

KOREA, REPUBLIC OF (SOUTH)

1. **Passengers.** See the DOD Foreign Clearance Guide available at <https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/fcg.cfm>. From the left column select Pacific, South Asia, and Indian Ocean and then Korea, Republic of (South).
2. **Cargo.** The following paragraphs describe the customs clearance and inspection process for government and personal property shipped into Korea from the US. The SOFA between the US and the Republic of Korea (ROK) establishes the guidelines by which government and personal property can be shipped into the ROK. Generally, property bound for the US Armed Forces in Korea enters duty-free.
 - a. United States Forces Korea (USFK) and United Nations Command Implementing Regulations (Figure 1). The following regulations implement those portions of the SOFA that deal with customs clearance of, access to, use, and resale of duty-free goods.
 - b. Government Property. In Article IX, the US-ROK SOFA states, “All materials, supplies and equipment imported by the United States Armed Forces, for the official use of the United States Armed Force will be permitted entry into the Republic of Korea; such entry will be free from customs duties and other such charges. Appropriate certification will be made that such materials, supplies, and equipment are being imported by the United States Armed Forces [for exclusive use] by the United States Armed Forces.” During the 5th Joint Committee Meeting in 1967, the US and ROK governments agreed that “it is expressly understood that USFK imports which enter the ROK on MSC, AMC, or USG BL shipments require no additional certification since these shipments are, by nature of their shipment, expressly for the use of USFK.”
 - (1) Cargo arriving in Korea on GBL, MSC vessels, and AMC aircraft requires no additional certification, stamps, or signatures from USFK Customs Clearance Officers (CCOs). This includes cargo sent to Korea via commercial carriers using the GBL for payment. The major commercial carriers routinely process these shipments through customs and deliver them to their destination IAW the terms of the contract.
 - (2) Cargo arriving in Korea via commercial carrier using a CBL for payment requires additional certification IAW Article IX of the US-ROK SOFA and USFK/UNC Regulation 55-72. In general, additional certification means that a USFK CCO appointed by the USFK Combined Joint Provost Marshal (CJPM) has checked the validity of the paperwork supporting each CBL shipment, verified the identity of the consignee/declarant, and has affixed his/her signature on the USFK Form 95EK, Import Declaration. In some cases, the CCO will direct an inspection of the shipment due to irregularities on the import documents or to comply with the Random Inspection Program (RIP). See Figure 4 for a list of CCO office information.
 - (3) Security in the customs clearance system is a great concern. Since USG cargo is afforded duty-free status, the system is highly susceptible to abuse once the signature of a USFK CCO is affixed, with stamps, to the Form 95EK. As a result, local CCOs have various security measures in place. Measures include requiring customers to hand-carry the forms to the carrier or establishing authorized agents with the carriers themselves. The CCO reserves the right to inspect suspect shipments arriving in the ROK. These inspections consist of verification of the actual contents against the paperwork, insuring that no prohibited or restricted items are present, and checking that the shipment contains no personal property.

