

# India Country Guide - IAM

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## Used 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>

## Cultural and Other Information

[CIA World Factbook Entry for India](#)

[Wikipedia Entry for India](#)

