HOW TO IMPORT YOUR MEDICATION INTO THE U.S. QUICKLY AND

The importation of legal medications into the U.S. is becoming more and more challenging, as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) ensure that such shipments do not violate Customs laws.

Requirements vary depending on whether medicines are being imported by a business or an individual consumer. But in either case, it is essential to understand and comply fully with all FDA and CBP guidance to help expedite the Customs clearance process.

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GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR IMPORTING MEDICATIONS INTO THE U.S.

IMPORTS FOR PERSONAL USE

(Consumer to Consumer "C2C" or Business to Consumer "B2C")

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- Importation of OTC (over-the-counter, non-prescription) medication by individuals ("B2C"/"C2C") **is prohibited**
- Importation of shipments containing a controlled substance for personal medicinal use **is prohibited**
  - U.S. DOJ DEA Controlled Substance listings: https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/schedules
- Importation of banned substances **is prohibited**
  - U.S. FDA Unapproved Drug listings: https://www.fda.gov/drugs/enforcement-activities-fda/unapproved-drugs

PERSONAL IMPORTATION GUIDELINES

U.S. Citizens:
In most circumstances, it is illegal for individuals to import drugs or devices into the U.S. for personal use because these products purchased from other countries often have not been approved by FDA for use and sale in the U.S. For example, a drug approved for use in another country but not approved by FDA would be considered an unapproved drug in the U.S. and, therefore, illegal to import.

Foreign Nationals:
A foreign national is any person who is not a citizen or permanent resident of the U.S. The FDA understands that you will need to have your personal medication while you are in the U.S.

PERSONAL IMPORTATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IS RESTRICTED WITH THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

- Three-month supply (90 days) limit
- Information needed for clearance:
  - ✓ Prescription from doctor responsible for treatment, confirming that the drug is for consignee's (person named on prescription) personal use – must include: drug name (trade/generic), quantity and dosage and condition being treated
  - ✓ Complete name and address of the drug manufacturer
  - ✓ Invoice (in English)
  - ✓ Personal identification of the consignee (person for whom the medication was prescribed)
    - U.S. Citizens: Social Security Number (SSN)
    - Non-US Citizen: Proof of foreign citizenship (passport number) and length of stay in the U.S.
  - ✓ If shipment value is over $5,000 USD, Power of Attorney is also required for entry

Please download our Personal Medication packet **here** for instructions and an information worksheet.

IMPORTS FOR COMMERCIAL USE

(Business to Business "B2B")

FOR COMMERCIAL IMPORTS OF MEDICATION, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS REQUIRED:

- Precise description of product (including its packaging, form, dosage, generic name, chemical consumption and derivation)
- Quantity
- Intended use
- Country of origin/production
- Complete name and address of the drug manufacturer
- Product code and/or Primary Active Ingredient
- Confirmation as to whether the drugs contain any animal derivatives (if USDA regulation applies)
- Affirmation of Compliance Codes:
  - REG: Drug establishment registration number for manufacturer
  - DLS/NDC: Drug Listing Number
  - Unapproved drugs require one or more of the following: IND (Investigative New Drug), NDA (New Drug Application), ANDA (Abbreviated New Drug Application Number), NDC (National Drug Code)

Please download our Pharmaceuticals packet **here** for instructions and an information worksheet.

ADDITIONAL TIPS FOR AVOIDING DELAYS

Missing or incorrect information will slow the Customs clearance process as the FDA requires DHL to place a shipment on hold until all documentation is completed and submitted.

To save time, look out for these common errors:

- **Incomplete shipment documentation**
  Not all pages of the invoice are received – values or quantities are missing
- **Incorrect HTS (Harmonized Tariff Schedule) product classification codes**
- **Invoice or description is not in English**
- **Vague content description**
  Typically found on the shipment invoice, the content description must be detailed and accurate.
  For example, "medicine" is too vague. Instead, the medication name and description is required.
- **Improper value or quantity**
  Goods are undervalued (deliberately by some shippers, in an attempt to avoid duties or taxes)

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