



## Import Customs Guide **COLOMBIA**

Information from FIDI Latin America

# Import Customs guide COLOMBIA



FIDI ACCREDITED  
INTERNATIONAL  
MOVER



**The global quality standard for international moving.**


The FAIM label is your global assurance for a smooth, safe and comprehensive relocation process.

GOODS	DOCUMENTS REQUIRED	CUSTOMS PRESCRIPTIONS	REMARKS
<p><b>Removal Goods - Foreign and Colombian Citizens (non diplomats)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Original AWB or two original B/Ls.</li> <li>▪ A typewritten inventory in Spanish without values, with brands, serials, models and references of electronic items and bikes.</li> <li>▪ Notarized photocopy of passport with visa valid at least for one year of owner or titular of the shipment.</li> <li>▪ Residence certificate: Colombian returning citizens must prove that they lived abroad for a minimum of two years.</li> <li>▪ “Registro unico de Retornados” for Colombian returning citizens that lived abroad for a minimum three years (optional if the customer wants to apply the duties / taxes exception).</li> <li>▪ If client is a Colombian returning citizen and wants to import his goods and only have one year or least abroad; can re-import the goods. The articles must be the same than client export (quantity of articles and volume must be the same).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All shipments pay customs duties and taxes.</li> <li>▪ If the Colombian returning citizen does not have the “registro de retornados”, he must pay duties and taxes of 15% on the CIF value. The customer must apply directly online.</li> <li>▪ The Customs Inspector decides the value of duties and taxes.</li> <li>▪ Partial customs clearance is not permitted, and it must be done at airport or port of arrival.</li> <li>▪ Time limit for arrival of household goods is 30 calendar days before or 120 calendar days after arrival of owner.</li> <li>▪ Only one shipment of household goods can be imported per family each five (5) years. Art. 279 Dec. 1165 /2019.</li> <li>▪ One unit of each electrical domestic appliance is allowed except for TV's.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The shipper can bring no more than 3 TV's.</li> <li>▪ It is very important &amp; MANDATORY that the inventory list indicates brand, model, reference and serial number of each electrical appliance and bikes.</li> <li>▪ The packing list MUST be typewritten.</li> <li>▪ Please check the list of items allowed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Shipper must be in Colombia in the moment of customs clearance, because original passport could be required by the customs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ People less than 18 years old are not allowed to import household goods.</li> <li>▪ Once the physical customs inspections are done, the customs officer will calculate the value of the goods on which duties and taxes are charged.</li> <li>▪ The customs officer will immediately apply the customs penal code (confiscation of goods) in the following cases:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Excess of the allowance authorized (more than one electric appliances).</li> <li>▪ Destined for different purposes to those for which goods were imported.</li> <li>▪ Arrival outside the established period of time 120 days after or 30 days before.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Never send a vehicle or a motorcycle along with household goods before consulting the agent in Colombia.</li> <li>▪ No commercial quantities are allowed.</li> <li>▪ If citizens did not live two years abroad, they should make “re-importation” attaching export household documents only if they exported when they left Colombia. “Re-importation” process: the items to import must be the same items exported from Colombia, the weight, volume and packages number must match.</li> <li>▪ If the shipment is composed of two or more containers these must be sent under the same OBL, because partial customs</li> </ul>