- c. Air Shipments. Cargo arriving in Korea by commercial air normally arrives at Incheon (Inchon) International Airport (IAP). Occasionally, cargo will arrive at other ports of entry such as Kimhae IAP. Refer to the list in Figure 4 to determine whom to call. The USFK CJPM, in cooperation with Korea Customs Service, established an air cargo customs clearance and inspection section at Incheon (Inchon), to provide better customer service, more rapid customs clearance, and on-the-spot inspection of suspect cargo.
- (1) To obtain a customs clearance for air freight, customers need to have the following documents: USFK Form 95EK, signed by a declarant; Airway Bill; invoice; and other documents that the carrier may provide such as power of attorney. These documents can be faxed or hand-carried to the CCO nearest to where the cargo is arriving (See Figure 4).
 - (2) In order for the CCO to process the paperwork, customers will use the Department of the Army (DA) Form 1687, Notice of Delegation of Authority - Receipt for Supplies, Figure 7. DA Form 1687, Notice of Delegation of Authority – Receipt for Supplies, signature card or equivalent memorandum as proof of eligibility to act as “declarant” (consignee) on the USFK Form 95EK. File signature cards with the local CCO. If the declarant is performing a one-time transaction, a letter from the unit CDR stating the property is for the exclusive use of the USG will suffice. Korean nationals appointed on DA Form 1687 as “authorized agents” are only allowed to pickup and transfer paperwork. Once the paperwork is presented, the CCO checks the identity of the declarant, verifies that the paperwork is in order, determines whether further inspection is warranted, and affixes an original signature to the USFK Form 95EK. Korean Customs will not process the clearance without an original signature. After the USFK Form 95EK is signed by a CCO, the declarant has overall responsibility for taking it to the carrier. At Incheon (Inchon), the carriers pickup the USFK Form 95EK for their own company. The carrier then presents the USFK Form 95EK to Korean Customs for duty-free clearance. (See Figure 2.)
- d. Ocean Vessel Shipments.
- (1) Military cargo shipped on Commercial Contracted Carriers. DOD cargo shipped on commercial carriers under the USC requires additional certification by a CCO but the process is different than air freight. Seven to 14 days before the vessel arrives, the carrier submits a load list/manifest by EDI and hard copy to the Military Terminal, Pier 8, Busan (Pusan), Korea. The CCO handles the commercial carrier’s arrival notice in the same manner as a USFK Form 95EK. The CCO pulls the military manifest from the WPS, verifies and compares it with the commercial carrier’s manifest for accuracy, and ensures all cargo shipped has been documented. He/she signs, stamps, and returns the copy with an original signature to the carrier’s authorized agent. Twenty-four hours before the vessel arrives, the carrier submits a copy of their commercial load list/manifest by EDI directly into the Korea Customs House. The carrier then delivers the copy with original CCO signature and stamp to the Main Busan (Pusan) Customs House. A RIP will be conducted for the following reason(s), when the CCO detects irregularities on the import documents, seals are broken on containers, or requested by HN Korean Customs Service to conduct a joint inspection. The shipment is then customs cleared for duty free entry.
 - (2) Military cargo shipped on commercial vessels by CBL. DOD cargo arriving on a CBL requires additional certification utilizing a USFK Form 95EK in a similar manner as clearance of air freight. The vessel or vessel’s agent submits an arrival notice, copy of the CBL, packing list, and other procurement documentation to the TO of the consignee.

The TO prepares and signs the USFK Form 95EK and presents the form to the CCO for review and certification. Security procedures and the requirement for the signature card are the same as with air freight. The TO or his/her authorized representative delivers the certification and documentation packet to the Korea Customs House to receive a license for duty free entry. Figure 3 illustrates the customs clearance process for military container cargo shipped via sealift using a CBL into the ROK:

- e. Overland Carrier Shipments. This mode of shipment does not exist in USFK.
- f. Personal Property. Article IX, of the US-ROK SOFA also allows military personnel, civilian employees of the Armed Forces, invited contractors, technical representatives, and their families assigned to USFK to ship reasonable quantities of personal property into Korea by commercial means without paying duty or customs taxes for a period of six months after arrival (“the six month rule”, see Para h. below). Personal property includes any item shipped in HHG, UB, or hand carried to the port of entry (normally Incheon (Inchon) IAP). As a result, USFK personnel governed by the SOFA are not authorized to:
 - (1) Use their duty-free privileges to import goods into or from Korea for the purpose of realizing personal gain or profit, or for providing a gain or profit for any other individual.
 - (2) Use their duty-free privileges to import duty-free property when the property is not intended for the personal use of the individual or the individual’s SOFA family member. Importing commercial goods for resale or gifts is prohibited.
 - (3) Import goods into Korea in quantities exceeding personal needs, the needs of their bona fide family member, or reasonable quantities for bona fide maintenance or welfare gifts as defined in USFK Regulation 643-2. Final decisions on reasonable quantities of personal property will be made by the Chief, Customs Division, USFK CJPM, 738-5101.
- g. Exceptions to the Six-Month Rule. Vehicles, vehicle parts, and items shipped into Korea through the APO are not subject to the six-month rule. Import restrictions on types of items and the prohibition on items in excess of personal need still apply in these cases.
- h. Customs Clearance. Customs clearance of personal property is subject to the six-month rule. If a member/employee ships property into Korea via commercial means, the method of customs clearance is similar to that for government property. The chief exception is that personal property is cleared using Korea Customs forms but the paperwork is still signed by a USFK CCO. Most personal property clearance takes place in Seoul, at the SOFA Customs Division (CJPM-CD). The SOFA member/employee is responsible for taking the paperwork to the carrier for clearance through Korea Customs. Personnel who ship property into Korea after six months must pay the customs duties, ship or hand-carry the items back out of Korea, or abandon them.
- i. HHG and UB. Carriers deliver inventories and customs clearance documents to CJPM-CD for all HHG and UB shipments arriving in Korea. A USFK CCO reviews each inventory for prohibited or restricted items and places his/her stamp and original signature on the clearance document. The carrier is then responsible for secure transport to Yongdang Customs House, Busan (Pusan), where duty free clearance takes place.
- j. POVs. POVs that are shipped to Korea as a part of a PCS move are customs cleared at the Military Terminal, Pier 8, Busan (Pusan) by the CCO. The POV contractor for the DOD is responsible for assembling the necessary paperwork including the clearance documents and obtaining the original signature of the CCO. The contractor then ensures that the clearance

