

COSTA RICAN CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

Customs regulation

- Used household goods and personal effects are subject to import taxes and duties, except for diplomatic shipment or international organizations. Costa Rican citizens who have live a minimum of 24 months out of the country have a partial exemption of the taxes.
- New items are subject to very high duties and require an original receipt
- Used Computers, cosmetics, refrigerator are subject to import permits.
- All household goods and personal effects must be unloaded in bonded warehouse for customs inspection.

Documents require

- Copy of the main page of the Passport
- Copy of the last entry stamp into Costa Rica no older than 3 months.
- Inventory list. Include brand name, serial number and model for electrical appliances.
- Original BL or Air waybill.

Diplomatic Shipments

- Copy of the passport and original OBL or AWB is require. Tax exemption must be requested to the Ministry of Foreign Relations, the Embassy or mission must make the process of the exemption; this process will take 3-4 weeks.
- The clearance once the exemption is approved take 2-3 days.
- Diplomatic shipments may be unloaded at the bonded warehouse prior to delivery although shipment will not be inspected by customs according to the Vienna Convention.

Prohibited Items

- Alcoholic beverages (Allowed only small quantities for personal use)
- Narcotics and drugs
- Explosives
- Used tires
- Pornographic or subversive material
- Animal or agricultural products, plants, medicines, food (Requires special permit)
- Weapons and ammunition require an original invoice and registration at origin. Must apply for special permit at firearms and explosive department, import tax applicable. Must be for personal use only.

Pets & Animals

- Dogs and cats permitted
- Pets require health vaccination certificates dated less than 30 days prior arrival. The documentation has to be sent before send the pets.

Vehicles

- Documents require for the clearance original BL, registration card or property title.
- Subject to taxes as follow:
 - ❖ New and up to 3 years old pay 52.29%.
 - ❖ 4 and 5 years old pay 63.91%
 - ❖ More than 5 years old pay 79.03%
 - ❖ Boats pay 55.71%
 - ❖ Motorcycles between 35% and 60%
- We can give you an aprox. amount of taxes if we have the Model, style, year, if it is automatic or manual, full extras or not, vin number.
- Tourists are allowed to import a vehicle duty free for a period of 1-3 months.

The proceeding information is a brief summary of customs regulations applicable to household goods shipments into Costa Rica.



