



## UNDERSTANDING INTERNATIONAL HOUSEHOLD GOODS SHIPMENTS

At SIRVA, we believe that a customer who is well prepared and informed on the international moving process is able to make better decisions affecting their move, that will in turn result in a higher level of satisfaction. This document is designed to help you visualize the various modes and methods of international transportation and how they work. Your household goods and personal effects will either be transported by ocean freight, air freight, or for some countries by truck. Our move consultant will assist you with a more detailed explanation.

### AIR FREIGHT

Air Freight is ideal for a small quantity, immediate needs shipment. Once packed and loaded, your shipment will be dispatched and taken by an approved IATA trucker to the airport of departure and loaded onto a cargo plane. At destination, your goods will be cleared through customs and delivered to you by our destination agent.

#### Did You Know?

- After packing in your home, boxes are brought back to the warehouse to be flight packed.
- Household goods only travel via cargo planes and are not allowed to be transported on passenger airlines.
- Household Good shipments are considered low priority for loading on cargo planes versus any medical, perishable, etc. goods. They can be bumped.
- Cargo flights are not usually daily and not usually direct. This impacts transit time.

### OCEAN FREIGHT

Ocean freight is the most common option for international moves. Dependent upon the size of your move, your household goods and personal effects will be loaded into a "Lift Van" or "Shipping Container" and transported by rail or road to a sea port. It is then loaded onto a vessel for the voyage to the port of destination. At the destination port, your goods will be cleared through customs and delivered by road to your new home.

#### Ocean Freight – LCL

LCL – Less than Container Load – also known as a lift-van. The lift-van is a large wooden container used for a small quantity of household goods and personal effects. For security, the roof of the lift-van is lined with plastic sheeting and the entire wooden container is steel banded. If you have a smaller quantity of furniture and personal effects that are not time sensitive this maybe is your ideal option. Household goods can be shipped in multiple lift-vans and typically each holds 1,000 pounds each.

#### Did You Know?

- Lift vans are consolidated in a shipping container with other shipments going to the same port of destination.
- Consolidation and Deconsolidation of LCL shipments prolong the time of the transit due to extra handling by loading and unloading the lift vans from the container.

#### Ocean Freight – FCL

FCL – Full Container Load.

The most common option for a normal sized international move involving household goods is by sole-use shipping container. Unless prevented from doing so by access problems or other operational barriers, your household goods and personal effects will be export packed and wrapped and loaded directly into a container outside your home. The shipping container will then be sealed with a high-security locking device and transported by road to a rail or directly to the sea port where it will be loaded onto a vessel for its voyage. At the destination port, your goods will be cleared through customs and delivered by road in the container or shuttle if access restricted to your new home.

### CUSTOMS

#### Did You Know?

- Customs considers Household Goods shipments as high risk as the contents are unknown. With commercial goods, they have more transparency as to what exactly is being shipped.
- Adding food, alcohol, cars will add to transit time and increase the chance for examinations.
- US shipments can also be pulled for export examinations at random.