



## **SINGAPORE**

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

### **Section 1 – SINGAPORE OVERVIEW**

Whether you are looking for new business opportunities, or a different lifestyle with a good standard of living, moving to Singapore can be an ideal choice. This multicultural and cosmopolitan city-state can offer high living standards, excellent communications, transport and healthcare facilities, along with cultural diversity second to none.

Located in Southeast Asia off the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula, Singapore is an island country that is made up of a highly urbanised main island and 63 smaller islands. The country has a strong and growing market-based economy, significantly depending on exports. It is one of the largest financial centres in the world with a thriving business sector that uses English as the predominant language. Singapore is also a relatively crime-free country, has low pollution levels, traffic jams are almost non-existent, and a country where high living standards and a comfortable life are distinctly achievable.

Singapore is not the most ideal place for those enjoying outdoor adventures, because almost 50% of the city is occupied by skyscrapers and high rises, and although government control can at times be excessive, most expats readily adapt to the lifestyle. Singapore has a diverse culture, with different racial and religious groups living in relative harmony, and whenever you are feeling adventurous, you have more than 60 islands to discover.

To find out more about Singapore why not visit <http://www.gov.sg/government/web/content/govsg/classic/home>

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

#### **IMPORTING PERSONAL EFFECTS**

Shipments of used household and personal effects may be imported duty free provided the shipper has owned and used them prior to shipment. Your local Simpsons partner will provide you with detailed customs regulations. We do not recommend the importation of alcohol, tobacco or motor vehicles as the duties are extremely high. All necessary documentation must be completed and submitted when requested, before your shipment is dispatched. Please note that you must be in the country in order to successfully complete all customs clearance procedures.

#### **DOCUMENTATION**

Simpsons and our agents will assist you with completion of the customs formalities. To assist us with this please let us have a copy of your passport (and visa if applicable). You will also need to provide our Agents with your employment pass to be able to import your personal effects without the payment of duty/tax. The required documentation will be supplied to you on arrival and to avoid any potential additional charges and delays, it is advisable that all the forms are completed and returned promptly to our Agents.

#### **PROHIBITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS**

In general it is in your interest not to import the following items:

- Firearms & ammunition
- Weapons such as swords and large knives
- Inflammable goods & substances
- Plants & plant material
- Foodstuffs, perishables or otherwise
- Alcohol, narcotics and dangerous goods
- Offensive or pornographic material (all dvd's, videos and laser discs are screened by the Singapore authorities at a cost of US\$4 per hour per dvd and any offensive scenes or language will be edited at additional cost before their return to the owner).

**TRANSIT TIMES**

Groupage or shared containers usually take an average of 8–12 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.

**MOTOR VEHICLES**

The import of Motor Vehicles is difficult and the duties extremely high so we recommend that you do not ship your vehicle or motorcycle to Singapore. Currently duty of 20% is payable on the vehicle's Singaporean value plus an additional registration fee equivalent to 110% of the car's value making the duty payable equivalent to more than twice the vehicle's value.

**ALCOHOL & TOBACCO**

If you intend to take alcohol or tobacco in your shipment it will automatically be examined by Singaporean customs at additional cost. Duty on alcohol is currently charged at US\$70 per litre of alcohol by volume (proof) and tobacco at US\$200 per kilo.

**USEFUL CONTACTS**

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Singapore Customs

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<http://www.customs.gov.sg/topNav/hom/>