GOODS	DOCUMENTS REQUIRED	CUSTOMS PRESCRIPTIONS	REMARKS
		<p>authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Firearms, collection weapons, import prohibited unless an approved authorization from Colombian Ministry of Defence is given BEFORE shipping.</li> <li>▪ Liquor, foodstuffs, tires, compressors, security cameras, floors, walls, spare parts, new articles are prohibited to import into the shipment. Customs does not consider them as part of a shipment.</li> </ul>	<p>clearance is not permitted.</p>
<p><b>Unaccompanied Baggage of Foreign and Colombian Citizens - Non Diplomats</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Original AWB or two original B/Ls.</li> <li>▪ A typewritten inventory in Spanish without values, with brands, serials, models and references of electronic items.</li> <li>▪ Notarized photocopy of passport of owner or titular of the shipment</li> <li>▪ Foreign and Colombian citizens must prove that they were out of Colombia for a minimum of five (5) days.</li> <li>▪ Customs form called “DECLARACION DE EQUIPAJES NO ACOMPAÑADOS / 530 FORM”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Shipper must complete this form upon his arrival at the airport and have it stamped by the customs authorities at that moment, not the next day.</li> <li>▪ This form must be completed and sent to clearance agent together with the other documents.</li> <li>▪ If this document is not completed the clearance can be delayed or denied.</li> <li>▪ Copy of arrival e-ticket.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The customer must pay duties and taxes of 15% on the CIF value.</li> <li>▪ The customs Inspector decides the value of each item of the household goods.</li> <li>▪ Partial customs clearance is not permitted and it must be done at airport or port of arrival.</li> <li>▪ Time limit for arrival of an unaccompanied baggage is 30 calendar days before or 90 calendar days after arrival of owner. Art. 273 Dec. 1165 /2019.</li> <li>▪ Shipper must be in Colombia at the moment of customs clearance, because original passport could be required by the customs authorities.</li> <li>▪ Firearms, collection weapons, import prohibited unless an approved authorization from Colombian Ministry of Defence is given BEFORE shipping.</li> <li>▪ Liquor, foodstuffs, tires, compressors, security cameras, floors, walls, spare parts, electrical bikes or scooters, new articles are prohibited to import into the shipment. Customs does not consider them as part of a shipment.</li> <li>▪ Allowed: personal effects like clothes, books,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ People less than 18 years old are not allowed to import household goods. Which depends on special student permission that importer has. (Please consult your agent BEFORE SHIPPING).</li> <li>▪ Once the physical customs inspections are done, the customs officer will calculate the value of the goods on which duties and taxes are charged.</li> <li>▪ The customs officer will immediately apply the customs penal code (confiscation of goods) in the following cases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Excess of the allowance authorized in electronic items (Please consult your agent BEFORE SHIPPING).</li> <li>▪ Destined for different purposes to those for which goods were imported. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Arrival outside the established period of time 90 days after or 30 days before.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ No commercial quantities are allowed.</li> </ul>

GOODS	DOCUMENTS REQUIRED	CUSTOMS PRESCRIPTIONS	REMARKS
		<p>paintings, some small electric appliances, etc. but cannot include furniture's, kitchen items, mattresses or rugs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The cost of the shipment of personal effects cannot exceed the amount of US\$ 1.500.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Removal Goods and unaccompanied baggage's of Foreign and Colombian Citizens - Diplomats</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Original AWB or two original B/Ls.</li> <li>▪ A typewritten inventory in Spanish without values, with brands, serials, models and references of electronic items.</li> <li>▪ Photocopy of diplomatic passport with seal of the Embassy valid.</li> <li>▪ Diplomatic Permit (Foreign and Colombian diplomats).</li> <li>▪ Foreign diplomats needs a permanent accreditation (it should not be temporary).</li> <li>▪ Colombian Returning Diplomats have to obtain a permit issued by Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DTH).</li> <li>▪ It's necessary to obtain the mandatory and power attorney documents (originals) from the client before the shipment arrivals. On the contrary the shipment can incur in extra charges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ These shipments do not pay customs duties and taxes.</li> <li>▪ Customs clearance without physical inspection, and must be done at customs zone.</li> <li>▪ Time limit for arrival of these shipments depends on each case. So, please contact your agent at destination.</li> <li>▪ Firearms, collection weapons, import prohibited unless an approved authorization from Colombian Ministry of Defence is given BEFORE shipping.</li> <li>▪ Liquor, foodstuffs, tires, compressors, security cameras, floors, walls, spare parts, electrical bikes or scooters, new articles are prohibited to import into the shipment. Customs does not consider them as part of a shipment.</li> <li>▪ It is allowed to include into the unaccompanied baggage, personal effects like clothes, books, paintings, some small electric appliances, etc., but cannot include furniture's, kitchen items, mattresses or rugs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This category is applicable to Consular personnel, Persons protected by special regulations due to the contracts established between the Colombian Government and Foreign Countries or Entities. All members of technical missions and International Organizations (Please contact your destination agent).</li> <li>▪ For electronic/electrical devices and bikes, include serial number, references, brands, models.</li> <li>▪ If the shipment is composed of two or more containers these must be sent under the same OBL, because partial customs clearance is not permitted.</li> <li>▪ Resolution 046 of 2019, paragraph of article 459 indicates that the acceptance of the customs transit regime (OTM / DTA) will not proceed for importers who carry out their first import or are not recurrent importers. So the import process must be done at port or a bonded warehouse in the same city where the port of arrival is located.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Motor vehicles, motorcycles</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Original invoice detailed and preferably in US dollar.</li> <li>▪ A list of contents with all characteristics and specifications of the vehicle or motorcycle.</li> <li>▪ Original of AWB or two Original B/Ls.</li> <li>▪ For no diplomatic shipments / Colombian Returning Diplomats of used vehicles or</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Customs duties and taxes for new cars are approx. 70% on the CIF value except for foreign diplomats.</li> <li>▪ Colombian returning diplomats do not pay customs duties, but pay a special tax called "IVA", which can be 19% of the CIF value, depending on the model of the car, and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Only foreign and returning diplomats are allowed to import used cars and motorcycles.</li> <li>▪ Resolution 046 of 2019, paragraph of article 459 indicates that the acceptance of the customs transit regime (OTM / DTA) will not proceed for importers who carry out their</li> </ul>

