

Shipping Guide: U.S.-Cuba Express Gift Parcel Services

GENERAL CONCEPT

For Customs purposes, shipments shall mean all those received through entities and companies authorized to do so, either by post or courier service, or by using the air or sea cargo by means of an air waybill or bill of lading, as applicable.

WHO CAN RECEIVE SHIPMENTS?

People residing, temporarily or permanently in the Republic of Cuba, may receive any item or equipment through shipments, except those expressly prohibited. In the case of articles or equipment subject to regulations of any competent Cuban ministry, the shipper must submit to Customs the corresponding authorization document.

SHIPPING REQUIREMENTS

- Cannot exceed \$200.00 pesos value per shipment.
- All articles must be declared.
- Commercial quantities of the same article should not be received.

Note: Groups of packages for different recipients that are sent in the name of a single person will not be accepted.

LIMIT IN VALUE

The value limit established for shipments is \$200 pesos as provided in article 15 of Decree Law No. 22, of April 16, 1979.

Mail agencies, courier and parcel services, (in the case of postal packages and courier services), and carriers (in the rest of the process), are responsible for ensuring the security and integrity of the shipments.

EVALUATION OF SHIPMENTS

For the valuation of the shipment within Customs (ad valorem) the value / weight alternative is used for miscellaneous, by means of which the weight of the shipment is obtained and each kilogram will be equal to \$20 pesos.

MISCELLANEOUS are defined as the following articles: footwear, clothing, food, personal and household items, costume jewelry, lingerie, perfumery and the like.

Electrical appliances, appliances, furniture, tools, building materials and other durable equipment, as well as parts and components thereof, are not classified as miscellaneous. These items are not to be weighed and valued individually.

CUSTOMS DUTIES

All non-commercial shipments are exempt from payment of customs duties for up to \$30 pesos. Items exceeding thirty pesos and up to the maximum value of \$200 pesos will result in receiver paying a fee of 100% of their value.

Customs duties payments for shipments received should be paid in CUC.

ITEMS THAT CANNOT BE SHIPPED

- Hidden items to circumvent Customs control.
- Articles of the same type that by their quantity and regardless of the value, are presumed to have a commercial purpose.
- Articles whose value, individually or as a whole, exceed the established limit for shipments of \$200 pesos
- Cash and valuables of any kind.
- Pornography or other articles that violate morality, good customs or inner order.
- Domestic appliances whose imports is not permitted such as:
 - air conditioner units of more than 1 ton;
 - electric stoves and ranges, of any kind and model, except those of induction ceramic hobs up to 1500 watts;

- electric furnaces, of any type, model and capacity, except microwave ovens with a consumption of up to 2000 watts;
 - electric resistances of any kind.
- Equipment requiring prior approval from the Control and Supervision Agency of the Ministry of Informatics and Communications:
 - Wireless fax machines;
 - Telephone switchboards of all kinds;
 - Devices for data networks ("routers" and "switches");
 - Cordless telephones, except those operating in the 40-49 MHz bands; 2.4GHz; And the 5Ghz.
 - Wireless microphones and their accessories;
 - Radio transmitters of any nature and service (radars, radio beacons, radio links, pagers, broadcasting, tele-measurement equipment, remote controls);
 - Radio transceivers Fixed, mobile and personal station equipment (walkie-talkie);
 - Professional radio receivers, (which differ from radio and television household appliances);
 - Earth stations and satellite communications terminals (including receiving stations, satellite dishes, their accessories and satellite telephones).
 - Articles of animal or vegetable origin prohibited by sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary authorities:
 - Fresh fruit and vegetables. Fresh cereals (rice, corn, beans, wheat, rye, etc.)
 - Parts of plants (leaves, branches, flowers, stems, roots, tubers, etc.); Botanical and agronomic seeds;
 - Live or taxidermy animals, except canines and felines;
 - Frozen, refrigerated and fresh meat of any species.
 - Cold cuts and hams; Biological products (vaccines, diagnostic methods, serums) for animal use; Dairy products lacking of well-known brands or re-packaged;
 - Medicines not within their original containers.

PENALTIES: Prohibited items, as well as excesses of the maximum allowed value of two hundred (\$200.00) pesos, will be confiscated.

SUGGESTIONS FOR A FAST AND SAFE DISPATCH

- The shipment must comply with the provisions regarding the value of the items (not to exceed \$200.00 pesos)
- Packages consigned to different consignees must not be sent in the same consignment.
- The package (s) or parcels that make up the shipment must clearly show visibly:
 - Name (s), Surnames and Address of the sender;
 - Name (s), Surname and Address of the recipient in Cuba;
 - If the recipient is a collaborator, student, resident abroad, official, the parcel must show:
 - Relation of articles and their value
 - Value of articles
 - Recipient's phone number

Source: Customs of Republic of Cuba. ([Http://www.aduana.gob.cu/index.php/trafico-postal-y-por-carga](http://www.aduana.gob.cu/index.php/trafico-postal-y-por-carga))