



New Zealand Country Guide

Household Goods and Personal Effects

Documents Required

Copy of passport

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

Treatment / cleaning certificates for the shipment goods

CITES permit, if applicable

Detailed inventory valued and in English

Copy of prescriptions for prescribed drugs

Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) supplementary declaration form, if applicable

Unaccompanied personal baggage declaration

List of wine collections with evidence showing the wine has been collected over a period of time and is of

various types

Receipts for new items

Residence visa / residence permit, if applicable

Work visa / work permit (minimum of 12 months / skilled migrant / long-term business visa or permit)

Visitor's visa / permit issued for a minimum of 3 years

Trade single window - client registration application, if applicable

Specific Information

Household goods can be imported free of duty and tax (GST) if imported by a person who has arrived in New

Zealand, and has one of the following

New Zealand / Australian passport

New Zealand residence visa / permit



Returning resident visa / permit

New Zealand work visa / permit issued for a minimum of 12 months

Permanent resident visa

Returning resident visa issued by the government of the Commonwealth of Australia

Work visa / permit (minimum of 12 months / skilled migrant / long-term business visa / permit)

Visitor visa / permit issued for a minimum of 3 years

***IAM Note:** If owner of the goods does not have one of the above, at the time of arrival of the shipment into New*

Zealand, duty and tax (GST) will be payable to New Zealand Customs.

Duty will be applicable to furniture, kitchenware and some electrical and household goods at 5% on the

“landed value” of the goods.

Landed value is the cost of the items plus freight and insurance.

GST of 15% will then be charged on the landed value including the duty.

The final amount payable to New Zealand Customs will be duty + GST

Personal jewelry, books, and clothing are not subject to duty or GST.

Any wood packaging used in shipments (crates, pallets etc.) must be constructed of approved treated timber

and meet and display the internationally recognized ISPM 15 standard.

Any non-compliant timber may be destroyed, treated or re-exported to the country of origin at the

owner of the goods' expense.

The owner of the goods must be in present at the time of shipment arrival or duty and/or tax will be charged

on the shipment, even if other criteria for duty and tax free entry of your goods is met.



Duty or tax paid at the time of entry of your goods cannot be reclaimed.

This revenue is not refundable even if at a later stage the owner of the goods obtains a qualifying visa, as at the time of importation they did not qualify for the concession and therefore

the revenue was not paid in error.

All packing / inventory lists are screened by the MPI Quarantine Service to determine whether a consignment

requires an examination or can be released immediately, but most consignments of personal effects and

household goods require some kind of an inspection.

Common items that are inspected and of biosecurity interest include but are not limited to:

Food of any kind

Animal products such as meat (fresh or dried), eggs, dairy products, honey, skins, fur, feathers,

bone, wool, hair, hunting trophies, fish/shell fish (fresh, dried, or frozen), Chinese traditional medicines, shells and coral, ivory

Plants or plant products such as fresh or dried fruit and cones, vegetables, plants/flowers live and dried, plant cuttings and bud wood, bulbs or roots, seeds, pine antique and/or handcrafted wooden ornaments/carvings, cane, bamboo, basket ware, straw, Chinese traditional medicines

Equipment used with animals and/or plants such as veterinary equipment/products, fishing gear, fish farming equipment, saddlery, work boots/clothing, pet bedding, gardening equipment/products and forestry equipment

Miscellaneous items such as vacuum cleaners, spiked, studded or sprigged footwear (e.g., golf shoes, soccer boots), hiking boots, soiled footwear, water sports equipment, bicycles, boats, vehicle parts, camping equipment/tents, barbeques, Christmas and/or Easter decorations,

Pooja items



Some items may be required to be cleaned or treated for fumigation.

Items are subject to Customs discretion for seizure, destruction, or shipped back to the origin country at the owner of the goods' expense.

It is recommended that all items that have come into contact with soil, grass, leaves, vegetation, water, seeds, animals, and insects should be thoroughly cleaned and free from any contamination.

