



Importing Personal Property Into GERMANY

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

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

- **Returning German Citizens:** must have resided abroad for at least 12 consecutive months. (Sometimes this requirement is waived if returning for reasons beyond their control.)
- Shipper has given up his/her residence abroad.
- Shipper has established a new residence in Germany
- Shipper has used the household goods and personal effects abroad, for personal or professional purposes, for at least 6 months.
- Household goods and personal effects must be imported within 1 year of the shipper taking up residence in Germany. If additional time is required, proof must be submitted to Customs and goods must be moved to Germany as soon as possible, but no later than 3 years following shipper's change of residence.
- Household goods and personal effects must not be sold within 1 year following customs clearance.

Notes:

- Returning German Citizens who have resided abroad for less than 1 year may be required to pay tax & duty on items purchased overseas.
- Foreign diplomats are granted duty-free entry.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Customs declaration
- ✓ Copy of passport (including picture)
- ✓ German resident registration confirmation Certificate (**ANMELDEBESTÄTIGUNG**) issued by the local authorities.
- ✓ Brief statement by shipper declaring that no firearms or alcohol are contained in the shipment.
- ✓ Documented proof shipper has given up his/her usual residence abroad (documents showing termination of lease/employment, sale of home; or employment contract, or a statement from German employer on corporate letterhead verifying transfer.
- ✓ Proof shipper is establishing a new residence in Germany (copy of a rental agreement, correspondence with employer in Germany, or German police registration receipt).
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory translated into German.
- ✓ **German Citizens:** proof residing outside of Germany for at least 1 year (statement from employer, or tax receipts, or rent receipts).
- ✓ Original bill of lading/ air waybill

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Counterfeit, altered or imitation coins, paper money, banknotes, or securities.
- Books, drawings, carving and any other articles that will injure public security or morals.
- Illicit drugs and/or associated paraphernalia.
- Articles infringing upon rights in patents, utility-models, designs, trademarks, copyrights, or neighboring rights.
- Methylated spirits, pure alcohol, large quantities of foodstuffs, grape juice, fodder.

RESTRICTED ITEMS

- Tobacco
- Explosives and weapons
- Alcohol, for personal consumption, is allowed in “normal amounts” as determined by Customs. Duties and taxes will be incurred. A detailed inventory stating number of bottles, type of alcohol, volume per bottle and percentage of alcohol per bottle is required.
- Foodstuffs may enter duty-free, provided they are considered to be of “provisional quantity” and for personal use. Customs will decide what quantity is acceptable on a per case basis.

MOTOR VEHICLES

DUTY-FREE ENTRY IS PROVIDED IF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS ARE MET:

- The importer has resided abroad for at least 1 year.
- The vehicle is registered in the shipper’s name, and the shipper is the sole owner.
- The owner has had possession of the vehicle for at least 6 months. If the vehicle has been owned less than 6 months, a copy of the purchase/sales contract is required and the vehicle will be subject to duties and taxes. Approximate duties/taxes for automobiles: 10% of CIF + 16% of CIF & duty; and approximate duties/taxes for motorcycles: 7.2% of CIF + 16% of CIF & duty.
- The vehicle must be declared within 1 year of the importer taking residence in the country.
- The vehicle must not be sold within 1 year following customs clearance.
- The customs authorities are authorized to make an inspection at the domicile. Even if all documents are provided, the carrier cannot guarantee the clearance at the border.
- Vehicle must pass inspection by the vehicle safety authority (TUV). Certain modifications may be required to the vehicle to meet German standards. For more information contact:
 - TUV Rheinland of North America, Inc.
North American Headquarters
12 Commerce Road
Newton, CT 06470
ATTN: Car Export Department
Telephone: 203-426-0888
Fax: 203-426-4009
www.us.tuv.com

Note: TUV will not provide answers to your questions over the telephone. For a \$30 processing fee, they will mail you the conversion information. To process your request, the TUV needs the following information: manufacturer and type of vehicle, car body style (hatchback, coupe, etc.), and model year.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Copy of shipper’s passport (picture page)
- ✓ German residence registration confirmation
- ✓ **German Citizens:** proof of residing abroad for at least 1 year.
- ✓ Copy of Certificate of Title and Registration
- ✓ Original bill of lading / air waybill
- ✓ Copy of invoice
- ✓ Proof of insurance coverage after customs clearance
- ✓ Copy of purchase / sales contract – for vehicles less than 6 months old.

FIREARMS

- Germany has very stringent laws governing the importation of firearms and ammunition.
- The owner of the firearm must be a resident of Germany and possess a valid license (Waffenbesitzkarte or Waffenschein) issued by the appropriate German authorities (Landratsamt or Polizeipräsident). It is extremely difficult to obtain this license and the weapons must comply with German requirements.

Required Documents:

- ✓ License Waffenbesitzkarte or Waffenschein
- ✓ License from the country of origin to carry a firearm
- ✓ Owner's certificate
- ✓ Description of the weapon(s) to be imported

DOGS AND CATS

Dogs and cats free of disease may be imported without a permit if the following conditions are met:

- No more than 3 animals are to be imported – unless there is a litter and then the dam and the litter, less than 3 months old, may be imported together.
- The animals are not to be handed over to a third person after importation.
- 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 Germany, or has been renewed within 12 months prior to entry. The vaccination must be certified by a veterinarian.
- Seeing-Eye dogs, military service dogs, dogs used by professional artists, or animals in-transit do not require a permit.
- Certain breeds have been placed on a “Dangerous Dogs” list and have certain restrictions placed upon them according to the state regulations. Certain states require these breeds of dogs to be leashed and muzzled in public places. The following breeds are banned from importation: Pitbull Terriers, Bull Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, and Staffordshire Bull Terriers.

Notes:

- It is recommended that animals accompany the importer as “carry-on.”
- Dogs and cats over 3 months old from Great Britain and Ireland are permitted entry into Germany without rabies vaccination, but must be immediately vaccinated upon arrival in Germany.

Required Documents:

- ✓ A valid **International Certificate of Vaccination**, in the German language 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 veterinary surgeon.
- ✓ A **Health Certificate** must accompany the animal stating the dates of examination, and that the animal is free from epidemic diseases and rabies. It must also state that no case of rabies has been recorded within a 21-km (13 miles) radius of the animal's point of origin during the previous 90 days. This certificate is valid for 20 days for animals imported from non-European Union countries.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- German Consulates United States, www.germany-info.org/relaunch/info/consular_services/customs/moving.html, May 2007
- Express Transport-Shipping Agency, GmbH, www.etsa-germany.de/indexflaengl.htm, 2007.

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.