



The following is a guideline for bringing in your personal effects to Vanuatu

BEFORE you ship, it is one of the most important things, **to have your residency permit (s) already in place...** and stress levels tend to get very high once storage charges become applicable.... To obtain your residency, in addition to the application forms, you will need photos, police clearance, medical clearance, and several patience pills... generally, it seems to take about 6 weeks... can be more, can be less... but it does take a long time! Your Residency also means that there are duty free allowances, of vt100,000 per new resident, as below

You can bring anything that you have owned for more than 12 months duty free.

Insurance – really important which is why it is almost at the top of this list – if something goes wrong in shipping, and sometimes it does – it is not an argument you want to have with the shipping line, the stevedores, transport company or ourselves – let the insurance company do that...

Vehicles *must be Left Hand Drive* and it is best to have back up documentation to prove ownership, especially of vehicles, but any other receipts you may have – keep them handy and outside of your actual shipment – we don't want them, but if questions are asked, it may be useful to have them...

Also, with regard to Vehicles, due to their having both petrol or diesel in them, upon shipment, as well as batteries, both of which come under the classification of Dangerous Goods, Class 3 and 8, so there would be additional charges, however, these are usually small at between US\$150 and US\$300 per container, depending on where the goods are coming from. And compared to the costs of purchasing a vehicle locally, make such additional costs inconsequential. Dangerous goods forms would need to be signed for any vehicles, which we can assist with the completion of.

Second hand vehicles, which are brought in without duty exemption, currently have duty of between 20 & 40% PLUS and excise of between 20 & 40%, PLUS VAT, so it is important to get this right 😊

If goods are less than one year old, duty will be assessed, however, you are also allowed vt50,000 per person (including children) from 15/1/15 of duty free goods. You can also bring up to vt50,000 with each of you on the plane

If you are unsure about anything or want to bring in new goods, we can classify and assess your goods for a small fee to assist you in making better decisions about what to bring in the case of new goods as Duty which is payable on BOTH the purchase price and shipping cost, combined, ranges from 5% to 35% plus VAT (*VAT is payable on both the duty and the purchase price and the shipping costs*)

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Exemptions – in order to bring your goods in Duty Free, you will need a Customs Exemption – we apply for this in the case of personal effects generally – but it is best done before cargo is shipped to avoid headaches and costs, this involves application for an exemption, together with back up documentation. Customs will consider and (generally) approve it. Once customs have approved it, a unique number is allocated to your name which must be uploaded in to the Customs Asycuda System – this usually happens overnight.

Customs Department Any Queries you may have with regards to Customs (Duties, Procedures, Policies) may be viewed at <http://customsinlandrevenue.gov.vu>

Customs Clearance. If we are handling your shipment, all the way from origin to Port Vila, we will already have all the documents we need prior to arrival, and any questions that might need to be asked, are already dealt with, meaning that your shipment will effectively be “Pre-Cleared”. That is, before the shipment even arrives, all that can be done, will have been done, with the only possible exception of an inspection by Customs, if required, or the fumigation of the container, if not carried out at origin

Once we/you have your exemption, we can create a formal declaration for the entry of your goods. In the case of personal effects, while the Customs Department endeavours to return all documents within 24 hours, it has often taken many days to receive their approval... so it is important to get the process going sooner rather than later to avoid delays/costs/frustrations

There are three options for Customs as far as how imports are handled, referred to as Green, Yellow or Red Lane. **Green** means the cargo can be immediately delivered, nothing else required from Customs, **Yellow** Lane, means Customs want to do a document check, which means we physically surrender Documents concerning the shipment to Customs, where they double check and satisfy themselves as to the accuracy of the declaration, and **Red** Lane, means Customs want to inspect the goods. Fr8 Logistics can arrange this on your behalf, for which there will be an hourly charge, vt5,000 per hour, minimum of one hour, or you may arrange directly with Customs yourselves.

You are allowed one vehicle per person over 18 – this can be a car, motorbike, boat or plane (helicopter) and the same rules apply, you must have owned it for minimum 12 months, and used by you within the 2 years prior to importation. Customs will want to sight purchase documents on these items.

Fumigation – all personal effects must be fumigated either prior to shipping or upon arrival here. Fumigation here will cost approx. VT34,000 plus VAT (for a 20ft Container, standard height) so it rather depends on what quotes can be obtained at origin as to where you decide to fumigate and an import permit will cost VT 9,400

If inspection is required, you are welcome to pick up Quarantine inspection officers yourself – although usually, they will drive out, and inspect, or we can arrange for you at additional charge to our quotation (we will not quote, as normally, it is not required)

Animals – yes, they are welcome here, relatively easy for New Caledonia, NZ and Australia, but any other countries, you will need to contact the Quarantine department directly on vqisvila@vanuatu.com.vu to find out specific requirements for your country of origin) – but we will need to arrange a few things carefully... we generally tend to recommend Dogtainers from Australia and New Zealand as being professional and without problems.

