

Remarks

- The different visa status for non-residents:
- 47(a) 2 - investors visa
- 3G/13A - Permanent resident visa

Household goods & Personal Effects - Officials/Employees of Regional Offices or holders of an Executive Order no.226 (EO 226)

Documents Required

- Original passport with a stamped EO 226 visa.
- Dated Sea Waybill (Express Release BL) / AWB
- Packing list. - original
- Company registration with SEC (copy).
- Official list of expatriates.
- Latest inward remittance.

Customs Prescriptions

- All household goods and personal effects are duty/tax free.
- Port storage is free for five days while demurrage for containerised shipments will be charged normally as per carrier's discretion of free time

Remarks

- Shippers with EO226 visa are entitled to tax exemption for their shipment secured from the Department of Finance (DOF) upon presentation of original passport with the stamped visa plus copies of the shipping documents.
- Shipment must arrive within 90 days from shipper's latest arrival.

Diplomats Removal

Documents Required

- Note verbal approval.
- Dated Sea Waybill (Express Release BL) / AWB Packing list.

Customs Prescriptions

- All household goods and personal effects are duty/tax free.
- Port storage is free for five days and demurrage for containerised shipments will be charged normally after (five) days from vessel arrival.

Remarks

- Diplomats are holders of a 9(E) visa. Must be in the Philippines to submit Credentials to the Embassy, etc., for his agency to secure Diplomatic ID before a Request for the Tax Exemption can be applied.
- The diplomatic agency will request for tax exemption through a note verbal letter addressed to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) who will in turn endorse the request to the Department of Finance (DOF).
- 9(E) visa holders are entitled to bring in a car duty/tax free.

Temporary Visitors, Tourists

Documents Required

- Dated Sea Waybill (Express Release BL).
- Packing list. –
- Passport copy.

Customs Prescriptions

- All household goods and personal effects are subject to a 15 % rate of duty and a 12% rate of tax.

Remarks

- Temporary visitors/tourists are holders of a 9(a) visa and do not have any tax exemption privilege.
- They can only be allowed to have their shipment cleared by paying duties and taxes or under cash bond if they have a pending application with a Commission on Immigration and Deportation for a change of visa status to a 9(D), 47(a) 2, 13G,13A and E.O226. A bond must be posted for the conditional release of the shipment pending visa approval subject to original passport and other documentary requirements).
- The bond is good for 3 months, and can be extended for another 3 months after which the bond has to be cancelled once the visa is approved.
- The amount of the bond is computed at 150% of the amount of taxes/duties assessed; your mover may charge Posting / Cancellation of the Cash Bond of approx. US\$450.00.

Alcohol

Customs Prescriptions

- Very limited amounts for non-Diplomatic shipments as in less than 10 bottles. If they have a tax-free exemption then no tax or duty on the alcohol, otherwise they pay high taxes.

Remarks

- For diplomatic shipments, please consult your local agent.

Fumigation of imported and exported wooden crates

Customs Prescriptions

- The Philippine Government adopted ISPM15 (International standards for Phytosanitary Measures Publication 15) Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade (aka NIFM-15) to standardise the treatment of wood packing materials used for the transport of goods.