

Moving to Uruguay: Your Relocation Guide



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

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Customs

To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import household and personal effects into Uruguay. However, it is advisable to check with the authorities that documentation is in order, prior to despatch.

IMPORTANT

Customs authorities have started to apply very strict control to all incoming shipments in relation to their precise weights. It is essential that the declared weight on the bill of lading (OBL) coincides precisely with the actual weight that is shown on the weight ticket issued by Customs scale. If this requirement is not fulfilled, important demurrage and extra costs will arise.

Shippers will be allowed to import either surface or airfreight shipments of Household goods and Personal effects (HHGDS and PE), implied for domestic use only.

Shipments must arrive in Uruguay within 180 days from shipper's arrival in the country.

Duty free entry whether goods are used or new.

Household Goods

Uruguayan Citizen Returning and / or Foreign Citizen with Legal Residence Visa

Documents required:

- Packing list in Spanish authenticated by Uruguayan Consulate at origin
- Original bill of lading or airway bill or CRT (Certificate of Residence) Express release accepted
- Certificate of residence issued by Uruguayan Consulate at origin, stating that shipper has lived at least one year abroad

Once you arrive in Uruguay you should contact your shipper who will ask for the following documents:

- Certificate of entrance to Uruguay issued by the Direccion Nacional de migraciones (address: Misiones 1513, Montevideo) (*)
- Photocopy of Identity Card or Passport (readable)
- Sign a letter for Customs requesting authorisation to import household goods

Uruguayan citizens returning home must submit before customs' authorities' proof of permanent residence abroad for a minimum period of one year.

(*) Customs procedure must be started within sixty days of the date stated in this certificate.

(**) A deposit for the total amount in guarantee until definitive residence is obtained. Out of the total capital (detailed in the insurance policy of transit or valued list), 50% must be deposited in a bank. In addition, the premium that pays itself to the Bank is a 4% charge on the total capital plus USD \$20

(Insurance Agent commission). Guarantee amount will be reimbursed to shipper, once obtained legal residence. Normal customs clearance upon receipt all documents, take approx seven working days.

Important note: Any Uruguayan with more than two years of residence in a foreign country, which decides to come back in definitive form to Uruguay, will be able to introduce free of any exchange step and exempt from all kinds of customs duties, taxes or connected charges, included the prices linked to the importation: working tools, machines, or all kinds of different instruments related to the art or profession. Relevant documental proof to be submitted before the Uruguayan Consulate at origin. See requirements in the section "Clearance of Uruguayan Citizen Cars".

Foreign Citizen without Legal Residence

All foreign citizens without legal residence that wishes to enter its personal effects, **MUST** have initiated the proceeding of legal residence in Uruguay.

Documents required:

- Packing list in Spanish
- Original bill of lading or airway bill or CRT. Express release accepted

Once you arrive in Uruguay you should contact your shipper who will ask for the following documents:

- First of all, customer must initiate the proceedings of its legal residence
- Certificate of entrance to Uruguay issued by the Direccion Nacional de Migraciones (address: Misiones 1513, Montevideo) (*)
- Photocopy of Identity Card or Passport (readable)
- Sign a letter for Customs (asking authorisation for incoming household goods)
- Foreigners under temporary residence must submit a guarantee before customs (**)

All foreign citizens without legal residence who wish to enter personal effects, **MUST** have applied for residence in Uruguay.

(*) Customs procedure must be started within sixty days of the date stated in this certificate.

(**) A deposit for the total amount in guarantee until definitive residence is obtained. Out of the total capital (detailed in the insurance policy of transit or valued list), 50% must be deposited in a bank. In addition, the premium that pays itself to the Bank is a 4% charge on the total capital plus USD \$20 (Insurance Agent commission). Guarantee amount will be reimbursed to shipper, once obtained legal residence.

Normal customs clearance upon receipt all documents, take approximately seven working days. Guarantee proceedings five more working days.

Foreign Diplomats

Documents required:

- Packing list in Spanish
- Original bill of lading or airway bill or CRT
- The Embassy, Consulate or Delegation, will proceed against our Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the authorisation for incoming household goods
- Upon arrival in Uruguay returning Diplomats will request the Ministry of Foreign Affairs authorisation to import household goods. This request will be forwarded to Ministry of Finances for approval and only once approved the import clearance process may be started

Duty free entry.