From this end, we need to organize an import permit with the department of Quarantine – from your side, an external parasite treatment needs to be done 5 days before exportation and vaccinations need

to be current. We will need to be advised at least one day prior to arrival so we can book the authorities for inspections etc. any specific questions could be addressed to the Vet, Karin O'Connor who is superbly helpful on occonnor@vanuatu.com.vu

Of particular note: Some items need special consideration – firearms will need an import permit. Pornographic material is a big no-no and attracts at the least, a heavy fine.

Customs Inspection. In our experience, Customs inspect approx. 10% of personal effects shipments, although on occasion, they will attempt to inspect up to 100% so please keep a good inventory of your goods – it doesn't need to be every single item but a fair and reasonable description

e.g. 1 carton kitchen items \$50, 3 cartons bathroom items \$120 – this will also assist leading into preparation of your insurance values

To effect an efficient clearance we will need from you the following (anything that will assist Customs to decide in your favour for duty exemption...)

1. Copies of all passports – and in particular a copy of the page of your passport showing the date of arrival in Vanuatu
2. A copy of your residency permit(s)
3. Copy of your VIPA investment approval if relevant
4. Copy of letter of employment offer if relevant
5. Copy of shipping documents (bill of lading or waybill)
6. Copy of fumigation certificate if fumigated overseas.
7. A complete inventory showing each separate that can be carried/counted/driven into or out of the container – together with a value for each item
8. The signed X20 form

Receipts for any new items

Transport –If a full container needs to be moved without unpacking it – the ONLY company in town that is able to do so is IFIRA Wharf as they hold the monopoly on transport, for both loose cargo AND full container transport. An alternative to this most frustrating completion of the importation of your goods is to have us unpack and deliver the goods to your house which we will do with care, prompt attention and all professionalism. Note that areas from Narpow Point right round to Havannah Harbour, are areas that Ifira prefer to deliver, ONLY on Saturdays, not during the week, and if something is not correct on the Saturday, another week will pass, very frustrating. Also, often the advice received from IWS is incorrect at least, and promises for deliveries on particular days/times, are very wrong.

Container Detention – after 14 days, the shipping line will charge a container detention of US\$10 per day for a 20ft container if it is not returned within 14 days – it is important that you ensure that we are aware the container is empty, and also let us know if it has not been picked up

Container Purchase – you may wish, for a number of reasons, to purchase your own shipping container (to get around storage issues, or simply because you want to have one...) but you need to be aware of a couple of things.

1. The container must have a current CSC plate certified for at least 6 months from the date of your purchase – to check this, the plate is located on the left hand door, and is usually a steel plate with

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details regarding the container – the date of manufacture is the first guiding rule – it is valid for 10 years from the date of manufacture

2. If the date has expired (i.e. more than ten years old) it will need to be recertified
3. When the container arrives in Port Vila, it will be subject to VAT of 12.5% - a copy of invoice/receipt will be required.

When is cargo required to be presented for shipment? In the case of LCL/Loose Cargo, five (5) working days prior to the vessel arrival in port, in the case of Full Containers, 1 working day prior to the vessel being in port. For containers, Shipping lines usually have no problem to release the container up to 10 working days prior to vessel, if a container is required for longer than that, the charge is USD15 per day, including weekends

Local Charges 20ft	25	m3
No of TEU	1	Total
Stevedoring	46,474	46,474
Shipping Line D/O	5,500	5,500
Customs Clearance	1	16,000
Customs EDI Fee	1,500	1,500
Wharf Dues/Tax vt500 per m3	25	12,500
Quarantine Import Permit	1	9,400
Fumigation	1	34,000
Prof Unpack 1,675/m3 or vt2,475 or full service	0	0
Transport/Forklift/Unpack Fee	1	25,000
Rubbish Removal, including Dump fees, vt7,500	0	0
Bank Inward Bank Transfer Fee	0	0
Total		150,374
VAT		18,797
Grand Total		169,171
Convert to AUD	80	\$2,114.63

Local Charges LCL	Qty/M3	3.000	m3
Stevedoring	3	9,000	
Shipping Line D/O	1	5,500	
Customs Clearance	1	16,000	
Customs EDI Fee vt1,500	1	1,500	
Wharf Dues/Tax vt500/m3	3	1,500	
Quarantine Import Permit 9,400	1	9,400	
Fumigation 2,200/m3 Minimum 10m3	3.000	6,600	
Prof Unpack 1675 or vt2,475 for full service	0	0	
Transport vt2,500 per m3 (Min 2m3)	3.000	7,500	
Rubbish Removal	0	0	
Domestic Seafreight Vt9800/m3	0	0	
Bank Inward Transfer	0	0	
Total		57,000	
VAT		7,125	
Total		64,125	
Convert to AUD	80	\$801.56	

Typical Costs for LCL (Shared/Loose) and 20ft Container

Any questions at all, please ask