

South Korea Country Guide - IAM

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Used Household Goods and Personal Effects

Documents Required

- Copy of passport (photo page and entry stamp) from owner of the goods and accompanying family members
- Detailed inventory
- Copy of bill of lading (OBL) or sea waybill / air waybill (AWB)
- Alien registration card (ARC) (from Korean Immigration Office)
- Certificate of entry and exit (returning citizens and accompanying family members only)
- Application for duty exemption issued by Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) Korea (diplomats)
- Moving goods declaration (each DA will provide the Customs official form)
- Power of attorney (each DA will provide the Customs official form)

Specific Information

- Goods must arrive at port of entry / airport of entry (POE / AOE) in Korea within 6 months of the owner of the goods' arrival.
- Clearance should take place at a Customs bonded warehouse (except for diplomats).
- Personal effects cannot be Customs cleared prior to the owner of the goods' arrival.
- All incoming shipments, excluding diplomatic shipments, are subject to open inspection by the Korean Customs Authority.
 - However, even diplomats, due to container access restriction within Seoul's four main gates area, must have containers de-vanned and trans-loaded to mover's van but without inspection.

- Evidence of at least 12 months abroad must be shown in passport (returning citizens).

Motor Vehicles

Documents Required

- Original title
- Original registration certificate
- Original purchase receipt or invoice
- Original or copy of insurance policy documents

Specific Information

- Vehicle must be listed on the inventory with full technical specifications (make, model, chassis number, plate number, etc.)
- Insurance policy should be issued in Korea prior to removing the car from the Customs bonded warehouse.
- In order to register and to drive in South Korea, the vehicle must pass the following Government tests:
 - - Only applicable if the vehicle is a newly introduced vehicle type of Customs officer order this process because of tuning
 - Emission gas level test
 - Noise and vibration test
 - Type and model approval
- Vehicles cannot be sold or transferred by a diplomat to a non-diplomatic individual for 3 years; however sale or transfer between diplomatic individuals is authorized.
- - If a vehicle is sold or transferred to a non-diplomatic individual by a diplomat, duties and taxes shall be charged by Korean Customs.
- The vehicle must be identified on the detailed inventory.

Pets

Documents Required

- Valid health certificate
- Vaccination record (must include rabies vaccination)
- Proof of identification

Specific Information

- Animals will be quarantined upon arrival to South Korea; currently, there is a 10-day quarantine required.
- Animals should have vaccinations at least 30 days prior to import.
- If rabies vaccinations are not older than 30 days, pets must remain in quarantine the 10-days plus the number of days to total 30 full days since the rabies vaccination.

Restricted/Dutiable Items

- The following household goods may be imported duty free by persons 19 years and older within the limits indicated:
 - - Alcohol (1 L)
 - Cigarettes (200), cigars (50), tobacco (250 g)
 - Firearms, ammunition, and explosive materials, including fireworks (permission from the Korean authorities is required)
 - Narcotic and psychotropic drugs
 - Animals
 - Foodstuff
 - - Food items are allowed in sea shipments only.
 - If the owner of the goods is shipping food items ensure all food items are sealed and labeled.
 - Duty free entry for small amounts.
 - The shipment is subject to payment of 20% duty if total amount is too large for a household good shipment.
 - Check with destination agent for more details.
 - Plants and plant byproducts (subject to quarantine and approval by the authorities; denial of entry is possible)

Prohibited Items

- Illegal drugs
- Pornographic material
- Counterfeit goods or materials
- Subversive and treasonous materials

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/r/pa/ei/bgn/2800.htm>

<http://seoul.usembassy.gov/>

<http://usa-newyork.mofat.go.kr/english/am/usa-newyork/main/index.jsp>

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/korea-south.html>

Cultural and Other Information

[CIA World Factbook Entry for South Korea](#)

[Wikipedia Entry for South Korea](#)