Normal customs clearance upon receipt all documents, take approx twelve working days.

Diplomat must be accredited before Uruguayan Government (Ministry for Foreign Affairs) through their Embassies / mission in Uruguay.

Must request for franchise submitting copy of the packing list and bill of lading or airway bill.

Uruguayan Diplomats Returning

Documents required:

- Packing list in Spanish authenticated by Uruguayan Consulate at origin
- Original bill of lading or airway bill or CRT
- Upon arrival in Uruguay returning Diplomats will request the Ministry of Foreign Affairs authorisation to import household goods. This request will be forwarded to Ministry of Finances for approval and only once approved the import clearance process may be started

Normal customs clearance upon receipt all documents, take approx 12 working days.

Motor Vehicles – Foreign Citizens

Are not allowed to import cars.

Motor Vehicles – Uruguayan Citizens

In order to comply with the present regulations, the person must address to the nearest Uruguayan Consulate at origin or at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Montevideo and supply:

- Complete information of the person with documents that accredit the profession, art or trade, (University Degree / diploma / institutional note) and complete information of the members of all family members with whom you plan to come to the country
- Witness of labour activity of the interested party and other members of the family with whom you plan to come back to the country

- Domicile in Uruguay which cannot be modified for the period of four years since the entry to Uruguay without previous notification to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Public or private document as proof of ownership of the vehicle acquired and affected to use in the country of residence, with a minimum of one year in their name up to the moment of the return to the country
- Personal sworn statement notifying the decision to return to the country and definitely being established in Uruguay
- Documentation that credit the fact of having had permanent and uninterrupted residence in a foreign country for more than two years period, legalised by the consular respective service
- Declaration seeking protection expressly to the law 18.250 and Decree 330/2008

Any Uruguayan with more than two years of residence in a foreign country, who decides to definitely return to Uruguay, will be able to introduce for one time only free of any exchange and exempt from all kinds of customs duties, taxes or connected charges, included the prices linked to the import for once time a car of her/his property.

Economy and Finance Ministry will be competent to authorize the exoneration of the totality of the customs duties, taxes or convex charges – included the prices linked to the import – according to all or part of the goods detailed and checked by the relevant consular section at the origin country.

The vehicle can not be sold nor transferred by a period of four years since the return to Uruguay, and must be registered directly by the interested party in the Departmental Government of the denounced domicile, into the thirty days period of the customs clearance.

People under this program will have to annually address personally to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the four next years upon return, with supporting documentation from the Migration Office in order to credit your residence in the country.

Costs of removal, insurance and storage are not included in the foreseen exonerations in the present program, being in all cases at expenses for the account of the returning Uruguayan.

Any material or formal breach of the present regulation will generate the loss of the totality of the tributary benefits.

Foreign Diplomats

Documents required:

- Original commercial invoice under shippers name
- Written evidence of freight and insurance issued by I.M.B.S.A
- Original Bill of lading or Airway bill or CRT
- Photocopy of passport and Diplomatic Identity card issued by Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- The Embassy, Consulate or Delegation, will request to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the authorisation for import of the motor-vehicle
- Ownership's property document of motor vehicle or circulation document, addressed to shipper's name

Normal customs clearance upon receipt all documents, take approx 20 – 25 working days.

Uruguayan Diplomats returning – Motor Vehicles

Not authorised to import vehicles.

Other Vehicles (bicycles, water vehicle)

Bicycles can be imported duty free if part of household Bicycles can be imported duty free if part of household goods removal. Quantity cannot exceed the number of family members. All other vehicles are subject to payment of duties, if allowed to be imported. Please check with your destination agent for further information.

Wedding Trousseaux

Wedding gifts require packing list and a visaed marriage certificate.

Duty free entry provided they are part of the household removal.

Inheritance

Document required:

- Detailed and valued list of items to be imported

All items in the shipments will be subject to import duties.

New Furniture and Household Goods

Duty free entry if imported as part of a household goods removal.

New household goods subject to duties and value added tax.

Customs authorities will hold these items until payment of duties is done.

Works of Art, Antiques

Duty free entry if these articles are part of a bona fide household removal.

In case quantities are considered unusual by customs officers to the status or family group of applicant, these items may be subject to payment of duties.

Precious Metal Objects (jewellery, coins)

Can be imported if part of household removal and quantities are reasonable.

Household Appliances

Duty free if these articles are part of household removal.