Inheritance:

If the owner of the goods is a permanent resident of New Zealand, they may import inherited goods

duty free with the following documents:

Copy of death certificate or letter from solicitor

Copy of will or certified copy of relevant extract of will showing the name of the beneficiary and

their legacy

Note: New Zealand Quarantine (MPI) changed the law so that no containers can go directly from port to

residence any longer. From now on, every container entering New Zealand must be unloaded and inspected

at a transitional facility before being reloaded and delivered to residence.

Motor Vehicles

Documents Required

Copy of passport

Registration papers (prove length of ownership)

Car condition report

Sales invoice



Statement of compliance

Owner of the goods code form

Supplier code form

Deed of undertaking

Specific Information

Motor vehicles can be imported free of tariff duty and taxes if imported by a person who:

Has arrived in New Zealand

Holds a document authorizing residency at the time of import

Has lived abroad for more than 12 months

Has owned and personally used the goods 12 months prior to import

Must sign a deed of undertaking to confirm that the vehicle is for personal use and will not be sold for 2 years.

GST of 15% will be applied to private vehicles that have not been owned / used for more than 12 months.

The vehicle must have been owned and used for at least 12 months prior to shipping or the owner of the goods' departure for New Zealand, whichever is earlier.

Pets

Documents Required

Vaccination record

Veterinary health certificate

Import permit (if necessary)

Specific Information

Check with agent regarding restrictions / prohibitions on the import of certain breeds of dogs.

Some of the prohibited breeds include:

American Pit Bull Terrier



Brazilian Fila

Dogo Argentino

Japanese Tosa

Antiques, Artifacts, Carpets, Paintings

Documents Required

B.A.D.A certificate of authenticity (obtained from approved antique dealers)

Commercial invoice (if purchased less than 12 months prior to import of goods)

Specific Information

Antiques are considered items over 100 years old.

Can be imported duty and tax (GST) free provided they are not for re-sale and have proof of ownership

for more than 12 months.

If the goods were purchased less than 12 months prior to import they are subject to duty (approx. 7%)

plus 15% GST on their landed value.

If they are certified to be over 100 years old and the owner of the goods can show a letter / proof of antiquity the duty will not apply and the import will only be subject to 15% GST.

Wedding Trousseau / Gifts

Duty and tax free in line with the regulations for normal used household effects.

Restricted/Dutiable Items

Firearms or parts (a permit issued by the New Zealand Police is required prior to import)

Ivory in any form, tortoise or sea turtle jewelry or ornaments, animal bone carvings, cat skins or coats,

trophies of sea turtles, all big cats, rare reptiles, cranes, pheasants, bears, antelope and deer.

Live species of eagles, hawks, owls and parrots, many cacti, orchids, cycads, cyclamens and carnivorous



plants.

The following items are subject to tariff duties as indicated:

Baby strollers 5%

Bags (handbags, briefcases) 5%

Bed linens and blankets 5%

Chinaware and cookware 5%

Cosmetics 5%

Curtains 5%

Cutlery 5%

Footwear 10%

Jewelry 5%

Lamps 5%

Perfume 5%

Pots and pans 5%

Saddles 5%

Sleeping bags 5%

Toys 5%

Wet suits 5%

Prohibited Items

Controlled drugs other than prescribed medicines including but not limited to LSD, heroin, cocaine, cannabis,

ecstasy, steroids, human growth hormone, performance enhancing drugs, precursor substances

Pornographic materials or those that promote, incite, or instruct in matters of crime or violence, or misuse of

drugs



Weapons including flick knives, butterfly knives, swordsticks, knuckle-dusters, disguised weapons, etc.

Drug paraphernalia

Goods designed with the intent to facilitate crime

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):

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/new-zealand.html>

<http://www.nzembassy.com/usa>

<https://mfat.govt.nz/en/>