

Hong Kong Relocation Guide



By Appointment To
Her Majesty The Queen
Removals and Storage Contractor Abels

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THE ART OF MOVING

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ISO 9001 - ISO 14001
OHSAS 18001

TELEPHONE:	Country code (00852) No area codes.
STANDARD TIME:	GMT + 8 hours.
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric.
ELECTRICITY:	220v AC, 50Hz.
INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:	Hepatitis A and Typhoid recommended.
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	1st January New Year's Day, Chinese New Year according to Lunar Calendar more than one day is a Public holiday, Good Friday plus the day after and Easter Monday, Ching Ming Festival – 4th or 5th April Gregorian Calendar, May 1st Labour Day, Buddhas Birthday 8th day of the 4th month in the Chinese Lunar Calendar, Dragon Boat Festival (Tuen Ng Festival) 5th Day of the 5th Lunar month, 1st July SAR Day celebrates the handover of Hong Kong to China, Mid Autumn Festival – 15th day of the 8th month of the Lunar Calendar, October 1st Chinese National Day, Chung Yeung Festival – 9th day of the 9th Lunar month, 25th December – Christmas Day, Family Day – first weekday after Christmas Day.
OFFICE HOURS:	Official hours to be 09.00 hours to 18.00 hours.
BANK HOURS:	0900-17-00 Mon – Fri and 0930-1230 Sat.
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	999 - Police, Ambulance and Fire.
BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL:	British Consulate General 1 Supreme Court Road Admiralty Hong Kong (PO Box 528) Tel: +852 2901 3000
CHINESE EMBASSY IN LONDON:	49-51 Portland Place London W1B 1JL Tel: 0207 299 4049

Part 1 – Background Information on Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of China

Background

Hong Kong as we know it today was born when China's Qing dynasty government was defeated in the First Opium War in 1842, when it ceded Hong Kong Island to Britain. Within 60 years, Kowloon, the New Territories and 235 outlying Islands were also leased to Britain. However, the history of the more than 1100 square kilometres that Hong Kong now occupies predates the events of the Qing dynasty by more than a thousand years.

From its earliest days as a British colony, Hong Kong served as a centre of international trade. In the turbulent years of the early 20th Century, the population was bolstered by refugees mostly from China. The arrival of immigrants in large numbers helped launch a new role for Hong Kong as a major manufacturing hub. In recent years, as the economy of Mainland China has undergone a process of opening up, Hong Kong has become an important gateway to the world's largest market.

Pursuant to an agreement signed by China and the UK on 19 December 1984, Hong Kong became the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China on 1 July 1997. In this agreement, China promised that, under its "one country, two systems" formula, China's socialist economic system would not be imposed on Hong Kong and that Hong Kong would enjoy a "high degree of autonomy" in all matters except foreign and defense affairs, for the subsequent 50 years.

Population

The population of Hong Kong as at November 2017 is recorded at 7,395,000.

Geography

Positioned in Eastern Asia bordering the south China Sea and China. Hong Kong mainland takes in the New Territories and Kowloon Peninsula; the main islands are: Hong Kong Island and Lantau Island, there are over 200 tiny islands.

Climate

Although Hong Kong lies within the Tropics, being just south of the Tropic of Cancer, it has seasonal variations of climate.

Economy

Hong Kong has a free market economy, highly dependent on international trade and finance - the value of goods and services trade, including the sizable share of re-exports, is about four times Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Hong Kong has no tariffs on imported goods, and it levies excise duties on only four commodities, whether imported or produced locally: hard alcohol, tobacco, hydrocarbon oil, and methyl alcohol. There are no quotas or dumping laws. Hong Kong's open economy left it exposed to the global economic slowdown that began in 2008. Although increasing integration with China, through trade, tourism, and financial links, helped it to make an initial recovery more quickly than many observers anticipated, its continued reliance on foreign trade and investment leaves it vulnerable to renewed global financial market volatility or a slowdown in the global economy.

The Hong Kong government is promoting the Special Administrative Region (SAR) as the site for Chinese renminbi (RMB) internationalization. Hong Kong residents are allowed to establish RMB-denominated savings accounts; RMB-denominated corporate and Chinese government bonds have been issued in Hong Kong; and RMB trade settlement is allowed. The territory far exceeded the RMB conversion quota set by Beijing for trade settlements in 2010 due to the growth of earnings from exports to the mainland.