documents are transmitted to Korea Customs by EDI and hard-copy. Korea Customs will not issue clearance authority without the original signature of the CCO. Personnel shipping POVs into Korea after they arrive in country must obtain a clearance in person through the CJPM-CD at DSN 738-5110 (located on Yongsan South Post). The Customs Clearance Specialist is responsible for assembling the necessary paperwork including the clearance documents and obtaining the original signature of the CCO. This clearance involves certification that the member/employee does not own a second POV and is in SOFA status.

- k. **Import Restrictions.** The types of personal property that may be imported are extremely limited by ROK law and USFK regulations. Items restricted or prohibited from importation into Korea are: fresh fruits and vegetables, animal products such as unprocessed meats, endangered species or products made from endangered species (e.g., alligator handbag, exotic pets, counterfeit currency, communist propaganda, material that may compromise the security of the ROK), pornography (e.g., material displaying sexual acts including child pornography and homosexuality), aphrodisiacs (e.g., deer horn), narcotics (e.g., hashish, cocaine), flammables, uncut stones, explosives, and weapons. Importation of items in excess of personal needs is also prohibited. In cases of suspected excess personal property, USFK Customs Inspectors use the guidelines contained in Figure 5.
- l. **Firearms/Weapons Restrictions.** USFK and Korea Customs Inspectors strictly control the importation of weapons of all types. Many weapons commonly available for purchase and use in the US directly violate USFK regulations. USFK Customs officials advise personnel coming for assignment in Korea to leave all types of privately-owned weapons in the US. The following procedures have been put in place to reduce inconvenience and ensure rapid processing of authorized weapons. Personnel will not ship any firearm or ammunition in HHG, or accompanied or UB, except as prescribed in DOD regulations and the Personal Property Consignment Instruction Guide (PPCIG) (available at <https://tops.ppcigweb.sddc.army.mil/ppcig/menu/home/warning.do>). See Figure 6 for a list of restricted/prohibited weapons. Observe the following procedures for importation of authorized privately owned firearms.
 - (1) For firearms shipped in HHG, the firearm model and serial number must be listed on the member's/employee's HHG inventory and PCS orders and packed in the number one external shipping container. Prior to the unpacking of HHG, the customs inspector will ask the member/employee if the shipment contains any firearms or other weapons. The member/employee will announce the presence of a firearm or weapon prior to unpacking crate number one.
 - (2) If the firearm is hand-carried at a port of entry, the member/employee must comply with Service and common carrier regulations. Generally, this means declaring the firearms prior to boarding the aircraft, transporting the firearm in a locked container, and ensuring that the firearm is unloaded, located in checked baggage, and not available during flight. Additionally, the member/employee will ensure that the firearm model and serial number is listed in some way on their PCS/TDY orders. Once arriving in Korea, all weapons including firearms will be declared on the USFK Form 96, Customs Declaration.
 - (3) Weapons not in the prohibited weapons list are authorized for importation. If the weapon is intended for one of the purposes as noted in the exceptions (e.g., knives, swords, or martial arts equipment), the member/employee will point that out to the USFK Customs Inspector during customs declaration and inspection. Even authorized weapons will be seized and stored by custom officials until the gaining CDR certifies proper use and storage.

