

## GEN 1.3 ENTRY, TRANSIT AND DEPARTURE OF PASSENGERS AND CREW

### 1. Customs requirements

- 1.1 Baggage or articles belonging to disembarking passengers and crew are immediately released except for those selected for inspection by the customs authorities. Such baggage will be cleared on the basis of a written declaration in the appropriate form.
- 1.2 All baggage must be declared upon arrival and departure.
- 1.3 Arrival
  - 1.3.1 All the disembarking passengers should have duly filled passengers' declaration form to be presented at the Customs Counter.
  - 1.3.2 Passengers with nothing to declare are permitted to pass through Green Channel whereas passengers clearing through Red Channel should declare their dutiable goods in passenger declaration form.
  - 1.3.3 Baggage inspections by Customs Officials are carried out randomly for both green and red Channel. Passengers should note that false declaration shall be liable for fines and penalties.
  - 1.3.4 Import of following goods are prohibited:
    - a) Narcotics, Psychotropic drugs and substances;
    - b) Pornographic Materials;
    - c) Antiques.
  - 1.3.5 Imports of following goods are strictly restricted:
    - a) Arms, ammunitions, explosives and military stores;
    - b) Drugs and pharmaceutical products;
    - c) Used and second hand goods, machinery and equipment;
    - d) Gold and silver in excess of free baggage allowance;
    - e) Live animals and their products or by products;
    - f) Plants and plant materials;
    - g) Chemicals and fertilizers.
  - 1.3.5.1 Imports of restricted items should be accompanied by import permit issued by the concerned Authorities.
  - 1.3.6 Bhutanese passengers have the privilege of free allowance of personal effects up to the assessed value of US\$ 1000 or equivalent in Ngultrum subject to the ceiling prescribed below:
    - a) Spirits: 2 bottles, each bottle not larger than 2 litres
    - b) Gold: 50 Grams.
    - c) Silver: 1 Kilogram.
    - d) Perfume: 1 bottle not larger than 2 ounces.
    - e) Clothing items: maximum of 10 pieces each type of clothing whether stitched or unstitched.
  - 1.3.7 A tourist shall be allowed to import free of Customs duty and tax, used articles of personal effects and alcoholic beverage of one bottle not larger than one litre.

- 1.3.8 Import of dutiable goods by tourists for personal use should be declared in the passenger declaration forms. It is reminded that on their departure these goods shall be verified and if any of the items declare in the form is found missing, it shall attract duty and taxes at the prevailing market rate in Bhutan.
- 1.3.9 Sale of Tobacco product in the country is banned however for personal consumption import of 200 pieces of cigarettes, 3 tins of 50 grams each of pipe tobacco products is permitted subject to payment of 100% duty.
- 1.3.10 No Indian Rupees shall be exported or imported to and from countries other than India and Nepal. Only Indian currency of denomination of Rupees 100 and below shall be permitted to be exported or imported to and from India and Nepal.
- 1.4 Departure
- 1.4.1 Tourists on their departure from the country should submit their declaration forms to Customs Counter for Verification.
- Exports of following goods are strictly restricted:
  - Narcotics, Psychotropic drugs and substances;
  - Pornographic Materials;
  - Antiques.
- 1.4.2 Exports of following goods are strictly restricted:
- Arms, ammunitions, explosives and military stores;
  - Drugs and pharmaceutical products;
  - Used and second hand goods, machinery and equipment;
  - Gold and silver in excess of free baggage allowance;
  - Live animals and their products or by products;
  - Plants and plants materials;
  - Chemicals and fertilizers;
  - Telecommunication equipment.
- 1.4.3 Passengers carrying more than US\$ 10,000 or its equivalent should declare to customs at the entry and exit point.
- 1.4.4 Any imported goods exported out of Bhutan for replacement or repairs shall attract customs duty and taxes on value addition and services charge, provided it was declared to the customs at the time of export.
- 1.5 Re-import of Goods
- Any imported goods exported out of Bhutan shall be allowed to be re-imported free from Customs duty and taxes provided that:
- At the time of export of such articles, a declaration was made to customs authorities in form as prescribed under export declaration form and the same is presented to the customs for clearance on re-importation.
  - The customs officer is satisfied that the same and have not undergone any alteration and repair.
  - Any alteration and repair of such article however shall be liable to customs duty and taxes on the cost of alteration and material used for repair.

