

Philippines Customs Regulations

Customs is the Government Agency entrusted with enforcement of laws and regulations to collect and protect import-revenues and to regulate and document the flow of goods in and out of the country.

General Provisions

All persons and baggage are subject to a search at any time. (Sections 2210 & 2212, Customs Law). All articles, when imported from any foreign country into the Philippines, shall be subject to duty and tax upon each importation, even though previously exported from the Philippines, except as otherwise specifically provided in the Customs Code or in other laws. (Section 100, TCCP).

Prohibited and Regulated Articles

The unlawful importation of prohibited articles (i.e. marijuana, cocaine or any other narcotics or synthetic drugs, firearms and explosives and parts thereof, gun replicas, obscene or immoral articles, adulterated or misbranded articles of food or drugs, gambling outfits and paraphernalia, used clothing and rags - R.A. 4653, elephant / ivory tusk products) or those which violate the Intellectual Property Rights Code, R.A. 8293 (i.e., DVDs, VCDs, other imitation products) and regulated items (i.e., transceivers, controlled chemicals / substances / precursors) regardless of quantity constitute a violation of Philippine Customs Laws and may subject you to criminal prosecutions and / or fines and penalties.

Agriculture and Quarantine Regulations

Agriculture quarantine restricts the entry of animals, fish and plant products or their by-products (such as meat, eggs, birds, fruits, etc.). Transport of endangered species and their by-products is also restricted / prohibited by CITES(Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) / DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) regulations. Likewise, export of such products / by-products must be referred to quarantine officers to ensure compliance with Philippine regulations and requirements of country of destination. Failure to obtain prior import and / or export permit from the Philippine Department of Agriculture together with corresponding health sanitary or phytosanitary certificate from country of origin and to declare the same may result to seizure, fines and / or penalties.

Regulated Articles that Require Import Permit / Clearances:

Articles that need import / export permits and / or clearances and government agencies that issues them:

Live Animals and Meat	Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI)
Fruits and Plants	Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI)
Marine and Aquatic Products	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)
Firearms, Parts, Ammunition, etc.	PNP Firearms and Explosives Office (FEO)
VHS, Tapes, CDs, DVDs, etc.	Optical Media Board (OMB)
TV, Movie, Film Print and Negatives, etc.	Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB)
Transceivers, Communication Equipments, etc.	National Telecommunications Commission (NTC)
Endangered Species	Dept. of Environment and National Resources (DENR)
Medicines and the like	Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD)

Currency Regulations

It is illegal for any incoming or outgoing passenger to bring in or out Philippine Pesos (P) in excess of P10, 000.00 without prior authority from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. Any violation of this rule may lead to its seizure and civil penalties and / or criminal prosecution.

The transportation of foreign currency or monetary instruments is legal. However, the carrying of foreign currency in excess of US\$10,000.00 or its equivalent in other foreign currencies must be declared to a Customs Officer or the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. Violation of this rule may lead to seizure and sanctions, fines and / or penalties.

Non-Resident Foreigners

Passengers who intend to bring back to their place of residence abroad any dutiable article must inform the inspecting Customs Officer of said intention. In this case, the passenger may be required to accomplish a re-exportation commitment form duly secured by a cash bond deposit equal to the ascertained duty and tax on the article, refundable upon departure of the passenger with the article, for which a corresponding Official Receipt will be issued.

Ref.: <http://www.tradechakra.com/economy/philippines/philippines-customs-regulations-228.php>