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

### 1. Customs Requirements

- 1.1 Customs formalities are conducted in conformity with standard international procedure, and as far as possible, in accordance with the Standards and Recommended Practices laid down in Annex 9 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation. The customs officers at the airport are responsible for the enforcement of various legislations of Hong Kong affecting importation and exportation of articles carried by passengers and crew.
- 1.2 Hong Kong is essentially a free port and does not levy any Customs tariff on imports and exports. Excise duties are levied only on four types of dutiable commodities, namely liquors, tobacco, hydrocarbon oils and methyl alcohol. Duty-free concessions for incoming passengers are set out below -

#### *Alcoholic Liquor*

A passenger aged 18 or above is allowed to bring into Hong Kong, for his own use, **1 litre** of alcoholic liquor with an alcoholic strength above 30% by volume measured at a temperature of 20°C exempted from duty.

If the passenger holds a Hong Kong Identity Card, he must have spent 24 hours or longer outside Hong Kong.

#### *Tobacco*

A passenger aged 18 or above is allowed to bring into Hong Kong, for his own use, the following quantity of tobacco products exempted from duty :

- **19** cigarettes; or
- **1** cigar or **25** grams of cigars; or
- **25** grams of other manufactured tobacco.

## 2. Immigration Requirements

2.1 Immigration into Hong Kong is governed by the Immigration Ordinance, 1971. Immigration control is exercised by the Immigration Department, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong, telephone 2824 6111, fax 2824 1133, telex 69996 IMMHK HX. The information contained in the following paragraphs is intended only as a guide, full details may be obtained from the Immigration Department.

### 2.2 Passport Requirements and Travel Documents

Arriving passengers must have valid travel documents, with visas where required, and adequate means of support for their proposed stay. Travel documents issued by the following authorities are not acceptable. Visas should be endorsed on an affidavit in lieu of passport.

Bhophuthatswana	The Transkei
Ciskei	Northern Cyprus Turkish Republic (NCTR)
Imamate (or Emamate) of Oman State	Venda
Maori Kingdom of Tetiti	Yemen (Royalist Authorities)
Taiwan	

### 2.3 Visas Requirement

2.3.1 Visas are NOT REQUIRED for the following categories of passengers :-

- (i) Holders of the following valid documents
  - British (Hong Kong) Passport
  - Hong Kong Certificate of Identity
  - Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card
  - Hong Kong Seaman's Certificate of Nationality and Identity
  - Hong Kong Seaman's Identity Book
  - Travel document bearing a "right to land" endorsement
  - Hong Kong Document of Identity for visa purposes bearing a valid re-entry visa or a visa exemption endorsement
  - United Nation Laissez-Passer (on official UN business in Hong Kong) issued by the United Nations (EXCEPT nationals of Iraq)
  - Military Identity Card (with movement orders) issued by a NATO country
  - Military Identity Card issued by Commonwealth of Nations
- (ii) British Subjects being "Citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies" or holders of passports in which they are described as "British Citizen".
- (iii) Holders of passports in which they are described as "British Dependent Territories Citizen", "British Overseas Citizen" or "British Subject" and have ample returnability to another country, coming for a stay not exceeding 3 months.

- (iv) Nationals of the following countries coming for a stay not exceeding three months :-

Andorra	Maldives
Antigua and Barbuda	Malta
Australia	Mauritius
Austria	Monaco
Bahamas	Namibia
Bangladesh	Nauru
Barbados	Netherlands
Belgium	New Zealand
Belize	Nigeria
Botswana	Norway
Brazil	Pakistan
British Dependent Territories	Papua New Guinea
Brunei	Portugal
Canada	San Marino
Chile	Seychelles
Colombia	Sierra Leone
Cyprus, Republic of	Singapore
Denmark	Solomon Islands
Dominica	Spain
Ecuador	Sri Lanka
Fiji	St Christopher and Nevis (also known as St Kitts Nevis)
France	St Lucia
Gambia	St Vincent and the Grenadines
Ghana	Swaziland
Grenada	Sweden
Guyana	Switzerland
India	Tanzania
Irish Republic	Tonga*
Israel	Trinidad and Tobago
Italy	Turkey
Jamaica	Tuvalu
Kenya	Uganda
Kiribati	Vanuatu
Lesotho	Western Samoa
Liechtenstein	Zambia
Luxembourg	Zimbabwe
Malawai	
Malaysia	

