

ONLINE CUSTOMS BRIEFING

Updated 22 May 2003

THIS BRIEFING WILL ASSIST YOU IN MAKING YOUR PCS MOVE AS SMOOTH AS POSSIBLE.

FIRST, PLEASE LOOK AT THE CHECKLIST [THAT IS LINKED HERE](#) (IT IS A PDF FILE SO YOU WILL NEED ADOBE ACROBAT READER TO READ IT). IT'S A LIST OF PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED ITEMS THAT YOU MAY HAVE UNKNOWINGLY INCLUDED IN YOUR SHIPMENT. SOME ARTICLES ARE PROHIBITED, AND THERE ARE SOME ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS BEFORE CERTAIN ARTICLES MAY BE ENTERED INTO THE USA. YOU WILL HAVE TO PRINT OUT, SIGN AND TAKE THIS CHECKLIST WITH YOU WHEN YOU HAVE YOUR CUSTOMS APPOINTMENT.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PAMPHLET THAT YOU CAN ALSO DOWNLOAD BY [CLICKING HERE](#) IS A REMINDER THAT ALL PROPERTY REQUIRES A THOROUGH CLEANING BEFORE PACKING. THE PAMPHLET ALSO HAS A SHORT CHECKLIST TO FOLLOW. ADVISE ON THE PROPER ACTION TO BE TAKEN ON QUESTIONABLE ARTICLES FOLLOWS SOON. AND REMEMBER TO ASK ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE CONCERNING ARTICLES YOU MAY WISH TO SHIP AT YOUR LOCAL CUSTOMS OFFICE.

I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE PROBABLY HEARD ALL KINDS STORIES OF WHAT YOU CAN AND CANNOT DO. THIS BRIEFING WILL GIVE YOU A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR ENTITLEMENTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH YOUR MOVE TO THE U.S. ANY PROHIBITED ARTICLE MAY NOT LEGALLY BE SHIPPED AS PART OF YOUR ENTITLEMENT. SOME OF THE MORE COMMON EXAMPLES ARE:

PORNOGRAPHIC OR OBSCENE AND IMMORAL ARTICLES, i.e. BOOKS, PICTURES, FILMS ARE PROHIBITED. PROHIBITED OBSCENE MATERIAL

IS DEFINED BY CBP AS PICTORIAL MATTER DEVOTED SOLELY TO THE PORTRAYAL OF SEXUAL ACTS, INCLUDING HOMOSEXUAL, CHILD PORNOGRAPHIC AND SEXUAL ACTS WITH ANIMALS. IT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE MERE EXPOSURE, EVEN IN A GROSSLY OFFENSIVE WAY, OF THE GENITALS.

SWITCHBLADE KNIVES OR REGULAR POCKET KNIVES WITH BLADES LONGER THAN 3 INCHES (ONE ARMED PERSONS MAY BE IN POSSESSION OF A SWITCH BLADE KNIFE), OR GAMBLING DEVICES (SLOT MACHINES) WITHOUT APPROVAL.

ANY UNPRESCRIBED NARCOTIC OR DRUG.

MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS, TO INCLUDE CANNED SHELF STABLE HAMS, UNLESS THEY ARE SHIPPED COMMERCIALY FROM USDA APPROVED PACKING PLANTS. PLEASE REFER TO THE CHECKLIST. THE USDA PAMPHLET CONTAINS A LONG LIST OF ITEMS THAT ARE FOUND IN HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND UNACCOMPANIED BAGGAGE SHIPMENTS. THESE ITEMS CAN PROVIDE A HABITAT SUCH AS, DIRT, SOIL, GRASS, HAY, STRAW FOR INSECTS AND VIRAL DISEASES AND IF NOT PROPERLY CLEANED PRIOR TO SHIPMENT, WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED ENTRY INTO THE U.S. THERE IS NO EXCEPTIONAL CLEANING PROCESS, ONLY WASHING TO REMOVE THE DIRT, AND SOIL. IF YOU HAVE ANY WOOD OR WOODEN FURNITURE, IT MUST BE FREE OF ANY WOOD BORE INFESTATION.

THERE IS NO PROHIBITION AGAINST KITCHEN OR COOKING CONDIMENTS. THEY MAY BE SHIPPED, BUT MUST BE FREE OF ANY INFESTATION. OF COURSE, YOUR KITCHEN AND COOKING UTENSILS, TO INCLUDE KNIVES, MAY BE SHIPPED.

