

Controlled substances brought into the Republic of Korea are subject to the regulations established by the Korean Food and Drug Administration and the Korean Customs Service. The procedures outlined below for importing, shipping or hand-carrying medications or other controlled substances into the Republic of Korea are subject to change without notice. We recommend that you plan in advance and confirm the procedures with the relevant Korean authorities before bringing any controlled substances into the Republic of Korea.

#### **To carry controlled substances into the Republic of Korea:**

Before traveling, you must fax a written application to the Narcotics Control Division, Korean Food and Drug Administration per the instructions in the attached document "KFDA med permit procedures." The application must include:

- a copy of the biographical page of your passport, showing your name, country, and passport number
- a medical report and doctor's prescription, indicating the name of the disease and narcotics or other medications prescribed
- an application letter, stating your name, passport number, name and quantity of narcotics or other controlled substances (in mg units) that you plan to bring in, your reasons for carrying it, and contact information including fax number or email address where you will receive the permit letter

Your application will be reviewed by the relevant Korean authorities, and if permission is granted, a permit letter will be sent to the fax number or email address you provided in the application. This permit letter will allow you to bring those medications with you into the Republic of Korea. If you do not receive a bring-in permit, you may wish to consult with your U.S. doctor for substitute medicines, or sources of local equivalent medicines in Korea. Amphetamine-based medications and other controlled substances are routinely confiscated at the Korean port of entry, unless accompanied by a bring-in permit as described above. The point of contact for these bring-in permits at the Korean Food and Drug Administration is Ms. Kim, Sun Young, and she can be reached in Korea at this phone number: 043-719-2804.

For medicines that do not contain narcotics or amphetamines, we have heard anecdotally that a three-month supply of medicines valued at less than \$2,000 will be allowed to be brought into the Republic of Korea if they are for personal use and accompanied by a proper prescription from your doctor, a doctor's letter stating the medical diagnosis, and a general statement from your doctor. The Korean Customs Service at Incheon Airport has authority over which medications will be allowed to be carried into the country. You may wish to consult with your U.S. doctor regarding substitute medicines, or sources of local equivalent medicines in Korea. A point of contact at the Korea Customs Service in Incheon Airport is Ms. Kim, Eun Jeong, and she can be reached in Korea at this phone number: 032-722-4422.

#### **To ship controlled substances to the Republic of Korea:**

Importing controlled substances to the Republic of Korea requires special permission from the Korean Food and Drug Administration. Please refer to the attached application and instruction sheets for importation of medicine. Once the application is submitted, various offices including the Welfare Policy office of the district to which the drugs are being sent will need to approve the shipment. A point of contact at the Korean Food and Drug Administration for the import of controlled substances is Ms. Kim,

Sang Hee, and she can be reached in Korea at this phone number: 043-719-2632. You may also refer to this website: <http://ezdrug.kfda.go.kr>

Additional details may be found at the KFDA website: <http://eng.kfda.go.kr/index.php>