

Import Customs guide SWITZERLAND



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| GOODS | DOCUMENTS REQUIRED | CUSTOMS PRESCRIPTIONS | REMARKS |
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| Removal goods | <p>All importers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Original signed Customs form 18.44. ▪ Copy of passport (picture page). ▪ Inventory of the goods translated in one of the official languages: French, German, Italian or even English. ▪ Copy of lease or property title for the Swiss apartment or house (countersigned) ▪ Copy of registration certificate from the local town hall. <p>Additional for immigrants from the 25 EU-countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A copy of residence permit or approval letter from the local immigration department. “Zusicherung der Aufenthaltsbewilligung” / “Ermächtigung zur Visumerteilung” OR Employment contract (countersigned). <p>Additional for foreign Non-EU immigrants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employment contract (countersigned). ▪ A copy of residence permit or approval letter from the local immigration department. “Zusicherung der Aufenthaltsbewilligung” / “Ermächtigung zur Visumerteilung”. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Duty free entry provided when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The imported goods have been in use and possession by client for at least 6 months prior to shipping. ▪ The import of the removal goods must take place within 24 months from change of residence. ▪ 2nd or additional shipments must be announced upon the main import of household goods and must take place within 24 months from change of residence. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Your destination agent will provide the Swiss customs form 18.44. Copies / PDF's are not accepted – original signature is mandatory. ▪ Customs authorities are permitted to request further, not listed documents during the import clearance (e.g. working contract, de-registration at origin residence, etc.) ▪ The customs form is available online under: https://www.ezv.admin.ch/ezv/en/home/information-individuals/personal-property--students--holiday-homes--getting-married-and-/importation-into-switzerland/moving--household-effects-.html |

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| Diplomats removals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Application for free entry on form 14.60 to be made by Embassy to the Customs Office of importation as requested. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Application to be forwarded to the nearest customs office i.e. to Genève-La Praille or Bern, where the formalities for duty-free importation will be carried out. ▪ Import of alcohol is allowed for diplomats but limited to annual quota agreed by the local Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the respective embassies in the country. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Customs form on file with most foreign Embassies and Consulates. ▪ Copies are not accepted – original signature is mandatory. |
| Wedding trousseaux | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Customs form 18.45. ▪ Inventory of the goods. ▪ Marriage certificate. ▪ Residence permit for both partners (if non-Swiss citizens). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Duty free entry provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Items will be used for another 12 months. ▪ Shipment has to take place within 6 months of the civil marriage. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Your destination agent will provide the Swiss customs form 18.45. Copies are not accepted – original signature is mandatory. ▪ If used articles only are imported: clearance as “removal goods” with documents as stipulated above. |
| Inheritance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Customs form 18.46. ▪ Inventory of the goods with supporting legal declaration or will confirming that the goods to be imported are the rightful property of the inheritor. ▪ Certificate of death or equivalent document confirming the last residence of the deceased. ▪ Passport copy of inheritor. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Duty free entry provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inheritor has residence in Switzerland at the time of death and at the time of import. ▪ Only used household goods and effects can be imported duty-free as inheritance goods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Your destination agent will provide the Swiss customs form 18.46. Copies are not accepted – original signature is mandatory. |
| New furniture and household goods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Purchase Invoice. ▪ Forms EUR 1 certificate of origin where applicable, to allow duty-free entry (EEC/EFTA-countries) or entry at reduced rates from some other countries. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All new items are subject to duties and taxes payment. ▪ Duty is charged by weight. ▪ Taxes: VAT is charged at 7.7%. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Must be declared separately according to customs tariff headings. ▪ Individual weights on invoice or packing list are helpful. |
| Art work | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inventory list showing the art work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Name. ▪ Year of production. ▪ Author/artist. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Duty free without special documents if part of a removal. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If not part of a removal, same as under ‘new’ furniture, but duty and tax-free when imported by the artist himself. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Value (if possible). Information is required for statistical data. | | |
| Antiques | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ See under Works of art. ▪ If not part of a removal: invoice with confirmation that they are over 100 years old. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Antiques can be imported duty free but are liable to VAT taxes, see under 'new' furniture. | |
| Motor vehicles (cars, boats, planes etc.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Documents as mentioned under "removal goods" plus: ▪ Purchase contract/receipt. ▪ Original title or registration card | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Duty free entry provided when : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The imported vehicle has been in use and possession by client for at least 6 months prior to shipping. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Third party liability insurance is mandatory for the registration and use of a vehicle on Swiss roads. ▪ Vehicle cannot be used without number plate (foreign or Swiss). ▪ Customs may ask for proof of the first registration/official use of car. |
| Alcoholic beverages (wine, beer etc.) (up to 25 % proof) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To be declared on separate inventory. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Duty free if part of removal and in a reasonable quantity appropriate to the amount of removal goods (max. 200 litres of wine). ▪ Import of alcohol is allowed for diplomats but limited to annual quota agreed by the local Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the respective embassies in the country. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Load to allow easy access for inspection. If bought especially for export and not in owners possession prior to the move, dutiable, and may be subject to import quotas. |
| Strong liquor (over 25% proof) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Must be declared on separate inventory. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Duty free up to 12 litres. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For additional quantity, very heavy duty and taxes are applied (over SFr.50. - per bottle). |
| Firearms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exact description on inventory make, model, calibre etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some require import permit to be obtained from Federal Authorities in Bern, others not, depending on the exact type. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To be loaded to allow easy access for customs inspection. |

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| Plants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None, if in reasonable quantity together with removal, plant health certificate helpful. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If not together with removal or large quantities, health certificate necessary. | |
| Pets (dogs, cats, ferrets) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 15 digit ISO Microchip. ▪ Identity card, Passport or EU Veterinary certificate if no pet ID card available in the country of origin. ▪ Rabies vaccination, effective 21 days after vaccination until the end of the period of validity (as indicated by the vaccine manufacturer). ▪ Additionally, if coming from a country where urban rabies is known: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Blood test - required at least 30 days after rabies vaccination. At least 4 months must elapse between last rabies vaccination and entry into the country. ▪ Import permit. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ List of countries where urban rabies is known: https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/en/home/tiere/reisen-mit-heimtieren/hunde-katzen-und-frettchen.html ▪ If relocating with a dog that has a docked tail or ears, customs form 18.44 and supporting documents as per household goods requirements are necessary. |
| Pets (birds) | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requirements for birds can be found under: https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/en/home/tiere/reisen-mit-heimtieren/voegel.html |
| Fumigation of imported and exported wooden materials | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effective October 2010 the Swiss Government adopted ISPM-15 standards for wood packaging. ▪ Wooden packing material imported from outside of Europe and from Portugal are subject to heated treatment proofed with an according ISPM Seal. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The wooden packing material must be marked in a visible location on each article, if possible on two opposite sides of the package. ▪ Currently the random samples will only be examined at the Swiss customs boarder in Basel. ▪ Consult www.spedlogswiss.com. |