



# Taiwan

**CAPITAL**

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**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE**

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**CURRENCY**

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**Guide version:** V2 draft**Disclaimer**

This Country Guide reflects information believed to be correct at the time of publication. Regulations, procedures and charges are subject to change. IAM does not accept liability for errors, omissions, inaccuracies or misinterpretations in this guide. The information provided should not be considered as having been provided or sanctioned by the customs authorities of the country or territory concerned.

## Documents

### Required Documents

- **Copy of shipper's passport (photo and signature pages)**
- **Original Ocean Bill of Lading or Airway Bill — express release (telex release) is acceptable**
- **Complete inventory/packing list**
- **Consignee block on OBL or AWB must show the shipper's name (identical to passport) and c/o the destination agent**
- **Copy of shipper's arrival flight information (e-ticket or boarding pass) and corresponding entry stamp inside the passport — must be within 6 months prior to shipment arrival**
- **Original signed Entrusting Letter (Customs Authorization Letter) — one per shipment mode, typically provided by the destination agent**
- **Copy of Work Permit and ARC (Alien Resident Certificate) — front and back pages (foreign nationals)**

- **Copy of Taiwan Resident ID — front and back pages (Taiwanese nationals)**

## Household Goods — Specific Information

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The shipment must arrive within 6 months of the shipper's arrival in Taiwan. The shipper must be in Taiwan prior to the shipment's arrival.

Upon arrival in Taiwan, the shipper must fill out a customs declaration form and declare that an incoming unaccompanied shipment is on the way. The shipper must pass through the red channel at the airport and give the declaration form to Customs. If this declaration is not made, Customs will impose full duty and tax on the shipment.

The shipper must not use the "express" channel when first arriving through airport immigration — they must have their passport stamped by the immigration officer. If they fail to get this entry stamp, they must apply for an "Entry Certificate" from the Entry and Exit Bureau. This stamp is required for customs clearance.

Each shipment is generally allowed a "reasonable" non-commercial amount of used household goods and appliances: one type of appliance per incoming family member. Any quantity above what Customs deems reasonable will be subject to import duty and tax. Some used household goods may be subject to duties of up to 10% of declared value; pianos are specifically subject to duty.

Wooden lift vans and crates loaded as FCL must be indicated on the original BL as "CY to CFS" to avoid delays at Customs inspection. Failure to do so results in an additional charge of approximately USD 300 for trailer from CY container terminal to CFS terminal warehouse, plus USD 15/CBM for CFS charge and USD 8/CBM for customs terminal fee.

Container trailers are prohibited in downtown areas. After Customs clearance, shipments are transported to the residence by truck or van.

Documents must reach the destination agent before the shipment arrives. For air shipments, advise the agent of all related information (AWB number, number of packages, weight, and contact details).

Clearance times: air shipments average 2–3 working days after arrival; sea shipments average 4–5 working days.

ISPM 15 compliance is mandatory for all wood packaging materials. Non-compliant WPM will be returned or fumigated at the shipper's expense.

# Prohibited / Restricted Items

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## Prohibited Items

- Narcotics and illegal drugs
- Firearms, weapons, ammunition, cartridges, explosives, and poisonous gas `PERMIT REQUIRED` for licensed firearms
- Toy guns and ornamental swords and knives
- Counterfeit currency, banknotes, plates, or dyes for forging
- Gambling equipment and foreign lottery tickets
- Obscene and indecent publications, pictures, and videos
- Publications propagating communism
- Counterfeit goods and items infringing patents, designs, trademarks, or copyrights
- Fruits, vegetables, and foodstuffs from areas prevailing with injurious pests or plant disease
- Animals and pets from infected areas
- Wildlife and wildlife products (furs, skins, ivory, etc.) from endangered species — CITES approval required before importation; without approval, goods will be confiscated and the shipper may face prosecution `CITES`
- Articles produced, manufactured, or originating in China, North Korea, and a number of other countries may be subject to confiscation (though not common for personal effects)

## Restricted / Dutiable Items

**Electrical appliances:** One unit of each type per incoming family member is permitted duty-free. Additional units are subject to import duty and tax. Duty rates on electrical items range from approximately 5% to 19.2% of assessed value.

