

Cuba extends customs facilitation



Easier in the future: Sending parcels to Cuba (Source: [D-Cuba](#))

Private imports of medicines, food and hygiene products into Cuba will continue to be duty-free until at least December 31. As announced by the Ministry of Finance and Prices (MFP), the measures, which were first introduced in the summer of 2021, have been extended again for another six months – but this time the renewal came with an expansion that will also make parcel shipments easier.

From now on, not only medicines are exempt from customs, but also medical items such as disposable gloves, syringes, insulin pens, prostheses, contact lenses and other products. The list, available in the legislative gazette on the extension ([PDF](#)), includes more than 100 items. The limits for duty-free import of these products have been raised from 20 kilograms (and a value of \$200) to 50 kilograms with a maximum value of \$500 per person. There is no such limit for food and hygiene products; the maximum carry-on amounts of the respective airlines apply here.

Furthermore, in the case of personal imports, the relevant products should be carried in a separate piece of luggage, if possible, in order to facilitate processing. The customs duty exemption may not be used for commercial purposes.

There is also an innovation for parcels: the maximum limit of 500 (instead of 200) US dollars now also applies to parcel shipments by air and sea. Recently, the first 30 U.S. dollars in parcel shipments are also exempt from customs duties; beyond that, a customs tariff of 30 percent applies. "This measure allows the importation of goods that previously could not be imported as shipments because they exceeded the established reference values, such as laptops, televisions, refrigerators, freezers, and others," [explained](#) the director general of Customs Processes, Yamila Martínez Morales. This will also make imports easier for private

businesses, which could grow to as much as \$1 billion this year, according to estimates from the Ministry of Economy. The changes went into effect July 1. ([Cubaheute](#))