

IMPORTS INTO GERMANY (FROM OUTSIDE THE EU):

Do you want to buy a pleasure boat in Switzerland? Are you interested in ordering a rug from Turkey? Is your second POV or your new furniture being shipped in from the States? Are you a TESA contractor and your Household Goods (HHG) are being shipped in from outside the EU?

As a US service member, civilian component or their dependent stationed in Germany you should be aware of your tax relief rights when making purchases or importing items outside the EU as there is the potential of making big savings!

Your local Military Customs Office can assist you in getting your items into Germany free of customs duties and taxes with the AEA Form 550-175A (Import / Export Certificate & Purchase Permit).

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BRING WITH YOU?

- Authorized person's / sponsor's name
- SSN / DoD ID
- Organization name
- APO address
- DEROS date
- Invoice / Order Form including information on imported item, value, where it was imported from, vendor's / seller's name and address
- Shipping documents:
 - Parcels: dispatch note with tracking number
 - Cargo: bill of lading or sea/air waybill, inventory list

Upon issuance by the Military Customs Office, take your two copies of the AE Form 550- 175A along with the item(s) you are importing to the respective German customs office for processing and release of goods.

The stamped form is generally valid for 90 days from issuance date. Please read, understand and comply with the Privacy Act of 1974 information (at the top on page 1) and Part V "Declaration by" (on page 2).

PLEASE NOTE:

- ➔ AEA Form 550-175A does **not** allow a third party, e.g. a sales representative, lawyer, delivery company or person not authorized ILS / SOFA status or an agent hired by a vendor to effect customs clearance in Germany.

ATTENTION: Before ordering from outside the EU, ensure the delivery conditions allow for self-clearance at the German customs office upon entry to Germany. Taking possession of any shipment that gets customs cleared by a courier service on your behalf makes you liable for all duties assessed. Reimbursement is not possible.

- ➔ If you are travelling back from outside the European Union (EU) and have made a purchase then you are obliged to inform the respective customs authorities at the EU border that you are a US service member or civilian component with SOFA status (i.e. have tax privileges). Furthermore, you will need to inform them that you will report purchased goods to your local customs office. Goods with a value of 1,000.00 EUR or more require an AEA Form 550-175A.

- ➔ **You** are responsible to take the imported item(s) and two copies of the AEA Form 550-175A to German customs and complete the process.

- ➔ U.S. Forces personnel driving their POV from an assignment from a non-EU location to Germany must obtain AEA Form 550-175A **prior** to registration in the USAREUR-AF RMV.

IMPORTING A VEHICLE OR PURCHASING A VEHICLE FROM A CAR DEALER OR PRIVATE PERSON:

The AE Form 550-175A will also allow you to import a vehicle from outside the EU, purchase a vehicle from an authorized car dealer with a customs-bonded warehouse, or buy a vehicle with non-EU plates from a non-resident individual in Germany free of customs duties and taxes.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

- Obtain AEA Form 550-175A from the military Customs Office
- Visit German Customs in person and present the POV along with two copies of AEA Form 550-175A

German customs will stamp AEA Form 550-175A and keep one copy. The stamp is required to affect the import of the vehicle or purchase from the German customs bonded warehouse (except vehicles purchased through the Canadian, British or French PX).

EXPORT CERTIFICATE:

AEA Form 550-175A for use as an export certificate will only be issued when requested by local German customs authorities. It is only needed in exceptional situations and permits authorized personnel to export personal and household goods free of customs duties and taxes.

SPECIAL RULES FOR IMPORTING WEAPONS:

It is prohibited to bring firearms into the Federal Republic of Germany until they are properly registered with U.S. Forces and German authorities. For detailed information on how to import weapons US service members and civilian components should contact the Firearms Section of Motor Vehicle Registration.

To obtain an AEA Form 550-175A at the military Customs Office you need to bring your:

- USAREUR-AF weapon's registration
- German hunting license (Jagdschein) or weapons possession card (Waffenbesitzkarte) and
- German importation certificate (Verbringungserlaubnis)

All forms will be issued on a walk-in basis.



HQ Customs Customer Service
Clay Kaserne, Building 1015
CIV: +49-(0)611-143-537-3957;
DSN: 537-3957



Ansbach Field Office

Bismarck Kaserne, Building 5843-C, room 286
CIV: +49-(0)9641-70-587-5352/5353;
DSN: 314-587-5352/5353

Baumholder Field Office

Health Clinic Kaserne, Building 8747, room 7104
CIV: +49-(0)611-143-531-2944/2945; DSN: 314-531-2944/2945

Grafenwöhr Field Office

Grafenwöhr Garrison, Building 621, room 129
CIV: +49-(0)9641-70-569-2896/2897; DSN: 314-569-2896/2897

Hohenfels Field Office

Training Area, Building 325
CIV: +49-(0)9472-708-3376; DSN: 314-522-3376

Kaiserslautern Field Office

Kleber Kaserne, Building 3245, room 103
CIV: +49-(0)611-143-523-4901/02; DSN: 314-523-4901/02

Ramstein Field Office

Ramstein Air Base, Bldg. 2102, room 141
CIV :+49-(0)6371-47-3720/0100; DSN: 314-480-3720/0100

Spangdahlem Field Office

Spangdahlem Airbase, Bldg. 139, room 106
CIV :+49-(0)6565-61-4500; DSN: 314-452-4500

Stuttgart Field Office

Panzer Kaserne, Building 2913, room 303
CIV: +49-(0)9641-70-596-2657/2732; DSN: 314-596-2657/2732

Wiesbaden Field Office

Clay Kaserne, Building 1025, room 102
CIV :+49-(0)611-143-537-3932/3933; DSN: 314-537-3932/3933

US Army Customs Agency – Europe

HOURS OF OPERATION

0800-1600

For Customs Information and/or support at Garmisch and Geilenkirchen contact:

Garmisch MP Station

Artillery Kaserne, Building 209
CIV: +49-(0)9641-70-521-3601; DSN 314-521-3601

Geilenkirchen

470 ABS/US Customs, Bldg. 84, rooms 8 and 9
CIV: +49-(0)2451-9151-4031; DSN 458-4030/4031

Importing goods into Germany

with

AEA Form 550-175A

Import/Export Certificate & Purchase Permit

Einfuhrgenehmigung /Ausfuhrnachweis & Erwerbsgenehmigung



Published by: USAREUR-AF, Office of the Provost Marshal, US Army Customs Agency Europe

<https://www.europeafrica.army.mil/customs/>

https://armveitaas.sharepoint-mil.us/sites/USAREUR-AF_OPM_CEA/SitePages/Customs-Services.aspx

March 2026