Electrical Appliances

Same as for Household appliances. Only one article per kind can be brought in household removal except TV sets, videos and PC which can exceed such quantity according to the number of family members.

Carpets

Can be imported if part of household removals.

Presents and Souvenirs

Can be imported if part of household removal and quantities are reasonable.

Wine, Alcohol

Subject to payment of duties.

Returning Uruguayan diplomats are allowed to import up to 12 boxes or 12 bottles of 1 litre each as "rest of pantry".

Machines, Appliances, Spare Parts

Only Uruguayan professionals are allowed to bring in machines together with their removal goods, provided they have been abroad for at least a year and they can prove their professional condition through documentation issued by the Uruguayan Consulate at origin.

Machines must be for the specific use of the owner's profession.

Tins and Food

Can be imported if part of household removal and quantities are reasonable, but suggest to check on the quantity and type of food.

Prohibited Items

Only sports guns are allowed to be imported requiring a certificate from Ministry of Defence

- Firearms (unless considered sport guns), ammunitions
- Medicines, narcotics and drugs
- Live plants
- Pornographic material, subversive material
- Used vehicles of all types including motorcycles
- Any other items that should not be considered part of a household goods removals (like new electrical appliances, industrial tools, machinery etc)

Firearms (sport guns)

All firearms must be declared in the packing list, including all specifications of each weapon. Authorities will be required to submit documentation in proof of ownership.

Foreign citizen should get legal residence and identity card, to get weapons permission. In all cases weapons will be held by Customs and submitted to the relevant Army authorities.

Weapons will only be returned to the owner once all relevant documentation is obtained through relevant Ministry of Defence / Army authorities.

At the moment of loading container, weapons must be placed in the door of container to facilitate the access of customs officer.

Customs officer will pick up all weapons at the moment of arriving shipment and take them (with safekeeping) to the Service of Material and Armament, where they will be kept until shipper regularizes all documents in Uruguay and obtained weapons' permission. Once obtained the permission, the arms can be released.

Such procedure must be personally managed by the holder.

Weapons incoming to Uruguay are kept under custody by the "Servicio de Material y Armamento del Ejercito" (Armed Forces), located at Instrucciones Street phone number 354 0326.

Cats and Dogs

Documents required:

- Certificate of health issued by competent authorities at origin
- Two photographs of the pet
- Certificate of antihydrofolic inoculation at least thirty days old but less than one year old. The certificate itself must be less than ten working days old when the animal arrives to the country

Health and vaccination certificate to be legalised by Uruguayan Consulate.

Other Animals

Same documents required as cats and dogs.

More information on the animals to be supplied since some species are prohibited.

Fumigation of Imported and Exported Wooden Crates

Paraguay Government adopted ISPM-15 (International standards for Phytosanitary Measures Publication 15).

Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade (aka NIFM-15) to standardize the treatment of wood packing materials used for the transport of goods.

All wood containers (Liftvans) that come into Uruguay must be fumigated against plagues, and with the control made properly identified. Basically the more relevant points are the following ones:

- The Ministry would apply a month of courtesy whenever the packing does not contain any plague
- The requirement is fulfilled by means of a seal in the wood. If the load comes from a non signatory country of the convention a sanitary certificate in paper must be done

- The treatment to the packing will be by the following procedures: a) by heat treatment at 56° in the center of the wood during 30 minutes, or b) with methyl Bromide (BR)
- Does not apply to: Particle plywood, boards, pieces smaller than 6mm thickness
- The woods carried by the trucks (propping, tops, etc) also must be treated
- Seals must be in two sides of the pallet of such form that always are visible
- Containers of Imports 'Door to Door' are to be verified in the deposit of the client
- The MGAP, in cases of reiteration of situations of not fulfilling the norm, could reject the entire shipment, not only the packing
- Signatory countries are: Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay

General Information on Uruguay

Background

Montevideo, founded by the Spanish in 1726 as a military stronghold, soon took advantage of its natural harbour to become an important commercial center. Claimed by Argentina but annexed by Brazil in 1821, Uruguay declared its independence four years later and secured its freedom in 1828 after a three-year struggle. The administrations of President Jose BATLLE in the early 20th century established widespread political, social, and economic reforms that established a statist tradition. A violent Marxist urban guerrilla movement named the Tupamaros, launched in the late 1960s, led Uruguay's president to cede control of the government to the military in 1973. By yearend, the rebels had been crushed, but the military continued to expand its hold over the government. Civilian rule was not restored until 1985. In 2004, the left-of-center Frente Amplio Coalition won national elections that effectively ended 170 years of political control previously held by the Colorado and Blanco parties. Uruguay's political and labour conditions are among the freest on the continent.