GOODS	DOCUMENTS REQUIRED	CUSTOMS PRESCRIPTIONS	REMARKS
	<p>motorcycles, is necessary a fumigation/cleaning certificate and pictures of vehicle and certificates of conformity for wheels, glazing, brakes, and seat belts</p>	<p>consumption tax can be 8% or 16% depending on the value of the car.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If an importer wants to bring the car along with household goods shipment, he needs to consult the agent in Colombia before shipping.</li> <li>▪ Time limit for arrival of cars and motorcycles into Colombia for foreign and Colombian citizens, not diplomats and diplomats, is upon approval of the import license by Colombian customs.</li> </ul>	<p>first import or are not recurrent importers. So the import process must be done at port or a bonded warehouse in the same city where the port of arrival is located.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Never send a vehicle or motorcycle without consulting the agent in Colombia.</li> </ul>
<b>Pets (dogs and cats)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Original of Veterinary Health Certificate which must be issued maximum ten (10) days before the arrival of the shipment.</li> <li>▪ Vaccination certificate, according to the age and species.</li> <li>▪ Original of AWB, if the animal comes as an unaccompanied baggage.</li> <li>▪ Invoice for non-commercial purposes.</li> <li>▪ Rabies certificate (must be greater than 21 days prior to arrival).</li> <li>▪ Internal and external deworming within 60 days before arrival.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If the pet comes as an accompanied baggage, the owner must proceed with customs import formalities upon his arrival at the airport.</li> <li>▪ If the pet comes as an unaccompanied baggage, the AWB must read: "ALIVE ANIMAL" (ANIMAL VIVO) "DESCARGUE DIRECTO". <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The customs clearance is possible only weekdays</li> <li>▪ Customs and zoosanitary entity Works from Monday to Friday between 8:00 am until 4:00 pm, so if the pet arrive after noon, they must stay the night at the airport</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Special permit to be paid, called "PERMISO ZOOSANITARIO" costing 30 – 35 US\$ approx. to be paid in Colombian Pesos.</li> <li>▪ Copy or owner air ticket, passport and immigration stamp.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Healthy certificate must certify that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the animal is free of infectious and parasitic diseases,</li> <li>▪ the animal has no presence of fresh wounds or healing process,</li> <li>▪ the animal has a current vaccination plan,</li> <li>▪ the animal received an internal/external parasitic treatment within 30 days prior to arrival,</li> <li>▪ pet identification, species, breed, sex, age, coat colour and deworming date.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ The importation of the following breeds or their hybrids is prohibited because they are considered dangerous: American Staffordshire Terrier, Pit Bull Terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier, Staffordshire Terrier, Bull Terrier.</li> <li>▪ For any other kind of pets, please contact your agent at destination.</li> </ul>
<b>Fumigation of imported and exported wooden crates</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Colombian Government adopted ISPM-15 (International standards for Phytosanitary Measures Publication 15) Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This does not apply to wood packing materials manufactured of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Raw wood of 6 mm thickness or less.</li> <li>▪ Processed wood produced by glue, heat</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

GOODS	DOCUMENTS REQUIRED	CUSTOMS PRESCRIPTIONS	REMARKS
		<p>International Trade (aka NIFM-15) to standardise the treatment of wood packing materials used for the transport of goods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Since September 16, 2005, shipments into or out of Colombia in wooden packaging, have to have a Seal, which certifies that the shipment has received the required treatment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ HT = Heated Treatment [a minimum wood core temperature of 56°C for a minimum of 30 minutes] or</li> <li>▪ Methyl Bromide Treatment (the minimum temperature should not be less than 10°C and the minimum exposure time should not fall below 16 hours).</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ The wood packing material must be marked in a visible location on each article, on at least two opposite sides of the article with a legible and permanent mark in black ink. Labels and adhesives are not allowed. The mark should be as follows:</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="1176 965 1550 1110" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;">  <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; margin-left: 10px;"> <p><b>XX - 000</b></p> <p><b>YY</b></p> </div> </div>	<p>and pressure, or a combination thereof.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Plywood sheets &amp; agglomerated sawdust sheet.</li> <li>▪ Oriented wooden fibre sheets.</li> <li>▪ Sawdust &amp; Wooden fibre.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If you have questions, please contact your local agent in Colombia.</li> </ul>



The FIDI Global Alliance

---

Tel.: +32 2 426 51 60  
Email: [fidi@fidi.org](mailto:fidi@fidi.org)

[www.fidi.org](http://www.fidi.org)