## 2. Immigration requirements

## **2.1 Visa**

- 2.1.1 All foreigners must hold valid passport and it should be valid for minimum period of six months beyond the date of intended departure from the Kingdom of Bhutan.
- 2.1.2 The Visa clearance alone does not guarantee the right to entry or stay in the Kingdom of Bhutan unless the entry/landing permission is granted by the immigration officer in the form of entry/landing seal in the passport.
- 2.1.3 The information/details furnished in the visa clearance must match with the passport details. If any information is found to be withheld or incorrect, the visa, if granted, may be cancelled at any time.
- 2.1.4 Foreigners availing Official Gratis visa, Official vsia, BG visa and FG visa will be endorsed on arrival and entry seal stamped with validity up to 14 days from the entry point depending on the purpose of visit.
- 2.1.5 All foreign national entering Bhutan on visitors or tourist permit are prohibited for employment in Bhutan.
- 2.1.6 All foreign nationals working or residing in Bhutan holding Non Bhutanese Identity card, Residence permit etc shall not claim these documents (irrespective of its validity) for proof to enter Bhutan without valid Passport or Visa. Such Identification cards issued to foreigners should be surrendered to immigration counters during exit and reclaimed on the arrival.

## **2.2 Extension of visa**

- 2.2.1 Extension of visa may be granted only on the ground of illness as an exceptional case for a period not exceeding 14 days at a time.
- 2.2.2 Extension of visa can be obtained on payment of Nu.1000, Nu.2000 or Nu.4000 depending on the duration of extension from Department of Immigration, Thimphu.

## **2.3 VISA Exemption**

- 2.3.1 National of India, Bangladesh and Maldives are exempted from visa requirement for entry into the Kingdom of Bhutan.
- 2.3.1.1 Indian National holding Diplomatic, Official or Ordinary passport shall be endorsed with entry permit and entry seal in their passport with validity depending on their duration of stay in Bhutan not exceeding 30 days.
- 2.3.1.2 Indian national who are not in possession of national passport shall carry voter card issued by State/Central government of India. Such document holders will be issued with entry permit in lieu of visa at the entry point depending on their duration of stay in Bhutan but not exceeding 30 days. Such permit should be surrendered to immigration counter at the exit point. Extension of stay if required will have to be obtained from Department of Immigration, Thimphu.
- 2.3.1.3 As for Bangladeshi and Maldivian nationality, their passport will be endorsed with entry permit and entry seal with validity maximum up to 14 days from the entry point.
- 2.3.2 Thai national holding Diplomatic/Official Passport will be issued with entry permit in lieu of Visa for 90 days from the date of entry, provided they shall not take up any employment, be it self or otherwise, in Bhutan. Such period of stay shall, upon the request of Thai consulate office in Thimphu, be extended until the end of their assignment.

## **2.4 All foreign national flight crew members are required the following:**

- i. Valid passport issued by their respective countries;
- ii. Foreigners working as crew or pilot in Bhutan must possess a valid multiple visa and work permit issued by the Department of Immigration after an approval to this effect has been accorded by the Department of Labour, Ministry of Labour & Human Resources, Thimphu; and

- iii. Indian nationals working as crew or pilot members are required to obtain valid work permit subject as above.

**2.5 National Flight crew member required the following**

- 2.5.1 National carrier flight crew or pilot members are required to sign in at the disembarking airport and sign out at the embarking airport. They should carry valid passports and must be produced on demand, failing to which penalty as per the immigration rule will be imposed.
- 2.5.2 National carrier flight carrying passenger without valid passport and visa will be responsible for deportation of the same to the port of embarkation with immediate effect and also bear the penalty for carrying such passenger as per the immigration rule.
- 2.5.3 All departing passengers are required to produce valid passports and documents to the immigration counters.

**3. Public health requirements**

- 3.1 Disembarking passengers are not required to present vaccination certificate except when coming directly from the area infected with Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Ebola or Smallpox.
- 3.2 On departure, no health formalities are required.