

Customs Information for

SWITZERLAND



PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED GOODS:

Drugs and narcotics are prohibited. There are restrictions on importation of firearms, ammunition, ivory, skins and food.

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS:

Household goods can be imported duty free providing that:

1. All items (including automobiles, aircrafts, boats etc.) have been used and owned by the importer for at least 6 months.
2. The importer continues to keep all items for their own and personal use (at least one year for automobiles).
3. The importation takes place during the 1 year period of transfer of the residence.
4. Any foreseen subsequent consignment must be reported and listed at the time of the first importation.

Up to 200 litres of alcohol below 25° can be imported duty and tax free and a maximum of 12 litres of alcohol over 25°.

Required documentation to be supplied prior to importation:

1. Immigrants personal customs declaration (Customs form 18.44 – 360 Relocations will supply this form).
2. Detailed inventory of the goods (in French, German or Italian – 360 Relocations will arrange a translation from English if required). New items must be listed and valued separately on the inventory.
3. Photostat copy of the passports basic data.
4. Lease or property title of the residence in Switzerland.
5. The Swiss residence permit (or equivalent official certificate).
6. Copy of the registration card and licence of motor vehicle.

Vehicles:

Cars may be imported duty free provided that the owner has used them for at least 6 months overseas. New cars are subject to VAT, duty and statistical tax.

Pets:

Dogs and cats do not require quarantine provided that they have been vaccinated against rabies at least 30 days before. A certificate to this effect must be produced together with a copy of the passport.

Under certain circumstances, when these documents cannot all be met at the time the shipment is being cleared, it is possible to obtain a temporary entry. In such cases it is required to put up a bond with Swiss customs for as long as the entry is not finalised. The missing document has to be presented within 6 months. Please note that customs will charge additional cost for the temporary clearance, around SFr.100.00-300.00.



Unofficial translation of: article 13 of the Ordinance relating to the Customs Act (CA)

¹ An immigrant's used household effects which are intended for his/her continued personal use are admitted duty-free (Section 14 (8) CA).

² Immigrants are individuals who give up their domicile abroad and establish a domicile in Switzerland.

³ Household effects are goods which have been used abroad by the immigrant for his/her personal needs or for his/her profession or trade for at least six months and which he/she will personally continue to use in Switzerland, as well as normal household provisions in reasonable quantities including alcoholic beverages with an alcohol content of more than 25% proof, but not exceeding 12 liters. Duty-free entry for motorcars, motorboats and aero planes will only be granted on condition that the immigrant undertakes to use them in the same way as hitherto for at least one year after customs clearance. In the case of vehicles which have been admitted duty-free, but are sold prior to the expiration of the given period, the Federal Department of Finance may grant a reduction in the amount of duty which is subsequently due or exemption from duty, taking into consideration the age of the vehicles.

⁴ The household effects must be imported at the actual time of the transfer of the domicile to Switzerland. If the immigrant proves that he is prevented from doing so, duty-free entry may be granted at a later date after the obstacle has ceased to exist, but not later than three years after the transfer of domicile. For household effects imported after this period the duty may be reduced as appropriate if the delay can be justified.

⁵ Exemption from duty must be applied for at the time of importation. Subsequent consignments must be declared at the time of the first importation.

⁶ Household goods, personal effects and household provisions belonging to persons who have resided abroad for at least one year without giving up their domicile in Switzerland will be treated as household effects.

⁷ Household goods and personal effects belonging to persons domiciled abroad who rent or acquire a house or flat in Switzerland exclusively for their personal use will be treated as household effects provided that, prior to the acquisition or rental of the house or flat, they have been in use abroad for at least six months in the person's own household and that the importation takes place at the actual time of acquisition or rental of the premises.

Procedure and observations

1. Exemption from payment of duties must be applied for at the time of importation on the form "Declaration/Application for clearance of household effects" (sheets 2 and 3).
2. The following must be submitted to the Swiss Customs Office with the form:
 - a) a list of the goods to be imported; articles which do not fulfill the conditions for duty-free clearance should be itemized at the end of the list as "goods for normal customs clearance";
 - b) the Swiss residence permit or assurance of a residence permit (for foreign immigrants coming to Switzerland);
 - c) the official foreign registration certificate for motorcars, motorboats and aero planes;
 - d) proof that a house or an apartment has been purchased or rented or evidence that this is available (in the case of items to furnish a second residence, see also section 13 (7) above).

