



Customs Guide **COSTA RICA**

Information from FIDI Latin America

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GOODS	DOCUMENTS REQUIRED	CUSTOMS PRESCRIPTIONS	REMARKS
<p>Removal Goods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rated original Bill of Lading, A.W.B. or “Carta de Porte”. ▪ Typed packing list in Spanish. ▪ Detailed list indicating brand, serial number and model of all electric appliances and electronics. ▪ Original or copy of shipper’s passport (front page) or ID for Costa Rican citizen. ▪ One probative document in order to opt for the personal household goods and merchandise modality. This document may be no more than six months old and, will be related with the importer’s category. Types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consular Certification of Residency Abroad or supplementary document (house rental, lease, or purchase agreement), evidencing the place of residence and the period of time spent abroad (at least 24 months), in the case of Costa Rican students or legal age workers returning to live in Costa Rica. ▪ Work Permit issued by the General Immigration and Alienage General Direction when it is a foreigner coming to work in Costa Rica or copy of the authorization permit request before Immigration and Foreign Service, besides the copy of the labour agreement from the contracting company. ▪ Residence I.D. in force, when it is a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Foreigners will have to pay for import duties. All customers have to pay for duties and taxes. ▪ Costa Rican citizens who have lived abroad a minimum of 24 months may apply for partial tax exemption. This applies only for one item per type, example: 1 microwave, 1 laundry machine, 1 bed, 1 table, chairs, etc. ▪ Returning Costa Ricans wanting to apply for partial tax exemption need to bring a certification from the Costa Rican consulate at the origin country, indicating number of years lived abroad. ▪ Other formalities for this status must be made in Costa Rica. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Customs clearance will take approximately 22 working days once shipment has arrived at the bonded warehouse in San José. ▪ It is a requirement that the number of pieces and weight reported on the B/L matches with the real number of pieces and weight; otherwise, Customs will apply a fine of 500 USD and there will be a delay in Customs process from 4 to 6 weeks. ▪ A physical inspection, to verify that there will be no differences between the quantities and weights declared on the shipping documents and the real ones is mandatory by Costa Rican customs authorities.

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	<p>foreigner who was granted the status of permanent resident in the country, reckoned from the date the residence is granted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consular Certification of Resident Abroad or supplementary document, (rent, lease, or purchase housing agreement), evidencing the place of residency and the time he was abroad, in the case of those who were permanent residents outside the country for at least 24 months. Important note: If transferee is a Costa Rican resident who has not lived outside of Costa Rica for longer than 12 months, they cannot import any household goods into the country. ▪ Property registration certificate of property acquired in Costa Rica or copy of lease or rent agreement in Costa Rica, authenticated by a lawyer. 		
Diplomats Removals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rated original Bill of Lading, A.W.B. or “Carta de Porte” ▪ Typed packing list in Spanish. ▪ Tax exemption ▪ Copy of shipper’s passport (front page) and diplomatic ID. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Duty free entry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shipper must be registered at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. ▪ Tax exemption process must be done directly by the shipper’s entity. ▪ Import of Wine and Alcohol is permitted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantity will depend on the annual allowance agreed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and each Embassy. ▪ Each Embassy must ask the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to check how much bottles or quantity they can bring; this process must be done directly by the shipper’s entity.
Wedding trousseaux	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Same as household goods removal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Subject to taxes payment. 	

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Inheritance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as above. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to taxes payment. 	
New Furniture and Household Goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rated original Bill of Lading, A.W.B. or “Carta de Porte”. Packing list or inventory. Original invoices. Translation of the invoice (Spanish) Art. 317 according to Customs’ law (RGLA). Copy of shipper’s passport (front page). One probative document (front page). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to taxes payment, except those with tax exemption (when applies). 	
Works of Art & Antiques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rated original Bill of Lading, A.W.B. or “Carta de Porte”. Invoices if any (not needed if part of household goods shipment). Packing list or inventory (Spanish). Copy of shipper’s passport (front page). Photograph of Art & Antiques. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to taxes payment. 	
Wooden goods (furniture, ornaments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permit of Ministry of Agriculture. Needed only for wooden crates. Wooden ornaments and hangers are not allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to Customs’ law (RGLA) wicker and ratan baskets or any product made of those, are not allowed in the country (furniture made with wicker and ratan are allowed). Subject to taxes payment. 	
Motor vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rated original Bill of Lading, A.W.B. or “Carta de Porte”. Original Vehicle Property Deed or Original Circulation Permit. Original purchase invoice or purchase. Copy of shipper’s passport (front page). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to taxes payment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other documents for motor vehicles import process must be presented in Costa Rica. Vehicles cannot have been declared as “Total Loss” at the origin country.
Machines, appliance, spare parts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rated original Bill of Lading, A.W.B. or “Carta de Porte” Invoices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to taxes payment except those with tax exemption. 	

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Wine, Alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rated original Bill of Lading, A.W.B. or "Carta de Porte". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to taxes payment. Prohibited for air and LCL shipments. For FCL shipments, a maximum of 5 litres is permitted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permits from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Treasury may be requested.
Tins and Food		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importation prohibited. 	
Arms, ammunitions, dangerous objects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permits of Ministry of National Security "Seguridad Publica". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as above. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It applies only for Costa Rican citizens or residents.
Medicines, narcotics, drugs, soaps, perfumes, shampoo, creams, cosmetics, and other personal hygiene articles		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importation prohibited. 	
Plants		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importation prohibited. 	
Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioning		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importation prohibited. 	
Domestic pets (Cats and Dogs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A.W.B. Health Certificate. Up to date vaccination cards. Invoice or affidavit indicating animal's value and characteristics. Exportation veterinary health certificate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to payment of taxes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation required before animal's arrival.
Pornographic material, subversive material, drugs, item not being part of the normal household		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importation prohibited. 	
Fumigation of imported and exported wooden crates		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costa Rica Government adopted ISPM-15 (International standards for Phytosanitary Measures Publication 15) Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in 	

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		International Trade (aka NIFM-15) to standardise the treatment of wood packing materials used for the transport of goods.	



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