

Switzerland *Customs Information*

Customs Regulations

- The customer must have arrived in Switzerland and taken up residence prior to customs clearance as registration with local authorities is required.
- Used household goods and personal effects must be owned and used for a minimum of six months and subsequently remain in the customer's possession for at least 12-months. Wedding presents can be imported duty-free, but must be shipped within 3-months of the wedding date.
- Items must be imported close to the time when the transfer of domicile occurs: i.e. within 18 months.
- Household goods and personal effects that form part of an inheritance can be imported duty-free provided they are used and the declared owner lived overseas. The legal heirs must have their residence in Switzerland and a declaration ("Declaration personnelle d'effets de succession" form 18.46) must be completed and given to the local Swiss Customs Direction before import. Any used household goods given by a living person to an heir as inheritance advancement ("Avance d'hoirie") are considered inherited goods.

Documents Required

- The following documents are required for customs clearance. If the above documents are not prepared on time or are not complete, Swiss Customs will levy import taxes and duties calculated on the weight of the shipment. Additional payment will be required to cover any such duties and taxes. In the event that the customer incurs duties and taxes for incomplete documents the customer will be required to apply for permanent customs clearance within 6-months of their arrival. Duties and taxes will be refunded upon completion of permanent customs clearance less administrative fees retained by Customs Authorities. If permanent clearance is not completed within 6-months duties and taxes will not be reimbursed:
 - ✓ Customs form 18.44. (with original signature in blue – this must be sent by mail).
 - ✓ "Declaration for importation of household goods...", completed and signed (original)
 - ✓ Copy of passport showing client's signature and photograph
 - ✓ Copy of the Swiss working permit. Note that transferees from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Spain, Greece, Ireland, Portugal, United Kingdom, Sweden, Malta & Cyprus do not require the working permit, but must provide a copy of working contract and either a copy of residence rental/purchase contract, or a copy of the registration in the commune of residence).
 - ✓ Copy of residence rental/purchase contract
 - ✓ Document confirming that any works of art (paintings, statuettes, and other works of art are not subject to the Convention of UNESCO du 14.11.1970 (a law that governs the transfer of international works of art.)
 - ✓ Swiss nationals returning from overseas will also require a copy of the attestation from the commune of residence of arrival in, and departure from Switzerland.
 - ✓ Inventory/Packing List showing all items in continuous numbers signed by the client. Inventory/Packing List for all shipments (air and sea-freight) must be submitted with first shipment to arrive.

Motor Vehicles

- Automobiles and other vehicles can be imported duty free provided they are imported within 18-months of the household goods moves and the vehicle has been owned and used over six months. The following documents are required in addition to household goods requirements (above):**
- ✓ Copy of the Registration Title (Original must travel in the vehicle)
 - ✓ European Union Conformity Certificate (if available)
 - ✓ Vehicle must be mentioned on Form 18.44
 - ✓ Vehicles manufactured after January 2007 that do not comply with EU Conformity will require a "Crash Test Certificate" obtained from the manufacturer.
 - ✓ Vehicles owned and used for less than 6-months are subject to duties and taxes based upon the weight and value of the vehicle. In addition any vehicle owned for less than 6-months and not conforming with EU standards is subject to CHF 3,500 in approval costs.
 - ✓ All cars must comply with Swiss Government regulations
 - ✓ Permission to import is granted on case-by-case basis
- Clearance will take place:
- At the same time as the household goods if loaded in the same container
 - By appointment if driven over the border by the customer
 - Vehicle must be registered with the Swiss Authorities as soon as possible following full customs clearance but within 6-months of import.

Pets

- Cats and birds may be imported into Switzerland based upon the following requirements:
- ✓ Proof of inoculation, veterinary attestation and anti-rabies shot required.
 - ✓ Quarantine may be required .

Dutiable / Restricted Items

- New items (less than six months old) require an invoice, and must be listed separately on the inventory
- Foodstuffs in quantity
- Alcoholic beverages (must be declared under penalty of heavy fines)
- Appliances and restricted items should be loaded last in the container for easy access by Customs

Prohibited Items

- Drugs and narcotics, Weapons (sporting and hunting guns may be imported with a permit), Ammunition
- Anti-radar equipment, Animals products from protected/endangered species (ivory, skins, etc.), Cleaning fluids