The Customs Office can request further documents to check the right to exemption from duties.

3. Persons who are not present at the time of the customs clearance should hand the form "Declaration/Application for clearance of household effects" and documents mentioned in paragraph 2 to their representative (train, haulage company, carrier etc) for submission to the Customs Office.
4. Subsequent consignments must be declared on a separate list to the Customs Office when the first consignment is cleared through customs.
5. Household effects can be cleared only at certain times; clearance takes place on working days during the hours fixed for the clearance of merchandise.
6. Exemption from duty on items to furnish a secondary residence can only be considered if the country of origin grants reciprocal rights.
7. The authorities reserve the right to apply import restrictions and import prohibitions, especially of an economic or financial nature and in the field of veterinary police and security, as well as measures concerning plant protection and species protection.
8. If the Customs Office has doubts as to the right to duty-free clearance, the household goods can be provisionally cleared through customs, in which case a guarantee must be given for the import dues.

NB: - Any person who obtains exemption from duties without complying with the conditions or who prematurely transfers to a third party vehicles which he/she has undertaken to use himself/herself, without first presenting them for customs clearance is guilty of an offence.

- A reproduction of the enclosed declaration / customs clearance application, obtained through photocopying, fax or Internet, may be used provided it is signed in original and presented in duplicate to the Customs Office.

Swiss Federal Customs Administration

Déclaration/Demande de dédouanement pour effets de déménagement
(Declaration/Application for clearance of household effects)

No. _____

Le/La soussigné(e) (The undersigned)

Nom (Surname) _____ Prénom (First name) _____
Date de naissance (Date of birth) _____ Profession (Profession) _____
Etat civil (Marital status) _____ Nationalité (Nationality) _____
Adresse à l'étranger (Address abroad) _____
Adresse en Suisse (Address in Switzerland) _____

importe des effets de déménagement en relation avec (is importing household effects in connection with)

le transfert de son domicile de l'étranger en territoire douanier suisse (transfer of domicile to Swiss Customs territory from abroad)
Date du transfert de domicile legal (Date of legal transfer of domicile) _____
Titre de séjour suisse ou attestation du transfert de domicile (Swiss residence permit or transfer of domicile certificate)
No (No.) _____ établi(e) par (issued by) _____
Personnes co-immigrantes (Co-immigrating persons) _____

le retour en Suisse après un séjour à l'étranger d'un an au moins sans abandon du domicile en Suisse
(return to Switzerland following a period of domicile abroad of at least one year without relinquishing domicile in Switzerland)
Date du départ à l'étranger (Date of departure abroad) _____ Date du retour (Date of return) _____

l'aménagement d'un appartement/d'une maison, avec maintien du domicile à l'étranger
(furnishing a flat/house in Switzerland while maintaining domicile abroad)

Locataire (Tenant) contrat du _____ Locaux disponibles dès le _____
 Propriétaire (Owner) (contract dated) _____ (Premises available from) _____

et déclare (declares that)

avoir utilisé à l'étranger, durant six mois au moins, les objets mentionnés dans la liste ci-jointe et vouloir continuer à les utiliser lui-même (elle-même) en Suisse
(he/she has used the goods referred to in the enclosed list for at least six months while abroad and intends to continue using them himself/herself in Switzerland)
vouloir consommer dans son propre ménage les provisions de ménage admises en franchises de redevances (art. 13, al. 3 et 6 de l'ordonnance relative à la loi sur les douanes);
(he/she intends to consume the provisions imported duty-free in his/her own household (art. 13, para. 3 and 6 of the Ordinance relating to the Customs Act);

s'engage, en outre (and furthermore commits himself/herself)

à continuer d'utiliser lui-même (elle-même) durant une année au moins, le(s) véhicule(s) admis en franchise de redevances en qualité d'effet de déménagement et, durant ce délai, à ne pas le(s) céder à titre gratuit ou contre paiement à des tiers sans dédouanement préalable.
(to continue using the vehicle(s) imported duty-free as household effects for at least one year and not to dispose of it/them to a third party during this period, whether free of charge or against payment, without seeking prior clearance from the Customs authorities)

