



Importing Personal Property Into Germany

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

DUTY-FREE ENTRY IS PERMITTED IF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS ARE MET:

Non-German citizens and returning German citizens who have resided abroad for more than one year are allowed duty-free/ tax-free entry. German citizens who have held residence outside of Germany for less than one year must declare their personal goods/effects and may have to pay duties & taxes on items purchased overseas. Household goods must be owned at least 6 months prior to vessel departure.

NOTE: An EORI (Economic Operators Registration and Identification) number is required for all imports and exports to clear Customs in the European Union. The EORI number must be used in all electronic communications with Customs Offices and other government agencies and departments.

Individuals not established in the EU must obtain the EORI number from the authorities in the respective EU member state wherein the client intends to operate or reside

The export of all shipments of household goods and vehicles are subject to a Security Filing. After filling, Customs in Germany will issue an MRN number to your Destination Agent and corresponding inland Customs Authority to arrange for possible security inspection.

Required information for exportation:

- ✓ Destination address of client or Destination Agents address
- ✓ Estimated value of the HHG shipment including vehicles

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport – copy, including photo identification page
- ✓ Visa - copy, non diplomats
- ✓ German Resident Registration Confirmation Certificate (**ANMELDEBESTÄTIGUNG**) issued by the local authorities.
- ✓ Brief statement declaring no firearms, drugs or alcohol is contained in the shipment
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory List- in German or English
- ✓ BOL/AWB
- ✓ Customs Form 0350 – states goods will not be sold for 1 year
- ✓ Customs Declaration – provided to local agent in Germany
- ✓ Letter of Employment – must state length of contract (min. 1 year)
- ✓ Proof of Residency outside of Germany – documents must be less than 3 months old

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats are granted duty free entry provided there is an existing bilateral agreement between Germany and the origin country.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Diplomatic Entry Form 0349
- ✓ Certificate from Diplomatic organization in Germany

Returning German Nationals

Required Documents:

- ✓ Botschaftsbescheinigung – obtained from the German Embassy at origin, states time abroad and where employed
- ✓ Employment Letter – obtained from employer at origin stating length of employment with end or transfer date

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

The below products are dutiable and are allowed into Germany in limited quantities:

- ✓ Tobacco products - 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250 grams of tobacco
- ✓ Alcohol - 1 liter of spirits over 22 % vol. or 2 liters of fortified wine or sparkling wine
2 liters of still wine
- ✓ Perfume - 50 Grams; Eau de toilette: 250 ml

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Explosives & Ammunition or explosives of any kind
- ✓ Controlled drugs and Psychotropic Substances
- ✓ Pornography, obscene articles, publications, videos & software
- ✓ Medicines – refer to German Customs site in “Acknowledgements” below
- ✓ Radioactive materials
- ✓ Meats & dried plants
- ✓ Items of historical value – pre-Columbian art etc

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Dogs and cats must be free of disease and may be imported without a permit if the following conditions are met: Not more than 3 animals can be imported. The animals are not to be handed over to a third person after importation occurs. There is documented proof that the animal has been vaccinated against rabies at least 30 days, but not more than 12 months prior to entering the Federal Republic of Germany, or has been renewed within 12 months prior to entry. The vaccination must be certified by a veterinarian.

- **International Certificate of Vaccination**, in German or a certified translation must accompany the dog/cat. The certificate must be signed and sealed, and the seal must clearly bear the state, agency and address of the veterinarian
- **Health Certificate** must state that no case of rabies has been recorded within a 21-km (13 miles) radius of the animals' point of origin during the previous 90 days. This certificate is valid for 20 days for animals imported from non-European Union countries.
- Seeing-Eye dogs, military service dogs, dogs used by professional artists or animals in transit do not require a permit.