- (4) Firearms (Class “A” weapons) must be registered into the installation identification system with the local Provost Marshal or Security Forces Squadron within 72 hours of the weapon arriving in Korea or prior to arrival of the HHG shipment. Personnel must have a bill of sale, registration from the last duty assignment, or a bill of lading for the weapon to complete the registration process.
 - m. Pets. Personnel who choose to bring pets must bring them into Korea via commercial means. Currently, USFK Customs has no way to check pets at any military port of entry. Contact your local veterinarian about detailed medical requirements for shipment of pets into Korea or consult the PPCIG (available at <https://tops.ppcigweb.sddc.army.mil/ppcig/menu/home/warning.do>).
 - n. Enforcement. USFK Customs Inspectors routinely inspect HHG and UB hard-copy inventories and deliveries at quarters, shipments of commercial cargo, hand-carried luggage, and personal effects at USFK ports of entry to detect violations. Under the US-ROK SOFA, U.S. military investigators and Korea Customs Service routinely conduct joint investigations of customs offenses. Violators are dealt with severely under US and ROK laws. The Government of the ROK may take jurisdiction in such cases and prosecute violators in their court system. Other punishments include administrative actions and judicial or non judicial punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. For further information, contact the USFK Customs office at DSN 738-5101/4247/5110.
3. Personal Property. See the PPCIG at <https://tops.ppcigweb.sddc.army.mil/ppcig/menu/home/warning.do>. Select Query CG tab, select County Instructions tab, at the Country drop down box under Custom Selection, select Korea, Republic of, submit. Click on the detail icon on the upper right hand side to review shipping requirements.

USFK Regulation 27-5, Individual Conduct and Appearance.

USFK/UNC Regulation 55-72, Customs Clearance Of UNC And USFK Imports And Exports.

USFK Regulation 55-73, Customs Inspection.

USFK Regulation 60-1, Ration Control Policy-Access to Duty-Free Goods.

USFK Regulation 643-1, Transactions Between SOFA Personnel and Personnel Entitled Duty-Free Import Privileges in the Republic of Korea.

USFK Regulation 643-2, Transactions Between SOFA Personnel and Personnel Not Entitled Duty-Free Import Privileges in the Republic of Korea.

Note: Many of these regulations are currently under revision.

Figure 1. USFK and United Nations Command Regulations (Korea)

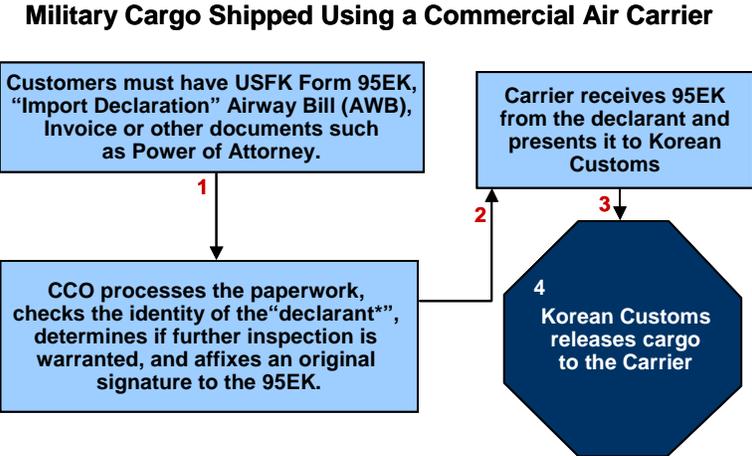


Figure 2. Military Cargo Shipped Using a Commercial Air Carrier (Korea)

