

Malaysia

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

For Foreign Citizens

For Returning Malaysian Citizens

For Diplomats

Specific Information

Customs examination: All shipments of personal and household effects may be subject to 100% customs examination. The packing list must tally with the goods packed. Discrepancies will result in delays and potential duties.

Electrical items: Some entry ports require an electrical board permit for all electrical goods. The list of electrical items must include the item name, model, make, serial number, and year of purchase. This is not required for the port of entry at Port Klang but may be required elsewhere.

Telecommunications equipment: Fax machines, cordless phones, cellular phones, modems, and answering machines require an import permit from the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC). To apply, provide the model/type, serial number, country of origin, and reasons for importing to the destination agent.

Consignment: Goods should be consigned to the shipper c/o the destination agent, with the destination agent listed as the notify party. All necessary documents with the customer's contact address, and whether the shipment is door-to-door or door-to-port, must be sent to the destination agent well in advance.

ISPM 15 (wood packaging): All solid wood packaging material must comply with ISPM 15 and bear the IPPC mark. Treatment must be performed by companies accredited under the Malaysian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (MAFAS). ISPM 15 markings may be in any color except red and orange, and stickers are not permitted.

Malaysia uses 220-240 volt electricity. Appliances from 110V countries may require transformers.

Censorship: Books, VCDs, DVDs, CDs, and similar media may be subject to screening by the Government Film Censor Board. All tapes and discs may be viewed before release, a process that takes approximately 2 to 3 weeks. There is no guarantee of return if content is not approved. A screening fee of approximately USD 3.00 per item applies.

Duties & Taxes

Duty-free conditions: All used household goods and personal effects that have been owned and used by the shipper for more than 6 months may be imported into Malaysia duty-free. The shipper must be the owner of the goods. Items less than 6 months old are subject to customs duties and taxes; original invoices with values stated are required.

Diplomatic clearance: The diplomatic exemption letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes approximately 7 to 10 business days to obtain. Documents must be endorsed by the Embassy

and approved by the Ministry before goods can be cleared, a process that can take 2 to 3 weeks.

Recommended: Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air / sea shipments and the critical distinction between West Malaysia and East Malaysia.

Port of entry: The principal port for Peninsular Malaysia is Port Klang (near Kuala Lumpur). Air shipments arrive via Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA). East Malaysia (Sabah and Sarawak) has separate ports and airports with different regulations.

West Malaysia vs. East Malaysia: This is the single most important distinction for shipments to Malaysia. Sabah and Sarawak on Borneo have their own immigration and customs controls, separate from Peninsular Malaysia. Requirements for household goods, vehicles, and especially pets differ significantly. Always confirm which part of Malaysia the shipment is destined for.

Documentation timing: All documents, including the customer's contact address and shipment type (door-to-door or door-to-port), must be sent to the destination agent well in advance to avoid delays. For vehicles, documentation must arrive at least 7 days before the vessel or 2 days before the flight.

Customs clearance: Clearance typically takes 3 to 5 working days for household goods.

Diplomatic shipments take 2 to 3 weeks due to Ministry of Foreign Affairs approval requirements.

Owner presence: Sources differ on whether the customer must be present when goods arrive; an older baseline source states the owner must be present, while a more recent source states this is not required. Confirm the current requirement with the destination agent, as this may vary by port and shipment type.