

# Customs guide SWITZERLAND



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GOODS	DOCUMENTS REQUIRED	CUSTOMS PRESCRIPTIONS	REMARKS
<p><b>Removal goods</b></p>	<p><b>All importers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Original signed Customs form 18.44.</li> <li>▪ Copy of passport (picture page).</li> <li>▪ Inventory of the goods translated in one of the official languages: French, German, Italian or even English.</li> <li>▪ Copy of lease or property title for the Swiss apartment or house.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional for returning Swiss and immigrants from the 25 EU-countries:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Copy of registration certificate from the local town hall.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional for foreign Non-EU immigrants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A copy of residence permit or approval letter from the local immigration department. "Zusicherung der Aufenthaltsbewilligung" / "Ermächtigung zur Visumerteilung".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Duty free entry provided when:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The imported goods have been in use and possession by client for at least 6 months prior to shipping.</li> <li>▪ The import of the removal goods must take place within 24 months from change of residence.</li> <li>▪ 2<sup>nd</sup> or additional shipments must be announced upon the main import of household goods and must take place within 24 months from change of residence.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Your destination agent will provide the Swiss customs form 18.44. Copies / PDF's are not accepted – original signature is mandatory.</li> <li>▪ Customs authorities are permitted to request further, not listed documents during the import clearance (e.g. working contract, de-registration at origin residence, etc.)</li> <li>▪ The customs form is available online under: <a href="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">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</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Diplomats' removals</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Application for free entry on form 14.60 to be made by Embassy to the Customs Office of importation as requested.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Customs form on file with most foreign Embassies and Consulates.</li> <li>▪ Copies are not accepted – original signature is mandatory.</li> </ul>

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<b>Wedding trousseaux</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Customs form 18.45.</li> <li>▪ Inventory of the goods.</li> <li>▪ Marriage certificate.</li> <li>▪ Residence permit for both partners (if non-Swiss citizens).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Duty free entry provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Items will be used for another 12 months.</li> <li>▪ Shipment has to take place within 6 months of the civil marriage.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Your destination agent will provide the Swiss customs form 18.45. Copies are not accepted – original signature is mandatory.</li> <li>▪ If used articles only are imported: clearance as “removal goods” with documents as stipulated above.</li> </ul>
<b>Inheritance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Customs form 18.46.</li> <li>▪ Inventory of the goods with supporting legal declaration or will confirming that the goods to be imported are the rightful property of the inheritor.</li> <li>▪ Certificate of death or equivalent document confirming the last residence of the deceased.</li> <li>▪ Passport copy of inheritor.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Duty free entry provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inheritor has residence in Switzerland at the time of death and at the time of import.</li> <li>▪ Only used household goods and effects can be imported duty-free as inheritance goods</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Your destination agent will provide the Swiss customs form 18.46. Copies are not accepted – original signature is mandatory.</li> </ul>
<b>New furniture and household goods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Purchase Invoice.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All new items are subject to duties and taxes payment.</li> <li>▪ Duty is charged by weight.</li> <li>▪ Taxes: VAT is charged at 8.0%.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Must be declared separately according to customs tariff headings.</li> <li>▪ Individual weights on invoice or packing list are helpful.</li> </ul>
<b>Art work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inventory list showing the art work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Name.</li> <li>▪ Year of production.</li> <li>▪ Author/artist.</li> <li>▪ Value (if possible).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Information is required for statistical data.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Duty free without special documents if part of a removal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If not part of a removal, same as under ‘new’ furniture, but duty and tax-free when imported by the artist himself.</li> </ul>
<b>Antiques</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ See under Works of art.</li> <li>▪ If not part of a removal: invoice with confirmation that they are over 100 years old.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Antiques can be imported duty free but are liable to VAT taxes, see under ‘new’ furniture.</li> </ul>	

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<b>Motor vehicles (cars, boats, planes etc.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Documents as mentioned under “removal goods” plus:</li> <li>▪ Purchase contract/receipt.</li> <li>▪ Original title or registration card</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Duty free entry provided when :               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The imported vehicle has been in use and possession by client for at least 6 months prior to shipping.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Third party liability insurance is mandatory for the registration and use of a vehicle on Swiss roads.</li> <li>▪ Vehicle cannot be used without number plate (foreign or Swiss).</li> <li>▪ Customs may ask for proof of the first registration/official use of car.</li> </ul>
<b>Alcoholic beverages (wine, beer etc.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To be declared on separate inventory.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Duty free if part of removal and in a reasonable quantity appropriate to the amount of removal goods (max. 200 litres of wine).</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Strong liquor (over 25% proof)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Must be declared on separate inventory.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Duty free up to 12 litres.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For additional quantity, very heavy duty and taxes are applied (over SFr.50. - per bottle).</li> </ul>
<b>Firearms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exact description on inventory make, model, calibre etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Some require import permit to be obtained from Federal Authorities in Bern, others not, depending on the exact type.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To be loaded to allow easy access for customs inspection.</li> </ul>
<b>Plants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ None, if in reasonable quantity together with removal, plant health certificate helpful.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If not together with removal or large quantities, health certificate necessary.</li> </ul>	
<b>Pets (dogs, cats, ferrets)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 15 digit ISO Microchip.</li> <li>▪ Identity card, Passport or EU Veterinary certificate if no pet ID card available in the country of origin.</li> <li>▪ Rabies vaccination, effective 21 days after vaccination until the end of the period of validity (as indicated by the vaccine manufacturer).</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ List of countries where urban rabies is known:  <a href="https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/en/home/tiere/reisen-mit-heimtieren/hunde-katzen-und-frettchen.html">https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/en/home/tiere/reisen-mit-heimtieren/hunde-katzen-und-frettchen.html</a></li> <li>▪ If relocating with a dog that has a docked tail or ears, customs form 18.44 and supporting documents as per household</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Additionally, if coming from a country where urban rabies is known:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ Import permit.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		goods requirements are necessary.
<b>Pets (birds)</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Requirements for birds can be found under: <a href="https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/en/home/tiere/reisen-mit-heimtieren/voegel.html">https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/en/home/tiere/reisen-mit-heimtieren/voegel.html</a></li> </ul>
<b>Fumigation of imported and exported wooden materials</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Effective October 2010 the Swiss Government adopted ISPM-15 standards for wood packaging.</li> <li>▪ Wooden packing material imported from outside of Europe and from Portugal are subject to heated treatment proofed with an according ISPM Seal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The wooden packing material must be marked in a visible location on each article, if possible on two opposite sides of the package.</li> <li>▪ Currently the random samples will only be examined at the Swiss customs boarder in Basel.</li> <li>▪ Consult <a href="http://www.spedlogswiss.com">www.spedlogswiss.com</a>.</li> </ul>