

Hong Kong

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

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Documents

Documents required for importing used household goods, personal effects, and related shipments.

Required Documents

- Copy of passport (identification pages only)
- Original bill of lading (OBL) or air waybill (AWB)
- Detailed inventory
- Owner's full contact details in Hong Kong (address, telephone, fax number, email address)

Specific Information

No customs declaration for household goods: Because Hong Kong levies no duty on household goods, the import process is relatively straightforward compared to most jurisdictions. However, any dutiable items (alcohol above 30% ABV, tobacco) within a household goods shipment will attract duty.

ISPM 15: Wood packaging materials (crates, pallets) should comply with ISPM 15 standards as a general precaution, though enforcement is less stringent than in many other jurisdictions.

Duties & Taxes

Free port status: Hong Kong is a free port. All used household goods and personal effects can be imported free of duty. There are no general tariffs on imports. Excise duty is levied only on four types of dutiable commodities: liquor with alcohol content above 30% by volume, tobacco, hydrocarbon oil, and methyl alcohol.

Prohibited & Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Illegal drugs and narcotics
- Firearms, explosives, and ammunition (without license from Hong Kong Police) PERMIT REQUIRED
- Knives and deadly weapons
- Controlled chemicals
- Pets and animals (without AFCD Special Permit) PERMIT REQUIRED
- Meat and poultry (without permit)
- Plants and plant products (without AFCD license) PERMIT REQUIRED
- Rough diamonds (without Kimberley Process Certificate) PERMIT REQUIRED
- Counterfeit goods
- Pornographic material

- Species protected under CITES (without permit) CITES

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Personal duty-free allowances (passengers aged 18+):

- 19 cigarettes (not packs)
- 1 cigar or 25 grams of cigar tobacco
- 25 grams of other manufactured tobacco
- 1 litre of alcoholic liquor with alcohol content above 30% by volume

Regulatory update (October 2024): The duty rate for spirits with an import price above HKD 200 has been reduced from 100% to 10% on the portion above HKD 200. The rate for the first HKD 200 (and for spirits priced at HKD 200 or below) remains at 100%.

Alcohol duty within household goods shipments: A detailed list showing quantity and CIF value is required. Duty treatment is as follows:

- Wine: duty-free (since 2008 exemption)
- Beer and liquor with 30% alcohol by volume or less: duty-free
- Liquor with more than 30% alcohol by volume: 100% duty on CIF value for the first HKD 200 per unit, 10% on the portion above HKD 200

Tobacco duty stamp system: Hong Kong is implementing a new duty stamp system for cigarettes. The first phase is planned for Q4 2026, with full implementation by Q2 2027.

Cash declaration: Currency (HKD 120,000 or equivalent) must be declared at customs.

Other restricted items:

- Plants and plant products (special license from AFCD required)
- Weapons and ammunition (special license from Hong Kong Police Department required)

Special Categories

Common Mistakes

- Failing to reserve quarantine space far enough in advance (12-15 month wait for Group III countries)
- Not obtaining the Special Permit from AFCD before shipping the pet
- Attempting to bring a pet in-cabin or as checked baggage (pets must enter as air cargo)
- Transit through a high-rabies country, which may affect eligibility
- Importing a banned breed or cross
- Not having the Captain's affidavit from airline personnel

Discrepancies

- Tobacco duty-free allowance: The IAM guide (2016) states 10 cigarettes, 1 cigar or 25 grams, 25 grams other tobacco. VisaHQ states 19 cigarettes, 25 cigars, 25 grams tobacco. The official Hong Kong Customs website and the Hong Kong government's Legislative Council record confirm the current allowance is 19 cigarettes. The VisaHQ figure of "25 cigars" appears incorrect; the official figure is 1 cigar or 25 grams. The IAM guide's figure of 10 cigarettes is outdated.
- Alcohol duty on spirits: The IAM guide (2016) states 100% duty on liquor above 30% ABV. This was accurate at the time but was partially reduced in October 2024 per the Chief Executive's 2024 Policy Address. The current rate is 100% on the first HKD 200 import price and 10% on the portion above HKD 200.
- Vehicle first registration tax rates: The IAM guide lists specific tax brackets. These could not be independently confirmed against a current government source via this research (the Transport Department page is live but the specific rate schedule was not extracted). The rates listed are included as reported in the IAM guide and should be confirmed with the destination agent for current figures.

Unverified Items

- The specific first registration tax bracket amounts and percentages may have changed since 2016. The Transport Department website is live but current rates should be confirmed with the destination agent.
- The quarantine waiting time of 12-15 months (from PetTravel) for Group III countries could not be independently verified against the AFCD website in this research. This may vary based on demand.

Consignment Instructions

Recommended: Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air and sea shipments.

Free port advantages: Hong Kong's free port status means household goods and personal effects clear customs relatively quickly and without duty. The main delays are associated with port handling, container availability, and dutiable items within shipments.

Dutiable items: If the shipment contains alcohol above 30% ABV or tobacco, these items must be separately declared and duty paid. This can delay clearance. Consider shipping dutiable items separately or declaring them in advance.

Ports of entry: Sea cargo arrives at Kwai Tsing Container Terminals or other terminals in Hong Kong harbour. Air cargo clears through Hong Kong International Airport (Chek Lap Kok).

Vehicle imports: Given the extremely high first registration taxes and strict emissions/safety standards, contact the destination agent for a full cost assessment before shipping any vehicle. The Transport Department handles vehicle registration.

Pet imports: Must be coordinated with AFCD well in advance. The Special Permit, quarantine reservation (for Group III countries), and Captain's affidavit are all essential. Pets must arrive as air cargo.