

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

Used household goods & personal effects (non-Singaporean)

Documents Required

- Packing inventory in English.
- Copy of Bill of Lading (Express release or originals) / Air waybill.
- Photocopy of owner's passport (picture/detail pages).
- Employments pass: (front and back page QR code must be readable)
- For GST Relief entry. Not more than 6 months from date of issue.

Customs Prescriptions

- Employment pass application, acknowledgement letter from Ministry of Manpower with a letter from employer OR Approved-in-Principle letter from Ministry of Manpower, will suffice if actual employment pass is not in-hand.
- GST Relief must be claimed within six months of owners' official arrival in Singapore.
- GST (Goods & Service Tax), if applicable, is 9% of shipper's declared value of goods (used value – NOT insured value).

Remarks

- Owner of goods doesn't need to be in Singapore to clear goods if all paperwork completed in advance with copy of passport.
- Shipments can be cleared without employment pass if owner is willing to pay GST. Shipper must declare, "used value" for GST assessment.
- Normal clearance time for FCL:
 - sea shipments is 3 working days,
 - air shipments – 2 working days,
 - LCL shipments up to 5 working days.

Used household goods & personal effects (Singapore Nationals or Permanent Resident)

Documents Required

- Same as above.
- NRIC copy (front and back page)
- Re-Entry Permit Copy (for permanent resident)

Customs Prescriptions

- GST relief, if goods are all for personal use and owner has lived abroad for more than six months (date of leave for overseas assignment).
- Proof of employment outside Singapore.

Remarks

- Proof of employment outside Singapore may be through work or resident visa or

immigration endorsements from origin country for Customs verification.

Diplomatic removal goods

Documents Required

- Packing inventory in English.
- Copy of Bill of lading (Express release or originals) / Air waybill.
- Verification in writing from Embassy.

Customs Prescriptions

- Embassy's verification, with authorised signatory.
- Duty exemption entry.

Automobiles (Import strongly discouraged unless for diplomatic use)

Documents Required

- Registration Certificate from origin country.
- Insurance papers.
- Owner's passport.
- Inward declaration permit.
- Customs duty payment receipt.
- Certificate of Compliance with Exhaust Emission Control Standard.
- Temporary certificate of entitlement (COE).

Customs Prescriptions

- Import is subject to securing a Certificate of Entitlement in open bidding at market rates.
- Customs duty is 20% of market value.
- Additional Registration fee (ARF) is 110% of the market value.
- Car over 3 years old are not allowed to be imported.

Remarks

- Import of cars is strictly discouraged, unless for diplomatic use.
- DO NOT SHIP without first sending the relevant paperwork.

Motorcycles (Import strongly discouraged unless for diplomatic use)

Documents Required

- Same as for automobiles.
- Must comply with exhaust emission standard specified in the USA code of federal regulations (40 cfr 86.410-80) and prior to registration must produce certificate of compliance issued by manufacturers.

Customs Prescriptions

- Customs duty is 12% of market value.
- ARF (Additional Registration Fee) is 15% of the market value.
- COE required as with automobiles.

Remarks

- Same as above.

Firearms (including air-rifles and guns), drugs and narcotics, radio transmitters, pornography, martial art weapons of any kind

Customs Prescriptions

- Prohibited.

Remarks

- Importation of illicit drugs is subject to imprisonment and death penalty.
- Prescription drugs are permitted with doctor's certificates.

Swords, knives (ornamental only)

Documents Required

- Permit, issued by Arms & Explosive Authority.

Remarks

- Items will be examined by authority. Owner physical address must be given.

Swords and large knives (ornamental – weapons appearance)

Customs Prescriptions

- Arms & Explosive Authority must issue permit prior to release by Customs.

Remarks

- Misdeclaring contents to avoid licensing is forbidden.

Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco

Documents Required

- Must be listed in import application with number of bottles, type of alcohol, per cent alcohol and volume (manufacturer name, if available).

Remarks

- Alcohol beverages may be imported in reasonable quantity for own consumption.
- Shipper has to declare accurately and pay customs duties and current GST (tax) before shipment clears customs.
- Duty rates are based on current estimated exchange rates and import duties. Subject to change.
- Due to the high customs duties, it is best to discourage shipper from including any liquor in the used household goods shipment. If included, it must be packed together and
- declared on Alcohol list.
- In addition to duties and taxes being applicable to imported alcohol, there is also an 'alcohol permit fee'.
- Customs use powerful X-Ray scanner able to detect liquors. If falsely declared or without declaring, shipper may be subjected to customs duties and severe heavy penalty for evading taxes. It is a serious offence in Singapore.

Video tapes, laser discs, video discs (visual)

Documents Required

- Detailed listing of all titles.

Customs Prescriptions

- Import is allowed but subject to screening by authorities prior to release.
- Charges for screening are approximately US\$ 4.00 per hour per tape.

Remarks

- Generally, cartoons and other children's tapes are passed over from screening.
- Nudity, strong language, culturally insensitive subject matter is more likely to be edited. Editing charges are additional.

Prohibited items

Customs Prescriptions

- Chewing gum (except approved oral dental and medicated gum by HSA)
- Chewing tobacco and imitation tobacco products (e.g. electronic cigarettes, ...)
- Shisha
- Cigarette lighters of pistol or revolver shape
- Controlled drugs and psychotropic substances
- Endangered species of wildlife and their byproducts
- Firecrackers
- Obscene articles, publications, video tapes/discs and software
- Reproduction of copyright publications, video tapes, video compact discs, laser discs, records or cassettes
- Seditious and treasonable materials
- It is an offence if you attempt to bring any of

Remarks

- You are not allowed to bring in goods that are prohibited under Singapore laws.
- The list of prohibited goods includes (but not limited to) the items listed in this document.
- It is an offence if you attempt to bring any of the items listed above into Singapore.