

Arrival

After passing through passport screening, you will arrive in the customs area. Choose either the red exit (goods to declare) or the green exit (nothing to declare).



If you are arriving from an EU member state or are not carrying more than the permitted duty-free allowances, please use the green exit when passing through customs.

If you have more than the permitted duty-free allowances with you, please use the red exit when passing through customs and declare the goods.

Goods intended for commercial or trading purposes must be declared regardless of their value. This also applies to goods subject to restrictions (e.g. narcotics, weapons, ammunition and protected plant and animal species, parts thereof or goods produced using such species).

Conditions

If you are entering Germany from

- a non-EU country
- a special territories (such as the Canary Islands or the British Channel Islands)
- Island of Heligoland

The goods you are carrying can be brought into Germany tax/duty-free if they meet the following conditions:

1. You are carrying the goods.

Goods are considered to be "carried by the traveller" if they are imported using the same route as the traveller, which also includes goods forwarded or sent in advance through the rail company when travelling by train. If your luggage is being sent in advance or forwarded by mail though, it is not seen as being carried by you.

2. The goods are for your personal use or consumption.

The goods are intended exclusively for your personal use or consumption, for members of your household, or as a gift. This means that you may not bring in goods for other people for a consideration

The Canary Islands, the French overseas departments and the British Channel Islands are within EU customs territory, but do not lie within the taxation territory for purposes of consumption and value added taxes. Consequently, the import of goods from these areas by travellers is limited to the quantity and value restrictions mentioned above. This also applies to purchases made tax-free or at a reduced tax rate at duty free shops or on board aircraft operating within the EU.

Restrictions on quantities and value

1. Tobacco products, if the importer is at least 17 years old:

- 200 cigarettes or
- 100 cigarillos or
- 50 cigars or
- 250 grammes tobacco or
- a proportionate combination of these goods

2. Alcohol and beverages containing alcohol, if the importer is at least 17 years old:

- 1 litre of spirit drinks of an alcohol strength by volume exceeding 22 % or
- undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80 % or higher or
- 2 litres of alcohol and alcoholic beverages of an alcohol strength by volume up to 22 % or
- a proportionate combination of these goods and
- 4 litres of non-sparkling wine and
- 16 litres of beer

3. Medicinal products

- the quantity required for the traveller's personal needs

4. Motor fuels

- for each motor vehicle the quantity in the vehicle's main tank and up to 10 litres in a portable container

5. Other goods

- up to a value of 300 euros
- up to a value of 430 euros for air/sea travellers
- up to a value of 175 euros for travellers under 15 years of age

6. Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

To protect threatened plant and animal species, the customs authorities urge travellers not to purchase "living souvenirs" or products made from plants and animals, especially when visiting exotic countries! Even coral fragments, shells of giant clams, queen conches and other typical souvenirs of far-away places are covered by biodiversity protection laws! The fact that a product is sold in public at a stand or in a reputable shop is no indication that it is not an endangered species!

7. Beware of street vendors

Holidaymakers are often offered goods on the beach or elsewhere by street vendors who claim that a certain animal, plant or product is not subject to legal protection. They are not to be believed! Often they simply want to sell their goods. The trade in protected plants and animals or goods made from them is either completely illegal or permitted only under certain circumstances. Any violations are strictly prosecuted. In addition to having the goods confiscated, persons trying to take them through customs face large fines or even imprisonment.

8. Product piracy

Travellers often see clothing, bags, watches, cosmetics, sports memorabilia, spare parts and other brand-name products at popular holiday destinations. However, these bargains are usually much too good to be true. Instead of the popular labels, the goods often turn out to be cheaply made fake copies of the original products. Holidaymakers can only bring back small quantities of such goods for personal use. In all other cases the goods will be seized. For more information, please contact the customs and excise authorities.

9. Declaration of cash

Crossing the external borders of the European Union (EU):

When travelling to countries outside the EU and when entering the EU from such countries, travelers must submit a written declaration at Customs of all liquid funds carried (e.g. cash, shares, checks, interest-bearing securities) as of a total value of 10,000 euros. A form is available at every customs office or at www.zoll.de.

10. Indivisible items

Indivisible items (for example a garment or piece of jewelry) whose value exceeds the indicated duty free allowances. Duty is payable not only for the amount exceeding the duty-free limit, but for the entire value. All regulations apply only if the goods are in compliance with bans and restrictions on the import and transport of goods across international boundaries. Not duty free: There is no exemption to the payment of duties on goods whose characteristics or quantity indicate to customs and excise officers that they are being imported for trade.