AT TIMES THERE ARE AGRICULTURE ALARMS, SUCH AS THE RECENT OUTBREAK OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE, WHICH CAUSED MORE STRINGENT MEASURES TO BE TAKEN. HOWEVER, THE SAME CLEANING PROCEDURE WILL ALWAYS BE TO WASH AND CLEAN THOSE ARTICLES YOU WISH TO SHIP. SCRUBBING DOES NOT REMOVE THE VIRUS, DISINFECTION DOES. IF DISINFECTION OF ANY ITEM IS REQUIRED, SPECIAL ADVISORIES WILL BE POSTED.

THE DUTY FREE PERSONAL EFFECTS ACQUIRED WHILE SERVING OVERSEAS MAY ENTER CONUS UPON COMPLETION OF AN OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENT (PCS). PERSONAL EFFECTS INCLUDE WEARING APPAREL, CAMERAS, VIDEOS, HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS, FURNITURE AND ITEMS NORMALLY USED TO SET UP HOUSE KEEPING.

FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION LEGALLY ACQUIRED OR PURCHASED OVERSEAS REQUIRE AN IMPORT PERMIT, ISSUED BY THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS (ATF) TO BE IMPORTED. THEY MAY BE IMPORTED AS PART OF YOUR ENTITLEMENT. CUSTOMS DOES NOT PROHIBIT THE INCLUSION IN HOUSEHOLD GOODS WITH A PROPERLY

COMPLETED CUSTOMS DECLARATION, DD FORM 1252-1. HOWEVER, TRANSPORTATION DOES NOT PERMIT THE INCLUSION OF AMMUNITION IN HOUSEHOLD GOODS OR UNACCOMPANIED BAGGAGE. IT MAY BE SHIPPED SEPARATELY AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PCS MOVE. LONG GUNS MAY BE MAILED. IF YOU CHOOSE TO MAIL A RIFLE OR SHOTGUN, A LICENSED FIREARMS DEALER IN THE UNITED STATES IS REQUIRED TO BE USED. YOU MAIL THE LONG GUN TO A LICENSED DEALER, AND FILL OUT THE APPROPRIATE FORMS, AND PAY ANY REQUIRED FEES, AT HIS PREMISES, ONCE YOU RETURN TO THE US.

PETS:

MEDICAL RECORDS MUST BE UP TO DATE. PET OWNERS SHOULD CHECK WITH THEIR LOCAL VETERINARY CLINIC TO INSURE THAT THEIR PET IS HEALTHY, VACCINATED AND READY TO TRAVEL. OWNERS OF PET BIRDS OR EXOTIC ANIMALS SHOULD CHECK WITH THEIR LOCAL CUSTOMS OFFICE ON POSSIBLE QUARANTINE OR ENDANGERED SPECIES REQUIREMENTS.

DOGS

VACCINATION MUST HAVE BEEN GIVEN AT LEAST 30 DAYS, BUT NOT MORE THAN ONE YEAR, PRIOR TO TRAVEL DATE.

CATS

MUST HAVE HAD A VACCINATION FOR RABIES WITHIN THE LAST 12 MONTHS.

POV: NON-CONFORMING MOTOR VEHICLES MUST BE AT LEAST 21 YEARS OLD FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) OR 25 YEARS OLD FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT), TO BE IMPORTED WITHOUT CONTRACTING WITH AN INDEPENDENT COMMERCIAL IMPORTER (ICI) OR A REGISTERED IMPORTER (RI) TO IMPORT THE MOTOR VEHICLE.

NOW, PLEASE CHECK THE LISTS AND INDICATE IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THESE ITEMS THAT NEED YOUR ATTENTION BEFORE SHIPPING.

NOW PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#), PRINT OUT THE STATEMENT SAYING YOU HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE BRIEFING, DATE AND SIGN IT, AND TAKE IT TO YOUR CUSTOMS OFFICE WHERE YOU CAN ALSO ASK QUESTIONS IF SOMETHING IS NOT CLEAR TO

YOU. MORE INFORMATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THIS WEBSITE. THE LINKS ARE LOCATED ON THE NAVIGATION BAR BELOW.

GOOD LUCK IN YOUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT.

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