

Mexico Country Guide

Country Guide: Mexico

Due to the current coronavirus/COVID-19 situation and restrictions in various countries, the below information may not be accurate. This pandemic is a fluid situation. Check with authorities for local laws and restrictions concerning movements.

Updated: August 29, 2016

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Used Household Goods and Personal Effects

Documents Required

- Copy of passport
- Letter to Customs
- Contact details
- Declaration of value
- Original legalized inventory in Spanish (Mexican citizens / permanent resident visa holders)
- Express bill of lading (SWB) / air waybill (AWB)
- Proof of ownership, if applicable (for antiques and artifacts)
Permanent resident visa, if applicable (returning citizens)
- Temporary resident visa, if applicable
- Copy of RFC / CURP number (returning citizens)
- Copy of INE/IFE card (both sides)
- Full inventory list (returning citizens / temporary resident visa holders)
- List of electronics (returning citizens / permanent resident visa holders / temporary resident visa holders)
- Letter of guarantee from employer (temporary resident visa holders)
- Solidarity and compromise Letter (temporary resident)
- Import permit (diplomats)
- Diplomatic franchise from the General Customs Authority (diplomats)
- Diplomatic carnet (diplomats)

Specific Information

- The original legalized inventory must be in Spanish, stamped by the Mexican Consulate in the country of origin and the owner of the goods must have lived abroad for a minimum of 6 months.
Only required for Mexican citizens and permanent resident visa holders.
- Letter to Customs, signed, and stating that items in the shipment are used.
- The contact details of the owner of the goods must include destination
address.
- The list of electronic items must include serial number, model, and make.
Mexican Customs require a shipment to be imported within the first 6 months the visa was issued, after this time it will not be imported.
- New items (less than 6 months) are not considered to be used and must be imported separately from the used household goods items.
New goods will be subject to taxes and duties at Customs.
- The letter to Customs must specify new items with proof of purchase to pay the corresponding duties of 20% plus IVA 16%.
- The letter of guarantee must state that the company is responsible for duties and taxes should the shipment not be re-exported when the employee leaves the country (temporary resident visa holders).

- Antiques, artifacts, carpets and paintings may be imported in reasonable quantities and should be declared on the packing list.
- Returning Mexican citizens and permanent resident visa holders must show proof of having lived abroad for a minimum of 6 months to import household goods and personal effects duty free.
- All articles must be included in the Consularized Inventory by the Mexican Consulate.

Any item not included in the inventory, can be expropriated by Mexican Government.

- It is not recommended to ship the household goods until all documentation is completed and in order.
The airports allow only 30 days to release or return the shipment from the time of its arrival.
 - All other ports hold the shipment until 60 calendar days. If the
 - documentation is not presented by that time the shipment is declared as “abandoned” and it is confiscated by Mexican Government.

Motor Vehicles

Documents Required

- Copy of original temporary resident visa / card
- Purchase invoice
- Vehicle title
- Express bill of lading
- Copy of driver’s license
- Owner of the goods’ personal identification
- Letter of authorization
- Diplomatic franchise from Embassy (diplomats)

Specific Information

- Owner of the goods must be present at port to clear Customs and obtain a temporary import permit, which must be renewed every year.
- Automobiles must be shipped separately from the household goods and personal effects shipment.
- Mexican citizens and permanent resident visa holders cannot import a vehicle into Mexico.
- Only diplomats can import motor vehicles.

Pets

Documents Required

- Veterinary health certificate
- Vaccination record
- Sanitary original bill of lading
- Copy of the owner of the goods' passport

Specific Information

If the value of the animal exceeds USD 5,000, authorization from the Secretary of Commerce and Industrial Promotion is required.

- Do not send pets over the weekend.
- Make sure all documents are with Customs before shipment arrives.

Restricted/Dutiable Items

- Toilet paper
- Diapers
- Tissue paper
- Blank white paper

Prohibited Items

- Beverages including but not limited to wine, beer, spirits, etc.
- Food items including but not limited to spices, tinned products, canned goods, etc.
- Medicine or drugs
- Weapons and ammunition
- Detergents, soaps or similar objects
- Collectable items such as pens, coins, etc.
- Blank CDs, DVDs or tapes
- Large quantities of similar objects because they could be considered items for sale in Mexico
- Pornographic items
- Cars, boats, and/or motorcycles (unless the client is a diplomat)

Consignment Instructions

Recommended: Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air / sea shipments.

Cultural and Other Information

CIA World Factbook