\*except holders of Tongan Protected Person passports

- (v) Nationals of the following countries coming for a stay not exceeding one month :

Argentina	Iceland
Bolivia	Mexico
Costa Rica #	Morocco
Dominican Republic	Nepal
El Salvador	Nicaragua
Finland	Panama ##
German Democratic Republic	Paraguay
Germany, Federal Republic of	Tunisia
Greece	USA
Guatemala	Uruguay
Honduras	Venezuela

# visa exemption is not applicable if holding Costa Rican Provisional Passport.

## visa exemption is not applicable if holding Panamanian Special Passport.

- (vi) Nationals of South Africa and Thailand staying not more than 14 days.
- (vii) Nationals of other countries not mentioned in para. 2.3.2 do not require visas for a visit not exceeding seven days.
- (viii) The visa waiver concessions for para. 2.3.1 (iii)-(vii) are subject to the following conditions :-
- (a) Onward or return tickets must be held. (Travellers to China or Macau without onward bookings may benefit from the visa waiver concession, provided entry to China or Macau is assured).
- (b) The passengers must possess adequate means of support.

2.3.2 Visa is ALWAYS REQUIRED for the following categories of passengers :

- (i) Nationals of Afghanistan, Albania, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cuba, Laos, Mongolia, North Korea, Romania, former USSR and Vietnam.
- (ii) Holders of Taiwanese passports.
- (iii) All 'stateless' persons.

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- (iv) Nationals of People's Republic of China.
  - (v) Holders of Iranian passports.
  - (vi) Holders of Costa Rican Provisional passports or Costa Rican passports showing the holder's country of birth as 'China' or 'Chino' with a code '626' in the nationality column. (This type of passports are issued to nationals of any country who have been approved residence in Costa Rica).
  - (vii) Holders of Libyan passports.
  - (viii) Holders of Republic of Yemen, Syria and Lebanon passports.
  - (ix) Holders of Czechoslovakian and Hungarian passports.
  - (x) Holders of Tongan National Passports and Tongan Protected Persons passports.
  - (xi) Holders of Panamanian Special passports.
  - (xii) Holders of Iraqi diplomatic, service or national passports (including persons who wish to transit airside through Hong Kong without having to present for immigration clearance).
  - (xiii) Nationals of Iraq holding United Nation Laissez Passer.
  - (xiv) Holders of Uruguayan passport issued under Decree 289/90.

## 2.4 Seamen

2.4.1 Seamen, including those who are stateless, who hold seafarers' identity documents issued by countries that ratified the ILO Convention 108 do not require visas when travelling to or through Hong Kong if they :

- (i) Transit Hong Kong within 48 hours to join a vessel elsewhere.
- (ii) Pass through Hong Kong on repatriation from a ship.
- (iii) On shore leave during their ship's stay in port of Hong Kong.
- (iv) In transit to join a vessel in Hong Kong which is registered in any of the territories which have ratified ILO Convention 108.

(Note : Panamanian and Liberian Seaman's Books which carry no right of re-entry are not acceptable).

- 2.4.2 Seamen who are persons covered in para. 2.3.2 holders of Taiwanese passports or seamen books and stateless seamen (other than those mentioned in para. 2.4.1) require visas when travelling as passengers to join ships in Hong Kong.
- 2.4.3 Seamen not covered in para. 2.4.2 do not require visas when arriving to join vessels in Hong Kong even though they do not satisfy the normal requirement to hold onward or return tickets. However, seamen entering under these circumstances must be met on arrival by a representative of the shipping company concerned, or its local agent who will be required to provide a letter of indemnity against the cost of maintenance and repatriation of the seamen if they fail to join a ship in Hong Kong. Such seamen may also transit Hong Kong without visas for up to 48 hours on their way to or from vessels in other countries.
- 2.4.4 Hong Kong Government Seamen's Discharge Books can be accepted as a travel document for seamen returning to Hong Kong only if endorsed with valid visas.

