Firearms Section of the Registry of Motor Vehicles for details. Also, please get more information via the following link:

http://www.hqusareur.army.mil/rmv/Weapons.htm

The service member first needs to be in possession of a USAREUR weapon's registration, a German Hunting License (*Jagdschein*) or Sport Shooter's Permit (*Waffenbesitzkarte*), and a German importation certificate (*Verbringungserlaubnis*) for the weapon to be imported, before the military customs office can issue an import certificate (AE Form 550-175A) for tax- and duty-free importation of a weapon.

Please bring with you:

- **Valid ID card**
- **Detailed item description or inventory list / Shipping Bill**
- **Bill of sale**
- **Full name and address from where the item was purchased**
- **Full name and address of port / shipper**

All forms will be issued on a walk-in basis

GEILENKIRCHEN Customs Field Office

Phone: DSN 458-6030 / 6031

Phone: (Civ) 02451-5058
470abs.lgt@geilenkirchen.af.mil

470 ABS/Customs
Preveza Lane
Bldg 84, Room 9

Closed on Weekends & US/GE Holidays
Appointments also possible

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday - Thursday 08:00 - 16:00 hrs
Fridays 08:00 - 14:00 hrs
1st Thursday/Month-Closed @ 12:00 hrs

Importing property into Germany tax- and duty-free

with

AE Form 550-175A

Import/Export Certificate & Purchase Permit / Einfuhr-/Ausfuhrgenehmigung & Erwerbsgenehmigung

Published by: US Forces Customs-Europe
Customs Executive Agency

http://www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/customs.htm

July 2011

Imports into Germany

Want to buy a racing bike in Switzerland, an expensive carpet in Turkey, or are you having new furniture shipped in from the States? Being stationed in Germany means, U.S. service members, civilian component personnel, and their dependents can go straight to the manufacturer, avoid the middleman and save money. Tax relief in other countries may save you big bucks already, but your military customs office will also get your shopping from countries outside of the EU into Germany tax- and duty-free with AE Form 550-175A.

This import/export certificate & purchase permit can be approved at military customs offices located in most Army garrisons and on the Ramstein and Spangdahlem air bases. To obtain the form, you need to provide the following information:

The authorized person's / the sponsor's name, rank, SSN/DoD ID, information on the organization, APO, and DEROS date. All this personal information must be provided to process the form.

The invoice or order form reflecting what item is imported, its value, where it is imported from, the name and address of the vendor it was purchased from, and its shipping documents.

After military customs has issued the form, present your two copies to German Customs for processing and release of the goods.

AE Form 550-175A also will let you buy a vehicle from a German customs-bonded warehouse (*Zolllager*) tax and duty-free.

Ensure you read and understand the "Data Required by the Privacy Act of 1974 on top of the form. Also, read and comply with "Part V. Declaration by / Anmeldung durch" on page 2 of the form. The stamped form is valid for 90 days from the date of issue by your military customs office.

The release of AE Form 550-175A to a sales representative, solicitor, delivery company, or individual not authorized logistic support/SOFA status, or to an agent hired by the vendor to effect customs clearance in Germany, etc. is NOT authorized. YOU need to take two original copies of the document to German Customs. Keep in mind that you are responsible for ensuring the transaction is completed.

If you travel outside the European Union and shop, you must stop at the EU border and inform customs that you are a member of the force stationed in Germany with SOFA status (i.e. with tax- and customs privileges), and will report any purchases to the German customs office responsible for the area you live in. For details on import procedures for tourist purchases, see information sheet "Avoiding tax and duty on tourist purchases".

A company representative may initiate customs clearance by obtaining a customs transit document at the border. In this case, the items will be transported to your address and customs will be cleared at the appropriate German customs office. However, you may also meet the company representative at the German border with AE Form 550-175A and clear customs that way.

Importing a Vehicle or Purchasing a Vehicle from a Customs Bonded Warehouse

Obtain AE Form 550-175A from your military customs office and present the two original copies together with a completed AE Form 190-1AA (Application for Motor Vehicle Registration) to German Customs. German Customs will keep both copies of AE Form 550-175A and stamp on your AE Form 190-1AA. This stamp is required to be on the form when vehicles are imported into Germany from abroad at the owner's expense, or when vehicles are purchased form a German customs- bonded warehouse (except vehicles purchased through the Canadian, British, or French PX).

Special Instructions for the Importation of Weapons

Due to the strict German weapons' law (*Waffengesetz*), importing a weapon is a complicated process.
Service members and members of the civilian component should contact the