

Maldives Customs Service has a duty to protect the Maldives from drugs, firearms and other harmful goods, and to stop smugglers evading taxes that fund vital public services.

There are certain goods that you are not allowed to bring into the Maldives under any circumstances, and some goods that are restricted.

PROHIBITED GOODS (GOODS WHICH ARE BANNED COMPLETELY):

- Narcotics and psychotropic substances
- Pornographic material (including sex toys) such as books, magazines, films, videos, DVDs and software
- Religious materials offensive to Islam
- Live pigs
- Idols (for worship)

RESTRICTED GOODS (GOODS THAT REQUIRE A PERMIT TO IMPORT):

Liquor and Alcoholic Products

- According to Maldivian Law No: 4/1975 (Import prohibition Act), importation of liquor and alcoholic products without prior approval is prohibited.
- Hence, it is advised not to purchase liquor and alcoholic products on the flight or duty free shops while en route to the Maldives as these items will be confiscated upon arrival at the airport. However, liquor, beer and other such alcoholic beverages are available at all tourist resorts/hotels. These have been imported under special license issued prior to their importation.

(Prior permit required from: Ministry of Economic Development)

Pork and its by-products

- According to Maldivian Law No: 4/1975 (Import prohibition Act), importation of pork and its by-products without prior approval is prohibited.

(Prior permit required from: Ministry of Economic Development)

Chemical and Chemical Products

- Chemicals
- Acid
- Poisons
- Toxic substances



(Prior permit required from: Ministry of Defense and National Security)

Pets

Health certificate from an authorized veterinarian, satisfying that the animal is free from infections or contagious diseases is required.

Note: the import of dogs and dangerous animals are strictly prohibited.

Firearms, Explosives, Weapons and Ammunition

- Pistols, revolvers, rifles, shotguns, pellet guns, etc.
- Replica and imitation firearms, Components of firearms, Harpoon and spear guns, Stun or shock producing devices.
- Explosives and explosive devices, Replica or imitation explosive material or devices,

Fireworks, flares and other pyrotechnics.

(Prior permit required from: Ministry of Defense and National Security)

Live Plants and Animals

All plants require a valid phytosanitary / sanitary certificate and must be inspected and approved by the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture.

Medicine

A valid medical prescription issued by a registered medical practitioner is required for importation of controlled drugs (for personal use only)

(For commercial use prior permit required from: Maldives Food and Drug Authority)



Tobacco and Tobacco Products

All tobacco products must carry a health warning label as prescribed by the Ministry of Health .

Note: All passengers are eligible for import duty allowance upto a limit of 200 Cigarettes, 25 Cigars and 250g of tobacco.

Communication Equipment

Talkie-set, receiver and any other telecommunication equipment with radio frequency transmitting capacity exceeding 100 mW should be inspected and approved by Communication Authority of Maldives.



PENALTIES IMPOSED FOR CONTRAVENTION OF LAW

Law No: 4/75 (Import Prohibition Act)

Smuggling of firearms and ammunitions - **imprisonment or exile or house detention for a period of between 10 and 15 years.**

Law No: 17/2010 (Intimidation and Possession of Dangerous Weapons and Sharp Instruments Prohibition Act)

Importation of articles stipulated in Article 4(a) of Law No. 17/2010 - **imprisonment for a period of between 1 and 3 years.**

Law No 17/2011 (Narcotic Drugs Act)

1. Smuggling of narcotic drugs - **life time imprisonment AND a fine equivalent to between 100,000.00 and 10,000,000.00 Maldivian Rufiyaa.**
2. Attempting, assisting or participating in smuggling of narcotic drugs - **18 years imprisonment AND a fine equivalent to between 75,000.00 and 7,500,000.00 Maldivian Rufiyaa.**
3. With reference to Schedule 2 (Prescription Drugs Used for Abuse), offences involving the importation, exportation, production or possession of any stated prescription drugs can result in **10 to 15 years of imprisonment AND a fine equivalent to 50,000 and 1,000,000 Maldivian Rufiyaa.**
4. With reference to Schedule 3 (Precursor Chemicals), importation or exportation of any precursor chemicals without the prior approval of the National Drugs Agency is a criminal offense. As such, attempting, assisting or participating in the smuggling of the stated Precursor chemicals can result in **3 to 5 years of imprisonment.**

DUTY ALLOWANCES

When travelling to Maldives, you can bring the following for **your own use** without paying tax or duty

1. Clothes / jewelries / watches / pens / portable gadgets / toiletries / books / magazines / newspaper
2. 200 cigarettes / 25 cigars / 250g of tobacco
3. MVR 6,000 worth of other personal items

NOTE: If you are carrying goods valued MVR 6,001 and above (excluding the items stated in 1 and 2) you must declare the goods and pay the required duty

GETTING MORE HELP AND ADVICE

If you have any queries about customs processes and procedures, please feel free to contact us on the following address.



Maldives Customs Service,
Republic of Maldives.
Telephone: (960) 3322001
Fax: (960) 3322633
customsmail@customs.gov.mv
www.customs.gov.mv

HELP US TO PROTECT MALDIVIAN BORDERS!

You can call our 24 hr toll free Hotline 1416 to report suspicious activity in relation to drug smuggling and other customs related issues and offences.



Going through Customs



How to make your entry to Maldives a pleasant one!