
III. CUSTOMS AND OTHER REGULATORY INFORMATION

Documentation

Documents required for commercial consignments to Chile, irrespective of value and mode of transport, are the commercial invoice (minimum four copies in Spanish), bill of lading (at least three copies) or air waybills and the "import report" (import licence), which the importer obtains by submitting to the proper authorities an application supported by a proforma invoice. Except on request, the commercial invoice, the bill of lading or air waybill do not require certification.

Import and Exchange Controls

Since 1974, Chile has become one of the most liberal trading countries in South America. Customs tariffs on all imported merchandise have been reduced to a general rate of duty of 10 per cent ad valorem, with the exception of certain agricultural products and certain vehicles for passenger transport.

In general, all goods may be imported into Chile except products banned because they are considered offensive to public morality or in violation of sanitary regulations.

Import licences as such are not required. An import registration or import report (*informe de importacion*), however, must be filed by the importer with Chilean Customs for statistical purposes. The importer obtains the import report through the intervening local bank by producing the proforma invoice provided by the exporter. Exporters should not ship goods to Chile prior to having received a copy of the approved "*informe de importacion*" or at least its number and date.