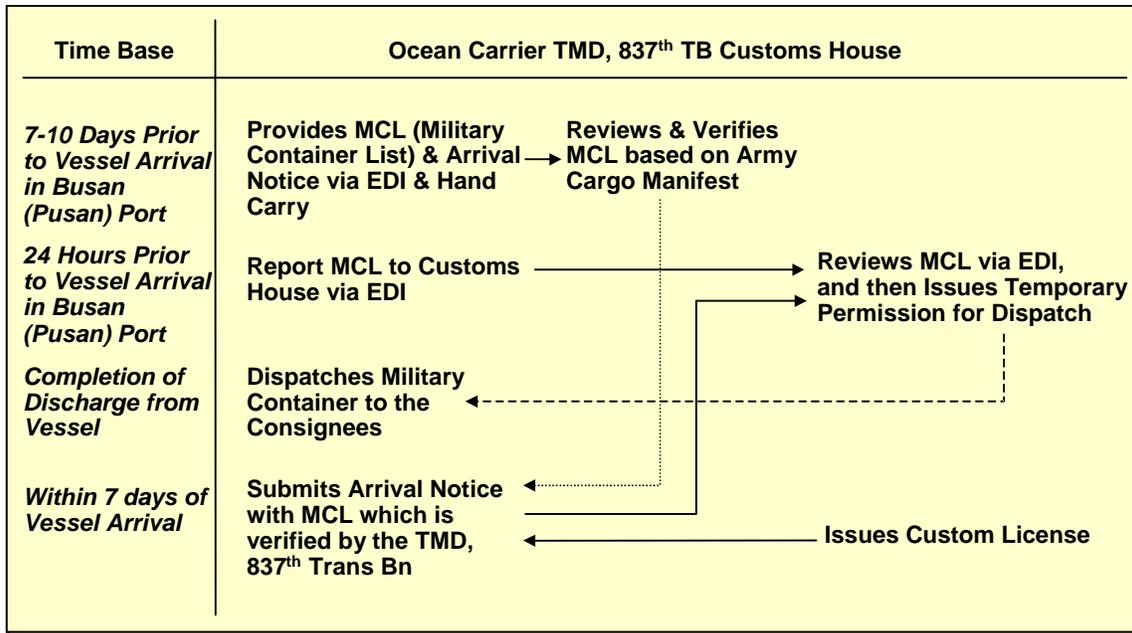


Figure 3. Military Container Cargo Shipped Using a Commercial Ocean Vessel (Korea)

Duty Title	Organization	Phone Number	Areas of Interest
Chief, & Deputy Chief Customs Division	USFK Combined Joint Provost Marshal's Office (CJPM-CD)	738-5101/5110/6182 FAX: 736-5105	Lead CCO; oversight of all CCO's in USFK; clearance of personal property, cargo, and household goods
Customs Clearance Officer, Incheon (Inchon) Customs Office	USFK Combined Joint Provost Marshal's Office (CJPM-CD)	723-5481 FAX: 723-7978	Clears air cargo arriving at Incheon (Inchon) International Airport
Chief, Traffic Management Division	837 th Transportation Battalion, Military Terminal Pier 8, Busan (Pusan) (MTPC-PU-TM)	763-7163 FAX: 763-7175	Clears sea cargo arriving in Busan (Pusan); sole POC for clearing USC contract cargo
Installation Transportation Officer	20 th Support Group (EANC-TP-STD)	763-7640 FAX: 763-7249	Clears POVs arriving in Busan (Pusan) and air shipments at Kimhae
Supply Officer	CNFK Fleet Activity, Chinhae (N4)	762-5479 FAX: 762-5526	Clears US Navy cargo arriving in Chinhae

Figure 4. Customs Clearance Officers Appointed IAW USFK Regulation 55-72 (Korea)

Currency	Not more than \$10,000 in negotiable currency including traveler's checks.
Tobacco	Not more than 200 cigarettes or an equivalent amount of other tobacco products.
Alcohol	Not more than 1 liter of alcoholic beverage.
Perfume	Not more than 2 ounces of perfume.
Other Personal Property	Decisions on enforcement action are made on a case-by-case basis. Factors include family size, religious background, medical conditions, rank, whether the items are known to be "hot" on the black market, and other factors that may bear on the individual member/employee.