Entering Germany from another EU member state

If you enter Germany from another EU member state you must observe any specific national provisions of that member state. There are other travellers' allowances for alcohol, tobacco and products containing coffee and energy products when you enter Germany from an EU member state:

- Alcohol, tobacco and products containing coffee
- Energy products

If the goods you are bringing with you exceed the travellers' allowance, you must pay import duties.

Specific provisions for air and sea travel

Travellers are not considered to be air or maritime passengers if they enter this country as passengers on an inland waterway vessel or on board any private, non-commercial aircraft or vessel. An aircraft or vessel is deemed to be non-commercial if it is being used by its owner or lessee. Travellers entering Germany from Switzerland across Lake Constance are not considered to be maritime passengers.

The exemption from duty in maritime travel depends on the waterway vessel having last called at a port outside the EU, or the port of a EU Member State's region where Regulations 2006/112 EC and 92/12/EEC do not apply.

Specific provisions for value limits

- Please note that there are restrictions on quantities and value that apply to particular groups of persons such as the residents of municipalities near a border or border commuters.

- The basis on which it is determined whether the value limits are being complied with or exceeded is the value of the goods including the foreign VAT.
- Several persons' value limits may not be added together.
- If an item or product is non-divisible, such as a leather jacket or a piece of jewellery, and its value exceeds the travellers' allowance, import duty must be paid on the total value of the product and not only on the portion of its value that exceeds the travellers' allowance.
- Travellers can make use of the travellers' allowance **only once during any single journey**.

A journey comes to an end, when, for example, you have returned to your home in your own country or when you have arrived at your destination in Germany. **You may not, therefore, repeatedly avail** yourself of the travellers' allowance by crossing the border several times in immediate succession.

Travel within the European Union (EU)

When travelling in countries within the EU, travellers must on request verbally report cash and instruments (e.g. shares, interest-bearing securities, precious metals and precious stones) in excess of a total value of 10,000 euros.

Stricter import regulations

On May 1, 2009, EU Regulation No. 206/2009 came into force in the EU, imposing strict rules on the import of animal products exclusively for personal use. Because the possibility of introducing animal diseases through the import of animal-based products carried in travellers' baggage or sent in small packages to private individuals (including mail order commerce) cannot be ruled out, the import of such products into the EU is subject to strict veterinary regulations. [Source: Regulations on animal-based products](#)

Requirements under veterinary regulations

The import of meat, milk and related products such as cheese or processed meats by private individuals is subject to the same veterinary medicine requirements as commercial import shipments. That means that travellers carrying such goods with them are now permitted to enter the European Union only at certain entry points where a veterinarian is present. In addition, the products must be accompanied by designated veterinary certificates / health records and a valid entry document (Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED)). However, the responsible veterinarian at the border entry point makes the final decision on the eligibility of the product to be imported.

Exemptions to these regulations apply to the following goods, among others:

- baby food and special foods required for medicinal purposes and transported in unopened retail packages of 2 kg or less,
- foods containing small quantities of milk or cream such as cream sweets, chocolate or biscuits
- up to 2 kg of other animal-based products containing meat or milk or goods produced with animal-based products (e.g. honey) and up to 20 kg of fishery products (e.g. fresh, cooked or smoked fish as well as certain shellfish such as shrimp and lobsters) or the weight of an individual fish if this is higher
- Travellers can therefore carry these products in the indicated quantities with no difficulty.

Special regulations

In addition, special regulations apply to imports from the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Iceland. In these cases, the maximum permitted quantities for the various product categories (excluding fishery products) is 10 kg.

If the goods do not meet the import requirements, the shipments will be rejected by Customs. In that case they may have to be disposed of on the spot at the traveller's expense. However, the new restrictions do not apply to travel between the 28 EU member states or for the import of animal-based products from Andorra, Liechtenstein, Norway, San Marino and Switzerland.

Nor do these regulations apply to the import of fishery products for personal use from the Faroe Islands and Iceland. Please also bear in mind the import of animal products made with protected species (e.g caviar from certain sturgeon species) is also subject to regulations on biodiversity protection.

For more information on the import of animal-based products by private individuals when travelling or by mail, contact:

- the responsible veterinary authorities in the federal states,
- the German Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection,
- the responsible veterinary border control stations in Germany,
- the veterinary authorities with jurisdiction at your place of residence and
- your local customs office.