



Importing Personal Property into

GERMANY

IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

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

Non-German citizens and returning German citizens who have resided abroad for at least 12 consecutive months 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 might have to pay duties & taxes on any items purchased overseas. In certain instances, the one year requirement may be waived if the shipper is returning for reasons beyond their control.

Other requirements include:

- The importer has resided at least one year abroad.
- The household goods and personal effects have been used abroad for personal or professional purposes by the shipper for at least 6 months.
- The household goods and personal effects must be declared within one year of the importer taking residence in Germany.
- 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.
- You will have to pay duty on liquor and tobacco.
- Household goods and personal effects must not be sold within one year following customs clearance.

Note:

- Foreign Diplomats are granted duty-free entry.
- All duty-free shipments must be labeled with the following statement, “No alcohol, tobacco or firearms are contained in shipment.”

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ✓ Customs Declaration
- ✓ Copy of passport (including picture)
- ✓ German Resident Registration Confirmation Certificate (**ANMELDEBESTÄTIGUNG**) issued by the local authorities
- ✓ Documented proof you have given up your usual residence abroad including termination of your lease/employment, sale of your home; employment contract or a statement from your German employer on corporate letterhead verifying your transfer.
- ✓ Proof you are establishing a new residence in Germany (copy of a rental agreement, correspondence with employer in Germany, German police registration receipt).
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory translated into German.
- ✓ German Citizens will need proof of having resided outside the Federal Republic of Germany for at least one year, which could include a statement from their employer, tax or rent receipts.
- ✓ Original Bill of Lading/Airway Bill

RESTRICTED/PROHIBITED ITEMS; IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES

RESTRICTED/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.
- Alcohol and tobacco.
- Explosives and weapons.
- Articles that infringe upon rights in patents, utility-models, designs, trademarks, or copyrights or neighboring rights.
- Methylated spirits, pure alcohol, large quantities of foodstuffs, grape juice, fodder.
- Meat of dogs, cats, foxes, badgers, monkeys, or horses that originate from Africa, Asia, Portugal, Spain, Turkey or the CIS.

IMPORTATION OF ALCOHOL:

“Normal amounts” as determined by customs, of alcoholic drink for personal consumption are allowed. Duties and taxes will be incurred.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ A detailed inventory stating the number of bottles, type of alcohol, volume per bottle, and percent of alcohol per bottle.

IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES:

Duty-free entry is provided if the following conditions are met:

- The importer has resided abroad for at least one year.
- The vehicle must be registered in the shipper's name. The shipper must be 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 it will be subject to duties and taxes.

- The vehicle must be declared within one year of the importer taking residence in the country.
 - The vehicle must not be sold within one 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 (T.U.V.). Certain modifications may be required to the vehicle to meet German standards. For more information contact:
 - TUV Rheinland of North America, Inc.
Automotive Technology
32553 Schoolcraft Road, Suite 100
Livonia, MI 48150
Telephone: 734-261-8881
Fax: 734-261-8929
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:

- ✓ Original Registration Certificate
- ✓ Copy of Title
- ✓ Original Bill of Lading /Airway Bill
- ✓ Copy of car license
- ✓ Copy of invoice
- ✓ Proof of insurance coverage after customs clearance
- ✓ Copy of purchase / sales contract – for vehicles less than 6 months old.

IMPORTING PETS AND FIREARMS

IMPORTATION OF DOGS AND CATS:

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

IMPORTATION OF DOGS AND CATS (CONTINUED):

- No more than 3 animals are being 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 Federal Republic of 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.

Note:

- 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 animals’ point of origin during the previous 90 days. This certificate is valid for 20 days for animals imported from non-European Union countries.

IMPORTATION OF 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
- ✓ A license from the country of origin to carry a firearm
- ✓ An owner’s certificate
- ✓ A description of the weapons to be imported.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- German Consulates United States, www.germany-info.org/relaunch/info/consular_services/customs/moving.html, May 2003.
- Express Transport-Shipping Agency, GmbH, www.etsa-germany.de/indexflaengl.htm, 2003.

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.