



## India Country Guide

Updated: August 11, 2016

### Household Goods and Personal Effects

#### Documents Required

Original passport (copy of Passport duly certified is accepted for diplomats)

Valued list of articles with date of purchase

Baggage customs declaration signed by owner of the goods

Packing list

List of electronic items

Authority letters (diplomats / non-diplomats, refer to agents for more information)

Duty-free exemption certificate issued by diplomatic organization in India

Original bill of lading (OBL) / sea waybill / copy of air waybill (AWB)

Original residence permit (foreigners)

Valid visa / PIO card for foreign nationals

Employment letter / transfer letter / assignment letters

#### Specific Information

The packing list must be stamped by the Consulate / the Embassy for diplomatic shipments.

The owner of the goods must be present for Customs clearance.

All shipments are subject to Customs examination unless a diplomatic shipment.

All containers (except diplomat) are offloaded at the point of entry (POE) / (TOE) and reloaded into vans.

Foreign nationals must possess a visa valid for 1 year.

Indian nationals must have lived abroad for at least 2 years preceding transfer to India and intend to reside in

India for a period of at least 1 year.

Owner of the goods must have not must not have visited India for more than 180 days in the



preceding

2 years.

Air shipments must be dispatched from the origin airport within 15 days after the arrival of the owner of the goods in India.

Sea shipments must be dispatched from the origin seaport within 1 month after the arrival of the owner of the goods in India.

Shipments may arrive at the India airport / seaport 2 months prior to arrival of the owner of the goods;

however, the shipment will be subject to demurrage or detention as applicable.

Electronic items should be loaded in the front (opening side) of the container or lift-van

A list of electronic items should be provided on a separate sheet.

*IAM Note: Customs regulations are the same throughout India. However, the regulations may be interpreted differently amongst the various Customs offices.*

## **Motor Vehicles**

### **Documents Required**

Original passport

Original manufacturer's invoice

Import license

Insurance policy

Certificate of title / registration

OBL

Duty exemption certificate (diplomats)

*IAM Note: Not all ports / terminals in India are allowed to import cars. It is advisable to*



*check with the destination*

*agent / branch prior to shipping.*

### **Specific Information**

The import of motor vehicles is a detailed, conditional and complicated procedure and is not recommended.

Duties are generally higher than 100%.

Diplomatic motor vehicles are allowed to be imported free of duty if covered by a duty exemption certificate

issued by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, subject to the Ministry approval.

Only right-hand drive vehicles are allowed to be imported

Only cars that meet Euro III pollution norms are allowed (must have manufacturer's certificate)

New vehicles may only be imported from the country of manufacture.

Used vehicles can only be imported through the Customs port at Mumbai.

### **Pets**

#### **Documents Required**

Vaccination record

Veterinary health certificate

#### **Specific Information**

Only one cat, dog or parrot may be imported at the time of shipment.

#### **Restricted/Dutiable Items**

New items are subject to duties (invoice must be supplied).

Customs duties are approximately 15.45% to be levied on the following items:

Televisions

Digital video disc players

Video home theatres



Music systems

Microwaves

Dishwashers

Air conditioners

Refrigerators above 300 L or equivalent

Deep freezers

Fax machines

Word processors

Video cameras

Portable photocopying machines

Gold or silver in any form other than ornaments

Cinematographic films of 35 mm and above

Firearms, ammunition and weapons

Restricted item must be included with the household goods shipment.

A license must be obtained prior to import.

Duplicate items or items in sums of excess of Rs. 150,000 (Rs. 500,000 in Delhi and Mumbai)

are duties of

approximately 36.01 to 61%.

Import of foodstuffs / edibles varies between different cities throughout India.

It is advisable to check with the respective destination agent and then include in the shipment.

The following items may qualify for free import if within the limits indicated:

Alcohol (2 L) – transport is recommended as part of the shipment, not as accompanied

baggage

Wine (2 L)

Perfume (59 ml)

Cigarettes (200), cigars (50), tobacco (250 g)



## **Prohibited Items**

Beef and beef products

Narcotics, non-branded drugs and psychotropic substances

Obscene literature, photographs or films

Politically subversive literature

## **Consignment Instructions**

**Recommended:** Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior

to import, especially

for differences regarding air / sea shipments.

## **Helpful Website(s):**

<http://www.state.gov/p/sca/ci/in>

<http://www.indianembassy.org>