Required Documents:

- ✓ International Certificate of Vaccination, in German or with a certified translation.
- ✓ Certificate for International Transport, stating the animal's name, breed, sex, age and color
- ✓ Health Certificate
- ✓ Microchip – document proving microchip is implanted
- ✓ Import Permit – required for puppies & kittens under 3 months of age

Note: It is recommended that animals accompany the importer as “carry-on baggage.” Animals shipped as “unaccompanied baggage or freight” requires a permit from the Federal Republic of Germany Health Department.

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

All vehicles with a valid U.S. Registration must pay the German Road Tax in advance at port of entry, for a period of 1 year, based on vehicle/engine size/displacement and environmental emission. This amount will be credited later at the time of actual registration. This amount would normally not be billed until the shipper registers his/her vehicle at his place of residence at destination. One may be exempt from the road tax if:

- ✓ The U.S. Registration has expired prior to arrival of the vehicle at port of entry
- ✓ The client can provide a “De-Registration Certificate” from his origin Department of Motor Vehicles

A written statement with a valid stamp from the origin DMV in lieu of De-Registration Certificate”, will be accepted.

Vehicles less than 6 months in the client’s possession (from shipping date) a copy of the purchase/sales contract is required and the vehicle is subject to duties and taxes:

12% of CIF + VAT of 16% of CIF including the duty.

Vehicles and motorcycles must be inspected prior to licensing, comply with technical and environmental regulations and may require modifications.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Copy of passport – picture page
- ✓ Residence Registration Confirmation
- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - copy
- ✓ Proof of Ownership – bill of sale, commercial invoice: required for vehicles in the owner’s possession less than 6 months
- ✓ Insurance Card – from origin country
- ✓ Third Party Liability Insurance – initiated at Customs clearance

* German Citizens - Proof of absence from Germany for more than one year.

NOTES:

Safety & Security: US citizens are encouraged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, to stay current with the latest safety and security announcements dispersed by the Embassy in your area. Your enrollment can also help the Department of State reach your family and friends in case of emergency. Germany is considered a very safe country however there has been a rise in attacks by “skinheads” against people whom they believe to be foreigners or members of rival groups. US citizens have reported they were assaulted for racial reasons or because they appeared “foreign”. US citizens should exercise caution when congregating in areas known to be expatriate hangouts such as restaurants, bars and discos, as they could attract unwanted attention from groups such as the “skinheads”.

Crime: Violent crime is rare in Germany, but can occur, especially in larger cities or high-risk areas such as train stations. There have been several reports of aggravated assault against U.S. citizens in higher-risk urban areas. Take the same precautions that you would in any large city.

The Embassy has learned of some incidents of German lawyers, working on behalf of media companies, aggressively identifying individuals who are illegally downloading copyrighted content and then billing those people 1000 Euros or more per incident. If these cases are brought to court, German courts will likely rule in favor of the companies. You are strongly advised not to download media content except from reputable legal sites.

Currency: Credit cards are not accepted as widely as they are in the United States. However, automatic teller machines (ATMs) are widely available throughout Germany. They utilize many of the same account networks that are found in the United States, so it is possible in most cases to get Euros

directly from your U.S. bank, without paying inordinate currency exchange fees.

Health: Generally you are not allowed to receive prescription medication by mail without special permission. Most doctors, hospitals, and pharmacies do not accept credit cards.

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: As of this posting Germany does not impose ISPM15 regulations for wood packaging material (WPM).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Express Transport-Shipping Agency, GmbH

Embassy of Germany: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/Startseite.html>

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

German Customs: http://www1.zoll.de/english_version/a0_passenger_traffic/e0_vub/g0_medicines/index.html

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

International Association of Movers

The information presented herein is based on customs data available at the time of printing and is frequently subject to change without notice. It is the responsibility of the owner or importer of the household goods to comply with the current customs restrictions, regulations, and duties of the country to which the goods are imported. We strongly advise customers to contact the consulate or embassy of the destination country for the most current information on customs regulations, restrictions and duties for importing household goods, personal effects and vehicles.