**Alcohol:** A maximum of 5 litres of wine, liquor, or beer may be imported by paying applicable import duty and tax. Delays of 10–14 days should be expected for Customs clearance of alcohol, and demurrage charges may accrue.

**Food items:** Non-perishable food items may be imported in small amounts — maximum 6 kg — by sea only. Food cannot be sent by air. Food in excess of acceptable quantities is subject to duty.

**Antiques:** Duty-free when imported as part of personal effects, but 5% VAT and 0.04% trade promotion tax apply. Antiques may require a special permit before import; advise the destination agent in advance.

**Medicines (prescription and non-prescription):** Restricted and subject to customs examination. Declare all medications on the inventory.

**Telecommunications and electronic equipment:** Serial numbers of printers, fax machines, and similar devices must be provided on the inventory and may require prior approval.

**Currency:** Foreign currency above permitted limits must be declared on arrival.

## Vehicles

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### Vehicle Documents

- **Copy of shipper's passport (relevant pages)**
- **Copy of owner's Resident ID (Taiwanese nationals)**
- **Copy of ARC/Residence Certificate (foreign nationals)**
- **Original vehicle paperwork (registration, title)**
- **Import permit from the Board of Foreign Trade (if vehicle value exceeds USD 20,000)**
  - **must be obtained before the vehicle is shipped**

### Specific Information

Vehicles must be left-hand drive and must use unleaded gasoline. All vehicles must pass an environmental test administered by the Taiwanese government; vehicles not manufactured for the Taiwan market may not pass and will be returned to origin at the owner's expense.

Import taxes and duties are significant: 17.5% customs duty applies to all vehicles; commodity tax is 25% for vehicles under 2,000 cc and 30% for vehicles over 2,001 cc. Additional charges of 5% VAT, 0.3% harbour tax, and 0.04% trade promotion tax also apply. Total estimated tax and duty burden is 52–65% of vehicle value.

One vehicle per family is permitted.

If the vehicle's value exceeds USD 20,000, an import permit from the Board of Foreign Trade must be obtained and approved by the Taiwan government agency before the vehicle is shipped — do not ship before the permit is approved, as high demurrage charges will accrue. If the vehicle value is under this threshold, an import licence from the Customs Department is required instead; application takes approximately 3–4 days.

After Customs clearance, the owner must apply for testing at the Automotive Research and Testing Center (ARTC) before the vehicle may be driven on Taiwanese roads.

The vehicle may be shipped in the same container as household goods but no belongings may be placed inside the vehicle.

## Pets

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### Requirements

- **Import permit (must be obtained before the animal is sent to Taiwan)**  
\*\*From rabies-affected countries (all countries except Japan, UK, Sweden, New Zealand, and Iceland):\*\*
- **Copy of shipper's passport (photo and signature pages)**  
\*\*From rabies-affected countries (all countries except Japan, UK, Sweden, New Zealand, and Iceland):\*\*
- **Rabies blood test report issued by an OIE reference laboratory or a laboratory designated by Taiwan's Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine (BAPHIQ), confirming the animal has passed the rabies titer test — blood test must be performed 180 days before Taiwan arrival and must be less than 1 year old**  
\*\*From rabies-affected countries (all countries except Japan, UK, Sweden, New Zealand, and Iceland):\*\*
- **Government-issued health certificate and rabies vaccination record (using killed/inactivated vaccine) — health certificate must be issued within 10 days before departure; vaccination must have been administered more than 30 days and less than 12 months before departure**  
\*\*From rabies-affected countries (all countries except Japan, UK, Sweden, New Zealand, and Iceland):\*\*
- **ISO 11784/11785-compliant microchip — if not implanted before travel, must be done upon arrival in Taiwan**  
\*\*From rabies-affected countries (all countries except Japan, UK, Sweden, New Zealand, and Iceland):\*\*
- **Import permit**  
\*\*From rabies-free countries (Japan, UK, Sweden, New Zealand, Iceland):\*\*
- **Government-issued health certificate**  
\*\*From rabies-free countries (Japan, UK, Sweden, New Zealand, Iceland):\*\*
- **Vaccination record**  
\*\*From rabies-free countries (Japan, UK, Sweden, New Zealand, Iceland):\*\*

