

Unaccompanied Effects

Customs is responsible for the clearance of all unaccompanied effects from overseas. Travellers who will have unaccompanied effects should take careful note of this information.

Returning Australian residents are not exempt from the requirements outlined in this brochure.

This information does not apply to commercial consignments, nor does it relate to motor vehicles. Two separate brochures titled “*Customs Information for Importers*” and “*Importing a Motor Vehicle or Motor Cycle*” provide detailed advice for importations of this kind.

Clearance

Unaccompanied effects can be cleared by the owner. Alternatively, the owner can appoint a nominee or a customs broker. A list of brokers, who usually charge a fee for their services, appears in the yellow pages of the telephone directory.

It is important to contact your shipping company, airline or freight forwarder before attempting to gain Customs clearance. These companies will advise you of their requirements, their operating hours and the location of the goods.

If you do not enlist the services of a broker, you should contact your nearest Customs office, depending on the location of the goods, to arrange clearance. Customs has offices located in each capital city as well as a number of regional offices. For your nearest office, you should consult your local telephone directory or contact a Customs Information Centre on 1300 363 263.

Procedure

To help Customs clear your goods you will have to:

- complete an ***Unaccompanied Effects Statement*** (B534)
- produce your **passport**, and
- provide a **detailed packing list**.

Customs may examine your goods, and it will assist them to clear your consignment if you are able to provide invoices/purchase receipts relating to any new item you may have declared. If you have any questions about the ***Unaccompanied Effects Statement*** ask a Customs officer or your customs broker. The statements are available from all Customs offices and brokers, and are printed in a number of foreign languages.

Concessions

If you are a migrant coming to Australia to take up permanent residence for the first time, or a person returning to resume permanent residence, you may enter duty/tax free any unaccompanied effects - other than controlled items - which you have owned and used overseas for 12 months (or more) before your departure for Australia.

Duty free concessions which apply to alcohol, tobacco and other articles which accompany you through Customs when you arrive in Australia, do not apply to unaccompanied effects.

Where customs duty and sales tax are payable on articles not owned and used for 12 months or more, liability does not lapse where goods have been acquired as gifts.

Customs may inspect unaccompanied effects consignments to ensure that concessional provisions are not misused.

Please Note:

This information is only a guide. If you need any more information, or if you are not certain how the requirements apply to you, contact your local or capital city Customs office.

Duty free concessions do not apply to goods arriving in Australia as unaccompanied effects.