

## *First Time Shippers*

### **PERSONAL EFFECTS**

#### **Shipping Personal Effects/Household Goods/Commercial Shipments to Alaska:**

Northland Services  
(206) 763-3000  
[www.northlandservicesinc.com](http://www.northlandservicesinc.com)

Alaska Marine Lines  
(206) 763-4244  
<http://www.shipaml.com>

**Please see Yellow Pages for a complete listing of companies**

#### **Shipping Personal Effects/Household Goods/Commercial Shipments to Hawaii:**

Matson Navigation  
(206) 461-9230  
[www.matson.com](http://www.matson.com)

Aloha Cargo Transport  
(206) 762-5955  
<http://www.northlandservices.com/hawaii.htm>

Honolulu Freight Service  
(206) 622-0955  
<http://www.hfsnet.com/>

**Please see Yellow Pages for a complete listing of companies**

#### **Shipping Personal Effects and Household Goods to Domestic and International Destinations:**

American Red Ball International  
(206) 526-1730  
[www.americanredball.com](http://www.americanredball.com)

Continental Van Lines  
(206) 937-2261  
[www.continentalvan.com](http://www.continentalvan.com)

Air Van Lines International  
(206) 762-7500  
[www.airvan.net](http://www.airvan.net)

*Customer completes Custom paperwork.*

## IMPORTING INTO THE USA

### **Do it yourself import shipping (foreign country to USA):**

- Choose an ocean carrier
  - <http://www.portseattle.org/seaport/cargo/steamshiplines.shtml>
- Arrange shipment with an ocean carrier. Carrier will quote a freight rate

All goods coming into the USA must go through Customs and are subject to Customs duty/taxes/fees. The clearance process involves: entry, inspection, appraisement, classification, and liquidation. You will need to declare a value for the merchandise and determine the classification number of the merchandise being shipped. If you need assistance determining your classification number, please call US Customs at (206) 553-0203 and ask to speak to an Entry Specialist.

### **To clear your goods with Customs you will need to provide:**

- Arrival notice from shipping company who issued your bill of lading
- Bill of lading (can be “original”, “seaway” or “express”), airway bill, or carrier’s certificate (naming you as consignee)
- Commercial invoice (should show value and description of goods)
- Entry manifest, Entry/Immediate Delivery, or other required Customs forms
- Packing list and other supporting documents which will be used by Customs to determine whether merchandise should be admitted into the USA

For more information on importing into the USA visit US Customs:

Home Page: <http://www.cbp.gov/>

Import Information: [http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/import/infrequent\\_importer\\_info/](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/import/infrequent_importer_info/)

Export Information: <http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/export/>

Questions: <http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/toolbox/questions/>

US Customs recommends using a Customs House Broker. Customs House Brokers are licensed by Customs. They are hired by the client to transact Customs business on their behalf in the importation or exportation of merchandise.

### **A Customs House Broker will:**

- Arrange shipment (upon arrival)
- Calculate estimated Customs duties and taxes
- Complete/Submit Customs paperwork
- Act as your agent with transportation providers and Customs
- Require a Power of Attorney to transact Customs business on your behalf

## **EXPORTING FROM THE USA**

If you are exporting from the USA to a foreign country, you may use a Freight Forwarder.

### **A Freight Forwarder will:**

- Arrange shipment
- Complete Customs Paperwork (Export declarations, export licenses, etc.)
- Act as your agent with transportation providers
- Require Power of Attorney to transact Customs business on your behalf

### **Useful Sites for Finding a Broker or Forwarder**

Better Business Bureau

<http://lookup.bbb.org/>

National Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association of America, Inc.

<http://www.ncbfaa.org/>

International Federation of Customs Brokers Associations

<http://www.ifcba.org/>

International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations

<http://www.fiata.com/>

**Please see Yellow Pages for a complete listing of companies**

**Customs House Brokers and Forwarders:**

Customs-Brokers  
Freight Forwarding

**Truckers:**

Trucking-Containerized Freight

**Container Sales:**

Containers-Cargo & Freight

Feedback:

We hope you find this document useful. If any pertinent information is absent, please advise. Send all comments to [terminals@portseattle.org](mailto:terminals@portseattle.org).