## 2.5 **Crew Member Certificates**

Flight crew members will be accorded temporary admission on production of their Licences or a Certificate issued by a competent, recognized authority of the state in which the aircraft is registered or a valid passport or travel document. This concession does not apply to the crew of private aircraft, who are to be treated as visitors, nor to those covered by para. 2.3.2.

## 2.6 **Transit Passengers**

- 2.6.1 Passengers holding stateless documents, and nationals of the countries listed at para. 2.3.2 require transit visas to land in Hong Kong in transit. Persons who hold unrefereed transit visas must also hold re-entry facilities for the country of domicile, visas for destination countries and tickets for onward passage. The requirement to hold tickets is waived for travellers to China or Macau provided that entry to China or Macau is assured.
- 2.6.2 Visas are not required for passengers passing through Hong Kong by air (except Iraqi), provided they continue their journey to a third country within 48 hours and do not leave the transit lounge. Personnel of airline company must keep the passengers from presenting to immigration authorities.

## 2.7 **Airlines Responsibility**

- 2.7.1 Except for passengers who have the right of abode or right to land in Hong Kong, person who arrives in Hong Kong in an aircraft does not have a valid travel document, the owner of the aircraft and his agent shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine of HK\$1,000. Airlines will normally be held responsible for removing such passengers from Hong Kong if they are refused entry.

### **3. Public Health Requirements**

3.1 Strict compliance with the provisions of the International Health Regulations of the World Health Organisation is maintained. Facilities are available for vaccination and the issuance of an international certificate of vaccination.

#### **3.2 ILLNESS OR DEATH ON BOARD**

3.2.1 The pilot in command of an incoming aircraft, who has a seriously ill or dead person on board, must give as much notice as possible by radio to the Airport Authorities of such occurrence. Relevant information concerning the necessity for having a doctor or ambulance standing by would facilitate attention or removal as the case may be. Where an aircraft registered in Hong Kong is involved, conformity with the provision of the Civil Aviation (Births, Deaths and Missing Persons) Regulations 1984 (CAP. 173 Section 2) is essential.

### **4. Air Passenger Departure Tax**

4.1 Under the Air Passenger Departure Tax Ordinance (Cap. 140) every passenger departing from Hong Kong by aircraft at Hong Kong International Airport shall pay a departure tax at the rates approved from time to time by the Hong Kong Government unless specifically exempted for payment by the provisions of the Ordinance (see GEN 4.1 para. 5 for details).

### **5. Procedures for General Aviation and Private Flights**

#### **5.1 DEPARTING AIRCRAFT**

5.1.1 The pilot in command, other crew members and all passengers are required to pass through the normal Immigration and Security Departure channels in the Hong Kong Business Aviation Centre or Passenger Terminal Building, as appropriate and shall then be transported directly to the aircraft by the ground handling agent.

#### **5.2 ARRIVING AIRCRAFT**

5.2.1 After landing, the aircraft shall be taxied to the parking area as directed by Air Traffic Control, where it will be met by the Police Airport Security Unit who will record details of the flight and those on board.

5.2.2 The pilot in command, other crew members and all passengers shall be transported by the ground handling agent to the Hong Kong Business Aviation Centre or Passenger Terminal Building for Customs, Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ) clearance.

#### **5.3 HELICOPTER FLIGHTS**

5.3.1 For flights on cross-boundary flight stopover for Customs, Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ) clearance, the helicopter shall park at the designated location and the pilot in command, any crew and all passengers shall comply with the appropriate CIQ clearance requirements.

- 5.3.2 For all other flights, the helicopter shall park at the designated location and the pilot in command, other crew members and all passengers shall be transported by the ground handling agent to and/or from the Hong Kong Business Aviation Centre or Passenger Terminal Building for CIQ clearance.