Geography

Uruguay is located in Southern South America, bordering the South Atlantic Ocean, between Argentina and Brazil.

Uruguay is the second-smallest South American country (after Suriname); most of the low-lying landscape (threequarters of the country) is grassland, ideal for cattle and sheep raising.

Climate

Uruguay is warm and temperate; freezing temperatures almost unknown.

Natural hazards are seasonally high winds (the pampero is a chilly and occasional violent wind that blows north from the Argentine pampas), droughts, floods; because of the absence

of mountains, which act as weather barriers, all locations are particularly vulnerable to rapid changes from weather fronts.

Population

3,494,000 estimated.

Environmental Issues

There is water pollution from the meat packing / tannery industry; and there is inadequate solid / hazardous waste disposal.

International Disputes

In 2010, the ICJ ruled in favor of Uruguay's operation of two paper mills on the Uruguay River, which forms the border with Argentina; the two countries formed a joint pollution monitoring regime; uncontested boundary dispute between Brazil and Uruguay over Braziliera / Brasiliera Island in the Quarai / Cuareim River leaves the tripoint with Argentina in question; smuggling of firearms and narcotics continues to be an issue along the Uruguay-Brazil border.

Currency

Uruguayan pesos UYU.

Coins: 50c, \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10

Notes: \$20, \$50, \$100, \$200, \$500, \$1000, \$2000

Economy

Uruguay has a free market economy characterized by an export-oriented agricultural sector, a well-educated workforce, and high levels of social spending. Uruguay has sought to expand trade within the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) and with non-Mercosur members, and President VAZQUEZ has maintained his predecessor's mix of pro-market policies and a strong social safety net.

Following financial difficulties in the late 1990s and early 2000s, Uruguay's economic growth averaged 8% annually during the period 2004-08. The 2008-09 global financial crisis put a brake on Uruguay's vigorous growth, which decelerated to 2.6% in 2009. Nevertheless, the country managed to avoid a recession and keep positive growth rates, mainly through higher public expenditure and investment; GDP growth reached 8.9% in 2010 but slowed in 2012-13 as a result of a renewed slowdown in the global economy and in Uruguay's main trade partners and Mercosur counterparts, Argentina and Brazil.

Education

Public education in Uruguay is free and compulsory for children aged 6 to 14. The country has traditionally boasted high levels of compliance with required education, as well as a large number of students who enrol in secondary school. As a result, Uruguay holds an impressive position in the Latin America community for its high literacy rate of approximately 96 percent.

All Uruguayan children are required by law to enter school at age six. From ages 6 to 12, they attend primary school. At age 12, they enter the first stage of secondary school, which lasts for two years. During this time, they are instructed in the "basics," such as language, mathematics, sciences, and history.

At age 15, students may opt for several advanced tracks, depending on their choice of vocation. For the next three to four years, students complete the *bachellerito*, which is similar to a high school diploma in the United States. Following completion of the *bachellerito*, graduates may proceed either to one of the country's three universities or attend special institutes related to their specific interests. All instruction in Uruguayan schools is delivered in Spanish, although English and Portuguese are often taught at the secondary levels, and students attending the universities may be trained in a number of international languages.

Religion

Roman Catholic 47.1%, non-Catholic Christians 11.1%, nondenominational 23.2%, Jewish 0.3%, atheist or agnostic 17.2%, other 1.1%.

Health

Inoculation regulations can change at short notice. Please take medical advice in the case of doubt. Where 'Sometimes' appears in the table above, precautions may be required, depending on the season and region visited.

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from <http://www.worldtravelguide.net/uruguay/health> arriving from an infected area.

Food and Drink

Mains water is considered safe to drink. Drinking water outside main cities and towns may be contaminated and sterilisation is advisable. Milk is pasteurised and dairy products are safe for consumption. Local meat, poultry, seafood, fruit and vegetables are generally considered safe to eat.

Other Risks

Vaccinations against tuberculosis and hepatitis B are sometimes advised.

Uruguay has an excellent medical service. Private health insurance is recommended.

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.