Education

The Hong Kong education system is based on the British model, The first 9 years are compulsory although most students complete all 12.

Public schools in Hong Kong are fully funded by the government and offer free education to all children.

There are a large number of international schools in Hong Kong which teach the curriculum of their founding country.

Religion

There is a large variety of religious groups in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), including Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism and Judaism

Healthcare

The Hong Kong public healthcare system is subsidised by the Government, and quality health services are provided for eligible residents at a very low cost.

There are no financial contributions to public health insurance in Hong Kong.

Currency

The unit of currency is the Hong Kong dollar (HK\$) divided into 100 cents. Currency in circulation is in the following denominations.

Notes:- \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, \$500 and \$1000.

Coins:- 10 cents, 20 cents and 50 cents plus \$1, \$2, \$5 and \$10.

Bank Notes are issued by more than one Bank and can therefore vary in size.

All major credit cards are accepted.

Language

Chinese and English are the official languages of Hong Kong.

Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Abels Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Abels cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.

Part 2 – Hong Kong Import Customs Regulations

To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import household and personal effects into Hong Kong.

Household Goods

General Information

Importing used household and personal effects is still duty free.

Customs control on imported household and personal effects is done through inspection of documents, and where necessary, physical examination of the effects. Physical examination is conducted on a selective basis.

Documents required:

- Detailed Inventory of the goods.
- Copy of Passport.

Import declaration

If the description of the goods is shown as only electrical appliances or only clothing, an import licence may be required before clearance. A general description of used household goods and personal effects is preferred.

Diplomats removals

Documents required:

- Inventory of the goods.

- Copy of Passport.
- Import declaration.

Motorcars, motorcycles, mopeds, power-driven boats with in-board engine

All are subject to strict regulatory inspections plus high first registration taxes, and the registration process is costly and time consuming. The taxes are set to discourage the personal import of vehicles, and it is highly recommended that an estimate of costs be obtained prior to shipping. All vehicles must satisfy noise and emission standards, and be right-hand drive. It is also difficult to obtain insurance for a vehicle over 10 years of age. An import permit must be submitted by the vehicle owner within 30 days of the vehicles arrival in Hong Kong.

Documents required

- Original Purchase Invoice.
- Original Insurance Certificate.
- De-registration Certificate.
- Original Registration Document.

Alcohol and Wine

Only wine can be imported duty free, however, the importation of any type of alcohol, even if duty free, will likely cause Customs Examination with consequent costs and delays.

To import any type of alcohol a very detailed list is required, showing size of bottle, type of alcohol, percentage of alcoholic strength and the CIF value.

The calculation of duty on alcohol is complicated, and for further information please visit the Hong Kong Government website:-

http://www.customs.gov.hk/filemanager/common/pdf/pdf_notice/fact_sheet_eng.pdf

Firearms and Dangerous Goods

Although firearms can be imported into Hong Kong, we recommend they not be included with your household and personal effects. Doing so, will delay the consignment both at the port of export and import, which will add to the cost of shipping.

Explosives, fireworks and clasp-knives are prohibited.

Plants and Vegetable Products

Please do not include with your household and personal effects.

Food Items

The importation of small quantities of non perishable food items is allowed for personal use, however, we do prefer food items not to be included with your household and personal effects. If there are items you must take with you, please contact us.

Prohibited Items

- Drugs and narcotics.

Pets (dogs, cats, etc.)

We work with a number of Pet Relocation Companies who can help you Import your pet to Hong Kong.

Please contact us if you wish to be put in contact with our partners.

Please also see further information on the importing of pets to Hong Kong:

<https://www.gov.hk/en/nonresidents/living/pets.htm>

Endangered Species

A CITES certificate is normally required. There is a worldwide ban on the movement of Ivory without a CITES Certificate.

Please note old pianos usually have ivory keys and a CITES certification will be required.

For information on obtaining a CITES certificate please visit:-

<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/endangered-species-application-for-import-and-export-permit>

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