



Section 1 of this document gives a brief overview of the country, whilst section 2 contains the customs requirements.

Section 1 – INDIA OVERVIEW

India is the seventh largest country in the world and the second most populated country with over 1.2 billion citizens. India also has the tenth largest economy and, since 1991, her economy has been one of the fastest growing in the world. Four of the world's major religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism all originated in India. Hinduism accounts for just over 80% of India's population. Even though the Indian sub-continent is large, it operates under one time zone throughout.

Cricket is one of India's largest participant sports and the national team were crowned World Cup champions in 1983 and 2011. Hockey is India's national sport and the game of chess was invented in the country.

There is no national language per se, but 74% of the population speak Indo-Aryan and the remainder Dravidian, whilst English is predominantly used in business and education.

India is rich in culture boasting 28 world heritage sites and a diverse range of scenery and animals, most notably the Indian national animal, the Royal Bengal Tiger whose numbers have sadly been in decline of late.

For more detailed information why not visit <http://www.indiainformation.com/>

Section 2 - REQUIREMENTS FOR DUTY FREE ENTRY OF HOUSEHOLD AND RELATED EFFECTS IMPORTED BY THE OWNER

IMPORTING PERSONAL EFFECTS

Indian nationals, foreign nationals including those of Indian origin, transferring their residence to India or coming to India on employment, can import their personal effects and household goods into India duty free subject to the following conditions:-

- Transferee must have lived overseas for at least 2 years and must be transferring his/her residence to India. Transferee must not have visited India for more than 180 days in the preceding two years (365 days for Indian passport holders).
- Foreign nationals must have a resident / business / work / entry visa or a PIO card.
- Goods must be shipped from the origin country within one month of the arrival of the owner into India; automobiles can be shipped with 6 months of arrival. If there is a delay then goods can be cleared only if customs condone the delay. Each case will be decided on its merits.
- The owner's presence is now mandatory during customs clearance but during the owner should arrive in India before the shipment and be present in the country until the shipment clears customs or else demurrage / container detention charges will be quite heavy.
- All household goods (old and used) and personal effects are duty free if in the owners possession for at least 1 year (and used) under the Transfer Residence rule.

DOCUMENTATION

- Original Passport will need to be turned over to the Indian destination agent until the shipment clears customs
- Authority Letter (provided by destination agent in India)
- Baggage Declaration Form (provided by destination agent in India)
- Inventory with valuation of each item
- Indian Customs Declaration Form (provided by destination agent in India)

MOTOR VEHICLES

Used vehicles are subject to import duties which need to be paid at the time of importation. There are no fixed rates as the process is seen case-by case; as such it is advisable that research is conducted by the mover prior to departure.

- Indian or Foreign nationals transferring their residence to India are allowed to import one vehicle. A car that was in the importers ownership or possession for over a year is allowed. Payment for the car must be made prior to arrival of the owner in India.

- Importation of new cars is allowed but they must meet the pollution norms as below
- Shipment must be made within 6 months of arrival. In lieu of a motor car, one motorcycle can also be imported.
- Only Right Hand Drive cars are allowed
- Only Cars which meet Euro III pollution norms are allowed. Must have certificate from manufacturer
- The Original purchase Invoice for the vehicle is required

PROHIBITIONS

These items are strictly prohibited from being imported into India. Do not pack these items under any circumstances as they will be confiscated and fines will be levied.

- Firearms, Weapons, ammunition of any type
- Narcotics
- Obscene Literature, Pornographic Material

RESTRICTIONS

- Foreign nationals can import foodstuff in their main household removal shipment duty free up to a limit of Rs.50,000/- (US\$1111)
- Foreign nationals who are resident in India can import foodstuff worth Rs.100,000 p.a. (approx. US\$2222). Payment for the foodstuff must be made out of funds of the foreign national available outside India.

DUTIABLE GOODS

The following items are allowed in your shipment, but will be subject to tax and duty:-

- Wine, spirits, beverages, etc.
- New articles are charged duty @ 35 %
- The following electronic appliances are charged duty @ 15 % of the value subject to a value limit of Rs. 500,000/- (approx. US\$1111) regardless of usage. The items are: Televisions, DVD Player, Video Home Theatre System, Dishwasher, Music System, Air conditioner, Domestic Refrigerator above 300 litres, Deep Freezer, Video Camera, Word Processor, Fax machine, Portable Photocopiers, Aircraft, Boats, Cinematographic Films of 35 mm and above, Gold or Silver in any form other than ornaments. Concessional duty rate of 15 % is allowed only on the first unit. If the shipper has two or more of any appliance, or the combined value of all the above appliances exceeds Rs. 500,000 (US\$1111) duty @ 35 % will be charged on the additional units/value.
- Import duties on alcohol & spirits, etc are very high in India (approx. 182 %) and on beer & wines (approx 150%). If shipping alcohol please contact us prior to shipping for necessary information.
- Customs duty on new cars is approx 106% and old car 160%. Customs duty on new motorcycles is approx 85% & on old is 132%

These are subject to depreciation and service tax which is at present 10.30%

FUMIGATION OF WOODEN CRATES

The Indian Government adopted ISPM-15 (International standards for Phytosanitary Measures Publication 15) Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade (aka NIFM-15) to standardise the treatment of wood packing materials used for the transport of goods.

TRANSIT TIMES

Groupage or shared containers usually take an average of 8 – 10 weeks door to door. However, this can vary depending on volumes being shipped, customs or immigration delays and prevailing weather conditions. Sole use container loads take on average 5 – 6 weeks door to door.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Simpsons Removals & Storage Ltd
 +44 (0) 1322 386969
enquiries@simpsons-uk.com
www.simpsons-uk.com

Indian Customs Board
 044- 24349452
helpcentre@chennaicustoms.gov.in
<http://www.cbec.gov.in>