



FedEx Regulatory Alerts & Updates

Regulatory Alert: Requirements and Guidelines for Shipping Gifts to Thailand

December 15, 2020

Background

A number of imported gifts were caged at the Thai Customs Department recently. FedEx Thailand receives inbound shipments daily that contain restricted goods, which require that the recipients register with the Thai Customs Department as an Importer and that the shipment go through the formal clearance process.

In addition, an advance import license or license waiver from a specific controlling agency is required, and the shipment will be subject to Customs import duty and taxes imposed based on Customs Act B.E. 2560, Customs Tariff Decree B.E 2530 and other laws.

Recipients who import gifts, which are restricted goods, without an import license and are not registered with the Thai Customs Department as an Importer and have not assigned FedEx to be their broker before the shipment arrives in Thailand, will have to go through the clearance process, which can take at least 28 days after the shipment's arrival.

To ensure smooth customs import clearance of these gifts into Thailand, overseas exporters are strongly encouraged to check their export of these listed items adhere to the general guidelines, special requirements, documentation requirements imposed by Thailand Customs and also notify their recipients in Thailand, prior to engaging in the export arrangement into Thailand.

Requirements and Guidelines for Shipping Gifts to Thailand

- Inbound shipments that contain restricted goods require that the recipients register with the Thai Customs Department as an Importer and that the shipment will go through the formal clearance process.
- In addition, an advance import license or license waiver from a specific controlling agency is required, and the shipment will be subject to Customs import duty and taxes imposed based on Customs Act B.E. 2560, Customs Tariff Decree B.E 2530 and other laws.

- Recipients who import gifts, which are restricted goods, without an import license and are not registered with the Thai Customs Department as an Importer and have not assigned FedEx to be their broker before the shipment arrives in Thailand, will have to go through the clearance process, which can take at least 28 days after the shipment's arrival.
- To ensure smooth customs import clearance of these gifts into Thailand, overseas exporters are strongly encouraged to check their export of these listed items adhere to the general guidelines, special requirements, documentation requirements imposed by Thailand Customs below and also notify their recipients in Thailand, prior to engaging in the export arrangement into Thailand.
- Non-compliance with the requirements and guidelines will be subject to potential customs clearance delays along with customs fines and penalties.

General guidelines

- a) Gifts are defined as goods sent from an individual to another with no commercial nature.

| Gifts which are <u>not restricted</u> Goods | Subject to Duty and Taxes | Clearance Process |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| CIF value under 1,500 THB (CIF < 48 USD) | Exemption | Express Clearance |
| Shipment value under 40,000 THB (FOB < 1,290 USD) | Yes | Express Clearance |
| Shipment value above 40,000 THB (FOB > 1,290 USD) | Yes | Formal Clearance* |
| Gifts which are <u>restricted</u> Goods | Yes | Formal Clearance* |

*The recipient is required to register with Royal Thai Customs as an Importer.

- b) Gifts, which are restricted goods, listed below require additional arrangements.
- Food, snacks, vitamins, supplements, cosmetics — subject to Food and Drug Administration (FDA) review
 - Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages — subject to FDA review and an excise tax
 - Perfumes — subject to FDA review and an excise tax
 - Toys for children, e.g. LEGO, Barbie, Dolls, Plasticine – require a TISI import license
 - Electronic devices, e.g. Tablet, Mobile Phone, Drone – require an NBTC import license or a TISI import license
- c) Prohibited Goods listed below cannot be shipped to Thailand:
Obscene objects, Pornography, Lust treatment products, Baraku, Shisha, Hookah, Marijuana, Hemp, Graven Images (religious idols), Fake-branded products, Electronic cigarettes

Special requirements

- a) For Food and Drug Administration (FDA) related shipments, compliance with the following is required.
 - Perishable foodstuffs: These are prohibited for shipment using FedEx International Express Service.
 - Non-Perishable Food Items: Homemade or store-bought food items shipped from an individual requires advance submission of Prior Notice by the recipient to the FDA.
 - Specialty baskets and items ordered through an online commercial establishment and sent to an individual require advance submission of Prior Notice by the recipient to the FDA.
 - If shipped an individual to another individual, the Air Waybill and Commercial Invoice must clearly show a detailed description of each item, including the ingredients for FDA review.
 - Shipments from a business to an individual, individual to a business or business to business require Prior Notice by the recipient to the FDA regardless of value.

IMPORTANT – If any FDA-related single shipment exceeds the quantity of an import license waiver allowance, the entire shipment may be confiscated by the agency or partial abandonment of the shipment may be required.

- b) For Thai Industry Standards Institute (TISI) related shipments:
 - The recipient is responsible for obtaining the import license from TISI within 30 days of the shipment's arrival.
- c) For National Broadcasting and Telecommunications (NBTC) related shipments:
 - The recipient is responsible for obtaining the import license from NBTC within 30 days of the shipment's arrival.
- d) Other special requirements:
 - Alcoholic Beverages, Cigars and Cigarettes: Such shipments from an individual to another individual are prohibited using FedEx International Express Service.
 - Perfumes containing alcohol require formal entry and are subject to duty, value added and excise tax assessments along with an FDA review process.
 - Personal and Household effects purchased solely for the personal use of an individual and shipped unaccompanied, will be entered under separate customs provisions, not as a gift.

Required documentations

- a) For recipients to register to be an importer under the formal clearance process, the following documentation is required for shipments:
 - The Air Waybill and Commercial Invoice must list out a clear description of the goods. The word "gifts" in general is not acceptable for customs clearance.
 - The recipient name must be the same as it appears on the passport (for foreigners) or National ID (for Thai citizens) and the complete address and phone number of the consignee must be provided.
 - A detailed description of the items, including if the item is homemade or store bought (i.e. homemade walnut fudge for personal consumption; not for resale) and the value of each item is required.

- A photocopy of the passport (foreigner) or National ID Card (Thai citizen) must be provided with the recipient's signature.
- A Customs Importer registration form with the recipient's signature must be provided.
- The original passport (foreigner) or National ID (Thai citizen) of the recipient must be shown for verification.

References:

Service, Regulatory Updates and Important Notifications – Service News – Requirements and Guidelines for Shipping Gifts to Thailand – Posted on December 7, 2020

<https://www.fedex.com/en-th/service-news.html#Shipping-Gifts-Guidelines>

Requirements and Guidelines for Shipping Gifts to Thailand

<https://www.fedex.com/content/dam/fedex/apac-asia-pacific/downloads/fedex-shipping-gifts-en-th.pdf>

FedEx Regulatory News

Keep up with the latest alerts, trade-related rules, updates and learning opportunities.

[Sign up to receive FedEx Regulatory News.](#)