Marque et type (Make and model) _____ No du châssis (Chassis no.) _____
1. _____
2. _____
Lieu et date (Place and date) _____ Signature (Signature) _____

Demande de dédouanement en franchise de redevances (Application for duty-free clearance)

Importation intégrale (Complete importation) Importation partielle selon liste séparée (Partial importation as per separate list)
Document précédent (Previous document) _____
Marques, nos, nombre et genre de colis (Ref. No., no. of items and type of packages) _____
Poids kg (Weight in kg) _____ Valeur totale estimée en fr. s. (Estimated total value in CHF) _____
L'envoi subséquent sera importé vers le (Subsequent consignment will be imported on or around) _____
Lieu et date (Place and date) _____ Signature du déclarant (Signature of declarant) _____

Pour le bureau de douane (for official use)

Attestation du dédouanement selon l'art. 13 OLD

Mobilier	Vehicule 1	Vehicule 2

The English translation of the present form has no legal force; the original text in one of the official languages remains the authoritative version.

La traduction anglaise de la présente formule n'a qu'une valeur indicative; seule la version dans l'une des langues officielles fait foi.

**DECLARATION FOR FREE IMPORTATION OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS INTO
SWITZERLAND
(to be enclosed with swiss import customs form 18.44)**

I, undersigned,, declare that I desire to import into Switzerland with the taxes and duties free all my goods, as per enclosed packing list.

- I declare : the mentioned goods are used and in my possession, or in my family's, since at least 6 months prior to my official date of entry into Switzerland.
- I declare : my forthcoming move contains some new articles (which will be taxable with VAT and duties) and enclose a **detailed list indicating their value or the commercial invoices. I confirm that I will pay the charges for the taxes (7,6%) and the duties**
- I declare : my household goods do not contain any alcohol or wine
- I declare : my household goods contain (**quantity to be mentioned**) _____ liters of alcohol (max. allowance 12L) and _____ liters of wine (max. allowance 200L).
- I declare : my household goods do not contain any items restricted or prohibited by the Swiss customs authorities such as : ivory ornaments, turtle, snake, crocodile, fire-arms, ...)
- I declare : I would like to import restricted items and enclose the import licence or CITES form duly stamped by country of origin.

Contact Removal company for any additional information immediately.

- I declare : I will import only one shipment and do not request any reserves from customs authorities for further shipments.
- I declare : I import a partial move and that I will have additional shipment

please provide a list of all additional shipments before the import customs clearance of the first one (DELAY FOR SECOND IMPORT : ONE YEAR !)

- I declare : I do not want to import a car or a motorcycle
- I declare : I will import a car or a motorcycle

please provide a copy of the registration card for each vehicles !

Mark _____ Model _____ Chassis No _____

Mark _____ Model _____ Chassis No _____

I declare that I have completed and signed the form truly and that all replies are exact.

Importer's signature _____ Date/locality _____

NB : kindly indicate with an « X » the corresponding reply and complete when necessary.

IMPORTATION OF A CAR INTO SWITZERLAND

Clients changing residence from abroad to Switzerland are allowed to import a used vehicle, duty free, providing that:

- ✓ You bought and registered the vehicle under your name, at least 6 months prior to your official date of change of residence.
- ✓ The official date of change of residence is the date that will be stated on the Swiss Work Permit as the date of entry into Switzerland.
- ✓ Importation of the effects takes place within a one year period from the date of change of residence.

The documentation required:

- Title and/or registration card
- Valid insurance certificate (from abroad or from a Swiss insurance company)

In addition to these, all the other documents for the importation of used household effects will be required.

Please note that some changes to the vehicle may be necessary in order to comply with Swiss regulations. Please contact the car dealer for further details.

NEW VEHICLES, OR VEHICLES LESS THAN 6 MONTHS OLD IN CUSTOMERS POSSESSION:

All vehicles meeting the above criteria will attract customs duty and VAT:

Customs Duty:	approx. CHF .15 per 100 kgs
VAT:	7.6% on customs assessed Swiss value of vehicle
Customs Tax:	4% on customs assessed Swiss value of vehicle

Most European vehicles will conform to Swiss regulations on noise, pollution, security etc. However, please check with your dealer to confirm prior to importation. The cost to convert a vehicle to Swiss specification can be expensive.