Figure 5. Import Restrictions

- Fully automatic firearms.
- A shotgun with the barrel length less than 18 inches.
- A weapon made from a shotgun (for example, by modification) having an overall length less than 26 inches or a barrel less than 18 inches in length.
- A rifle having a barrel less than 16 inches in length.
- A weapon made from a rifle (for example, by modification) having an overall length less than 26 inches or a barrel less than 16 inches in length.
- Any type of BB guns, pellet gun, or slingshot.
- Other weapons, except a pistol or revolver, from which a shot is discharged by an explosive if the weapon is capable of being concealed on the person.
- A noise suppresser for any weapon.
- A molotov cocktail or any gasoline or other flammable or combustible substance in a glass container or other breakable container that is configured with a fuse-type device.
- A straight razor, a knife with a razor blade, a switchblade knife, a t-handle push knife, a hooked blade knife (carpet-type knife), a box knife, a “butterfly” knife with hinged handle sections that collapse around the blade, or any knife, sword or dagger with a 4-inch or longer blade. **Exceptions:** (1). A hunting knife, fishing knife, jackknife, sheathed knife or kitchen knife with a 4-inch or longer blade may be acquired, owned, possessed, and transported when used exclusively for hunting, fishing, camping, cooking, and eating activities. (2). A sheathed knife with a 4-inch or longer blade if required to perform military duties and carried or worn immediately to or from work. (3). Ceremonial/decorative knives, swords, and daggers, regardless of size, may be acquired, owned, possessed, and displayed in home, office, or at official functions, but will not be carried or possessed in public places except to transport them to and from home, office, or an official function. (4). A straight razor, when used for shaving only. **Note:** The member/employee is responsible for providing certification from the gaining commander to USFK Customs of intended use and storage for all exceptions.
- A club-type hand weapon (blackjack), brass knuckles and gloves or bracelets studded with hard or sharp metal objects.
- A shooting pen (fountain pen or automatic pencil-style pen capable of discharging tear gas or similar substances) or any weapon capable of discharging any chemical agent. Exception: Weapons that discharge water and blanks, and defensive pepper spray devices.
- A shooting weapon or blade that can collapse, be telescoped, or shortened, or that is stripped beyond the normal extent required for hunting or sporting; or is concealed in other devices (for example, walking sticks, umbrellas, tubes, and others).
- A shooting weapon with mounted searchlights.
- A hollow point cartridge, opened or closed, for any firearm of more than .22 caliber (5.6 mm).
- An explosive, incendiary, or gas bomb, grenade, missile, mine, or similar device or any rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces.
- A kung fu or Chinese fighting stick or nunchakus or similarly constructed items. **Exception:** A kung fu or Chinese fighting stick or nunchakus or similarly constructed items are authorized if the item was acquired and is owned, possessed, transported, and used solely in connection with authorized sporting events, regularly scheduled martial arts training or practice. **Note:** The member/employee is responsible for providing certification from the gaining commander to USFK Customs of intended use and storage for all exceptions.
- A metal Chinese throwing star or similarly constructed item having multiple sharpened appendages.

Figure 6. Weapons Prohibited for Import to Korea

NOTICE OF DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY - RECEIPT FOR SUPPLIES					DATE
For use of this form, see DA PAM 710-2-1; the proponent agency is DCS, G-4.					
AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE(S)					
ORGANIZATION RECEIVING SUPPLIES			LOCATION		
LAST NAME-FIRST NAME-MIDDLE INITIAL	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	AUTHORITY		SIGNATURE AND INITIALS	
		REQ	REC		
AUTHORIZATION BY RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OFFICER OR ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER					
THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY <input type="checkbox"/> DELEGATES TO <input type="checkbox"/> WITHDRAWS FROM THE PERSON(S) LISTED ABOVE,					
THE AUTHORITY TO:					
REMARKS					
I ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY					
UNIT IDENTIFICATION CODE			DODAAC/ACCOUNT NUMBER		
LAST NAME-FIRST NAME-MIDDLE INITIAL	GRADE	TELEPHONE NUMBER	EXPIRATION DATE	SIGNATURE	

DA FORM 1687, JAN 82

EDITION OF DEC 57 IS OBSOLETE.

APD V3.02

Figure 7. DA Form 1687, Notice of Delegation of Authority – Receipt for Supplies