



Importing Personal Property into

SWITZERLAND

IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

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

- Goods have been in the shipper's possession and used by the shipper for at least 6 months.
- Importation takes place within a reasonable period after change of residence.

Notes:

- Subsequent shipments are possible within 3 years of shipper's arrival, but have to be declared with inventory when clearing the first shipment.
- Shipper must be in Switzerland and take up residency before customs clearance to qualify for duty-free status.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Passport, copies of first 3 pages
- ✓ Customs Import Form 18.44
- ✓ Dated and signed, detailed inventory in German, French or Italian. Inventory should include contents of current shipment and shipments planned for later.
- ✓ Swiss Residence Permit or equivalent official certificate.
- ✓ Copy of lease agreement of apartment or house in Switzerland including the first page with the address and the last page with signatures.
- ✓ "Schriftenempfangsschein" – receipt for depositing papers at Town Hall
- ✓ Form "Erklärung/Abfertigungsantrag für Libersiedlungsgur" or Owner's Declaration of Personal Household Goods

✓ For **Returning Nationals:**

- ✓ Attestation of Arrival provided by the "Contôle de l'Habitant" of destination town.
- ✓ Proof of residing outside of Switzerland for over a year, to include either a copy of a military booklet, an attestation of Swiss Consulate, etc.

✓ For **Foreigners:**

- ✓ Work Permit or copy of Swiss pink Form A or "Assurance d'autorisation de séjour" provided by The Citizens Control ("Contôle de l'Habitant") of destination town.
- ✓ Residence Permit

RESTRICTED/DUTIBALE ITEMS:

- ✓ New items are subject to duties and taxes. Duties for new items are based on weight. New items must be declared separately from used goods and invoices must be provided.
- ✓ Alcoholic beverages are restricted to duty-free import of 200 liters of wine or 12 liters of spirits. Include quantities on the inventory. These items should be loaded for easy access for inspection.
- ✓ Firearms are difficult to import and require an import permit from the Military Department in Bern and an arms permit issued by the police department in Swiss town of residence. Both permits must be obtained prior to importation.
- ✓ Plants are only allowed if part of a household goods shipment.
- ✓ Importation of perishable food is not recommended. Food items should be limited to avoid delays in customs clearance.

PROHIBITED ITEMS; IMPORTING WORK OF ART, ANTIQUES, MOTOR VEHICLES AND PETS

PROHIBITED ITEMS:

- ✓ Drugs and narcotics
- ✓ Weapons
- ✓ Ammunition
- ✓ Anti-radar equipment
- ✓ Animals and animal products from protected or endangered species.

IMPORTATION OF WORKS OF ART OR ANTIQUES:

- Duty-free, without special documentation, if part of a household goods shipment.
- If not part of a household goods shipment, duty applies.
- Antiques incur taxes, same as new furniture.

IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES:

- Vehicles imported by returning Swiss citizens or brought as part of a household goods shipment are admitted duty-free, if in the possession of the shipper for at least 6 months.
- Shipper must sign a declaration not to sell or otherwise dispose of the vehicle for one year after importation, or duty and taxes will apply.
- Vehicle is subject to a careful inspection by the Swiss Motor Vehicles Bureau and a series of modifications may be necessary for American models. Shipper is responsible for these modifications.
- Vehicle may retain foreign plates for one year and then shipper will be sent a letter from the Canton Motor Registration office regarding the need to take the official service test, obtain Swiss plates, road tax and insurance. Temporary plates may be obtained and are effective for 2 years. After the 2 years are up, you must pay duty.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Purchase invoice or contract of sale
- ✓ Registration Card – dated at least 6 months prior to date on Work Permit.
- ✓ Title
- ✓ Swiss Insurance Receipt
- ✓ Valid Driver's License
- ✓ For cars with German plates: the "Kraftfahrzeugbrief"
- ✓ For cars with Italian plates: the "Foglio complementare"

IMPORTATION OF PETS:

- Dogs and cats may enter duty-free if proper documentation accompanies them.
- Accompanied pets don't require a border veterinary inspection, except if there are more than 3 pets being imported.
- Dogs must be licensed once in Switzerland, which costs a small fee.

Notes:

- Switzerland is a rabies-free country
- All dogs over 6 months old must be registered with your local municipality. An international vaccination certificate must be presented to obtain this license.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR IMPORTING PETS

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Veterinary Rabies Vaccination Certificate in German, French, Italian or English, declaring the vaccination occurred at least 30 days but not more than one year prior to importation. The certificate must contain the following information:
 - ✓ Name and address of owner
 - ✓ Description of pet including sex, breed, age and color
 - ✓ Confirmation the pet underwent a veterinarian examination prior to vaccination and is in good health
 - ✓ Date of rabies vaccination, type of vaccine, manufacturer's name and lot number of vaccine
 - ✓ Signature of veterinary surgeon
- ✓ Pets that are exempt from the rabies vaccination certificate include:
 - ✓ Cats and dogs from a rabies-free country that forbids rabies vaccinations.
 - ✓ Puppies and kittens up to 5 months old from most European countries, the U.S., Canada, Australia and New Zealand.
- ✓ For additional information on the importation of pets, contact:
 - ✓ **Federal Veterinary Office**
Schwarzenburgerstrasse 161
3097 Liebfeld-Berne
Telephone: +41 0 31 323 8502

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

- Pelichet S.A., 2003
- Harsch Transports, 2003.
- Living in Switzerland, <http://www3.itu.int/embassy/US-embassy/miscella/living.html>, 2003.
- Switzerland is Yours, Relocating to Switzerland, <http://www.switzerland.isyours.com/e/immigration/relocation/index.html>, 2002.
- Importing a Car into Switzerland, <http://www.mapsupport.com/thedatabase/impex/impertgvehswi.htm>, January 1996.

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.