U.S. Forces Customs Europe

In-Processing Briefing
Purpose

To familiarize incoming DoD personnel with German and U.S. Customs Laws and Army in Europe Regulations as they apply to the U.S. Forces in Germany.
Who is authorized Individual Logistical Support (ILS)?

U.S. Forces military personnel, members of the civilian component and their family members stationed in Germany.

* Not all contractors have logistical support. Only German Contractors may be authorized logistical support through DOCPER.
Monthly Rations in Germany

**Tobacco** - 4 cartons of cigarettes

**Coffee** - 5 lb. ground or 20 oz. instant

**Alcohol** - 6 Liters
- Liqueurs with more than 33% alcohol
- 5 or more miniature bottles (.05 liters, purchased at one time)
Your Ration Card

**NOTICE**
Only for your own personal use.

**NOTICE**
Items are not for resale.

**NOTICE**
Rationed Items are not Transferable.

**WARNING**
Violations subject to disciplinary action.
Gift Giving

Gift giving of tax- and duty-free items may only occur on special occasions. Limitations on Rationed Items are:

- **Tobacco Items:**
  - 25 Cigarettes OR
  - 10 Cigars OR
  - 60 grams of Pipe Tobacco

- **Coffee:** 500 grams (17.6 oz)

- **Liquor:** 1 Liter Bottle (1.2 U.S. Quarts)

**NOTE:** You cannot purchase items intended for gifts at Commissary and Military Clothing Sales Facilities.
Exchange Privileges

1. Tax & Duty Free
2. Personal Consumption
3. Sponsor and Family Members
4. Appropriate items may be given as gifts to non-ID Card holders
Commissary Privileges

1. Tax & Duty Free
2. Personal Consumption
3. Sponsor and Family Members
4. Items may **NOT** be given as gifts to non-ID Card holders
IMPORTS INTO GERMANY

AE Form 550-175A

Import/Export Certificate/Purchase Permit

**Used For:**
- Imports from non-EU countries into Germany
- Purchases from Customs Bonded Warehouses
- For Personal Use **ONLY!**

**NOT Used For:**
- Pets, Prescription Drugs, Rationed Items and Items intended for resale
- Commercial purposes
- Home-Based Business
- Government Imports
Transferring Items to Non-ID Card Holders

AE Form 550-175B / Permit to Transfer

• Transfer of personal property items imported duty-free or purchased tax-free to non-ID card holders
• ALL Vehicle sales/transfers
• ALL Personally owned firearms

NOTE: Items must be in possession of seller for at least 6 months.
The APO System

**PROHIBITED ITEMS**

- Alcoholic Beverages
- Coffee and Coffee Products (Rationed)
- Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products
- Drugs and Drug Paraphernalia
- **ALL** Prescription Medication, Synthetic and/or Herbal Supplements
- Firearms and Explosives
- Meat and Plant Products
- Pornography
Authority to Operate
USAREUR Plated POV

AE Form 550-175C (request)
/ 550-175D (authority)

Authority to operate a USAREUR-plated POV by visiting non-dependent family members and friends may be requested at any U.S. Forces Customs Field Office.

Requirements:
✓ Full Name
✓ Relationship
✓ Passport Number
✓ International Driver’s License (not issued in Germany)
- or -
Official Translation of Driver’s License recognized by German Authorities.

NOTE: Persons residing or intending to reside in Germany are NOT authorized to obtain a form.
VAT Forms

• Will save you 19% on all authorized products or services where accepted.

• There are 2 forms available to U.S. Forces and their family members:
  NF-1 is for purchases below €2,499.99
  NF-2 is for purchases above €2,500.00

• NF-1 transactions (€2,499.99 and less) are paid by the customer directly to the vendor.

• NF-2 transaction (€2,500.00 and over) U.S. Forces members must: *Present the cost estimate from the vendor
  *The full (tax free) payment amount in the form of a cashier’s check made out to the 52 FSS and the vendor, for the intended purchase, to the VAT Office.

 NOTE: Under no circumstances may a priced purchase order be issued if an order has already been placed with a vendor or if an invoice has already been issued.
VAT Forms

Use of VAT Relief Forms is **NOT** authorized for:

a) Business purposes (home based business, etc.)

b) Purchases on behalf or for individuals not entitled to Tax Relief

c) Utilities (electricity, water/sewage, gas, telephone service)
   *UTAP – First bill, housing contract, orders, bank information, and $77.00 for registration fee

d) Fees or services in connection with purchase/sale of real estate

e) Works of Art, precious metals (gold coins, gold, silver, platinum, etc.) – it is best to check with the Tax Relief Office prior to making that purchase

f) Costs associated with home construction/improvement, renovation, or customized work with the exception of minor repairs (e.g. painting, wall paper)

g) Purchases using payment plans or credit purchases offered by vendors

h) Vehicle purchases if the car will not be registered into the USAREUR system
Gasoline Rations
(AE Reg. 600-17)

POV / Van / Bus: 400 – 600 liters per month

Motorcycles: 300 liters per month

Rental Vehicles: Pro-rated according to length of rental period

NOTE: DO NOT use tax-free fuel in an unauthorized vehicle or transport more than one 5 gal. canister of fuel.
Gasoline Rations in other Countries

(AE Reg. 600-17)

Netherlands – Pass or Leave form or official orders, your vehicle registration, and an approved AE Form 600-17A (Request for Additional Fuel).

Italy - Official orders and your vehicle registration. There is no support for personnel on Leave or Pass.

United Kingdom - Official orders and your vehicle registration. There is no support for personnel on Leave or Pass.

Belgium - Official orders and your vehicle registration. Report to Chievres Air Base PX and request fuel support. There is no support for personnel on Leave or Pass.

NOTE: Over ration violations will result in suspension or UCMJ action. Please manage account.
Importation of POF into Germany requires the following:

- Possession of German weapons possession card WBK (= Waffenbesitzkarte)
- AE Form 550-175A from Military Customs
- Importation Certificate (= Verbringungs-erlaubnis)
- Additional information can be obtained at any Customs Office and/or Vehicle Registration Office.

Must complete a German Weapons Course

- Course is between 6 to 8 weeks in length
- Approximately €150
- Must pass a background investigation
- Select a Hunting of Sportsman Shooting License
- Possess a German weapons possession card WBK (= Waffenbesitzkarte)
- Additional information can be obtained at the MWR Outdoor Facility
• All weapons purchased overseas must get ATF approval prior to shipping back to the U.S.

• Allow 6 to 8 weeks for return of ATF Approval.

• ATF Permit valid for 12 months from date of approval.
Local Customs Office

Spangdahlem Field Office

DSN: 452-4500
Comm: 06565-61-4500
Operating Hours: Mon – Fri: 0900-1200
                                        1300-1600
                Sat – Sun: CLOSED

Passenger Terminal (726th AMS)
Operating Hours: Mon – Fri: 1600-1800
                        Sat: 1200-1800

E-mail: customs@spangdahlem.af.mil