
IMPORT REGULATIONS CHINA (EXPATRIATES)

Required Documents

- Original passport
- Original residence Permit (validity min. 365 days)
- Original work permit or „Expert Certificate“ (validity min. 365 days)
- Signed import permit (validity min. 3 Months) / Customs QR Code
- Children's passports are also required for customs regulation as well as a stamped extra baggage declaration form
- Baggage Declaration Form to be obtained at airport

Import Regulations

- Customs authorities in Shanghai inspect every sea and air cargo shipment with removal goods imported without exception.
- The import permit allows (once) to import one air and one sea shipment each at reduced customs rates.
- Air and sea shipments each require a permit and both shipments must also arrive at (approximately) the same time.
- All items should not exceed household quantities. How exactly "household" is defined is up to the Chinese customs officials (e.g. 5 bicycles for a single household, 5 computers for a 2-person household, etc. would be unusual).
- Import of alcohol is discouraged because most ports ban the import.
- Books should be counted and photographed before packing, because because it happens from time to time that Chinese customs requires a listing of book titles.
- Asian antiques have to be registered for re-export. But even then they might not be allowed out of the country.

Undesirable items are confiscated / destroyed without any explanation.

The import regulations for moving goods to China, especially Shanghai, can change **very short term and blatantly**. Therefore, please always request up-to-date information or check our site again. We always update this information as soon as changes are officially confirmed.

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Prohibited Items

- Diving Equipment, hover boards, gliding parachutes
- Pool table/ billard table, baby grand & grand pianos, gambling supplies (e. g. Poker chips)
- Fresh or perishable food items, plants,
- Photocopy machines, walkie-talkies/ Two way radio, satellite antennas / receivers
- Weapons including knives
- Vehicles (exceptions possible with import permit), Vehicles using gas
- Any items that are detrimental to the social, cultural or moral values of China.

Time required for customs clearance

Customs clearance is done in two steps:

1. Import Permit Application with original documents: approx. 2-3 working days
2. Customs clearance: approx. 8-10 working days for air freight, 6-8 working days for sea freight

Small air cargoes under 350 kg gross can be cleared with Priority Clearance. Required are color copies of passport, valid visa (at least 3 months) and a copy of the passport page with the stamp of the last entry.

Cars and motor vehicles

To import a motor vehicle to Australia a formal customs entry has to be requested. This permit is very cumbersome to obtain. In addition, there are import restrictions at the local level.

Export back to Germany

When leaving Shanghai customs clearance has to be done before your work contract is canceled. After your contract is canceled you are considered a temporary resident and are not entitled to full rights and allowances.

For more information contact us under +49-211-99 80 70 or write an e-mail to:
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