### Specific Information

An import permit must be obtained from BAPHIQ before the animal is sent to Taiwan. Do not ship pets before the destination agent has obtained the import permit.

Pets from rabies-affected countries must undergo a minimum 7-day quarantine on arrival at an approved facility. No quarantine applies to pets from the five recognized rabies-free countries (Japan, UK, Sweden, New Zealand, Iceland) provided all requirements are met.

All dogs and cats imported into Taiwan must have an ISO-compliant microchip. If not already implanted, the chip will be inserted upon arrival.

Dogs and cats cannot be imported from China or Bangladesh. Avoid routing pet shipments through these countries.

Birds require a health certificate covering no Fowl Pest, no Newcastle disease, and no Psittacosis, approved by the Department of Agriculture of the country of origin. Quarantine of up to 7 days applies.

Notify the destination agent before sending any animal to Taiwan.

## Consignment Instructions

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Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences between air and sea shipments.

The shipper must be physically present in Taiwan before the shipment arrives and must declare the incoming unaccompanied shipment through the red channel at the airport upon their own arrival. Failure to make this declaration results in full duties and taxes on the shipment. The shipment must arrive within 6 months of the shipper's arrival.

The destination agent must receive all documents before the shipment arrives. For FCL sea shipments with wooden lift vans or crates, the BL must clearly state "CY to CFS" to avoid significant additional inspection charges.

Motor vehicles must not be shipped before the import permit has been issued and approved. Pet import permits must also be in hand before any animal is shipped.

ISPM 15 compliance is mandatory for all wood packaging materials. Non-compliant materials will be returned or treated at the shipper's expense.

## Cultural & Other Information

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Taiwan — officially the Republic of China (ROC) — is an island territory in East Asia, separated from mainland China by the Taiwan Strait. It has a population of approximately 23.5 million. The capital is Taipei. Mandarin Chinese is the official language, with Taiwanese Hokkien widely spoken. The currency is the New Taiwan Dollar (TWD).

Taiwan has a highly developed, export-driven economy with particular strengths in semiconductors, electronics, and information technology. It is consistently ranked among Asia's most livable places for expatriates, with a well-developed infrastructure, efficient public transport, and high-quality healthcare. The island operates under its own government and legal system, independent of the People's Republic of China, though its international status remains diplomatically complex.

- [Taiwan — OpenFactBook](#)
- [Taiwan — Wikipedia](#)
- [Taiwan Customs Administration](#)
- [Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine \(BAPHIQ\) — Pet Import](#)
- [Automotive Research and Testing Center \(ARTC\)](#)
- [Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs — Overseas Offices](#)
- [EmbassyPages — Taiwan](#) \*(WAF-protected; accessible in browser)\*
- [FIDI Import Customs Guide — Taiwan \(June 2024\)](#)
- [PetTravel.com — Taiwan Pet Import Requirements](#)

## Quick Links & Resources

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- [Find Movers in Taiwan](#)  
<https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Taiwan&lat=25.03&lng=121.56&range=50&assocs=800&fvw=c&ctry=Taiwan>
- [Foreign Embassies in Taiwan](#)  
<https://www.embassypages.com/taiwan>
- [Taiwan's Overseas Offices](#)  
<https://www.mofa.gov.tw/en/cp.aspx?n=9>