

Customs Regulations applicable when Moving to Switzerland

Moving to Switzerland or for that matter any country can become difficult-unless you make yourself aware of the customs regulation details in that country. After all, you do not want your belongings to be stranded in some port in the country. In some countries especially, customs regulations can be very stringent-and you may suddenly find yourself in a puddle. **So, do your homework or call us so we can guide you on all you have to do before you move!**

The customs regulations information listed on our website have been collected from several sources including information made-available-by embassies and government websites. Please use this information as a source of general information. **Schumacher Cargo Logistics is not responsible for any unknown changes to regulations.**

Moving Household Goods and Vehicles to Switzerland - Customs Regulations

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

- Passport (copy of first three pages)
- Residence Permit or "Zusicherung Aufenthaltsbewilligung"
- Lease or Property Title of Residence in Switzerland
- Inventory (detailed) in English, German, French, or Italian, dated and signed by the customer (three copies) showing:
 - Full contents of this and any other shipments planned
 - Appliances, giving make and serial number
- Customs Import Form 18.44 (in duplicate and signed by Customer) and a list of alcoholic beverages needs to be completed upon arrival in Switzerland
- Returning Nationals require an Attestation of Residence issued by the local authorities
- Foreigners require a Work and Residence Permit issued by the local authorities
- Inventory for all shipments must be submitted with first shipment!
- Swiss: "Schriftenempfangsschein" (receipt for depositing papers at the Town Hall)
- Form "Erklärung/Abfertigungsantrag für Libersiedlungsgur" (owners' declaration of personal household goods)

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

- **CUSTOMER MUST BE IN SWITZERLAND AND TAKE UP RESIDENCE PRIOR TO CUSTOMS CLEARANCE IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO IMPORT USED HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS DUTY-FREE (REGISTRATION WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES IS REQUIRED FOR CLEARANCE).**
- Used household goods and personal effects must be owned and used for a minimum of six months and remain in Customer's possession for at least one year
- Items must be imported during the period of transfer of residence (maximum of three years)
- Wedding Presents:
 - Goods must be shipped within 3 months following the date of wedding for free entry
- Inheritance:
 - Admitted free of duty provided they are used and the declared owner lived abroad
 - Legal heirs must have their residence in Switzerland
 - A declaration ("Declaration personnelle d'effets de succession" form 18.46) must be completed and given to the local Swiss Customs Direction before importation
 - Used household goods given by a living person to an heir as inheritance advancement ("Avance d'hoirie") is considered as inheritance goods

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)

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- 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

MOTOR VEHICLES

- Duty-free if owned and used over six months and owner states it will not be re-sold within 12 months of import
- All cars must comply with Swiss Government regulations
- Permission to import is granted on case-by-case basis
- Documents required:
 - Passport
 - Work Permit
 - Title
 - Purchase invoice
 - Form 18.44
 - Proof of Residence
 - Valid Driver's License
 - Foreign Registration Card
 - Car license from previous country
 - Household goods inventory
 - Swiss Insurance Receipt

PETS

- Dogs, cats and birds permitted
- Proof of inoculation, veterinary attestation and anti-rabies shot required
- Quarantine may be required

PETS

Due to the landlocked location, all surface freight shipments will arrive via a base European port such as Antwerp, Belgium or Rotterdam, Netherlands. The Swiss destination agent will move the shipment in bond to Switzerland for customs clearance.

Swiss customs officials are very strict about descriptive inventories. Under no circumstances is the description of "Packed By Owner" allowed.

NOTE - Customs regulations of Switzerland are subject to change at any time. The proceeding information is a brief summary of customs regulations applicable to household goods shipments to Switzerland (this destination) and is being provided for general guidance to assist our Agents and Customers. Since such regulations are subject to change without notice, Schumacher Cargo cannot be held liable for any costs, damage, delays, or other detrimental events resulting from non-compliance. Always double check with your local embassy or consulate before you make your move to Switzerland.