



# 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.





# NATO SOFA 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



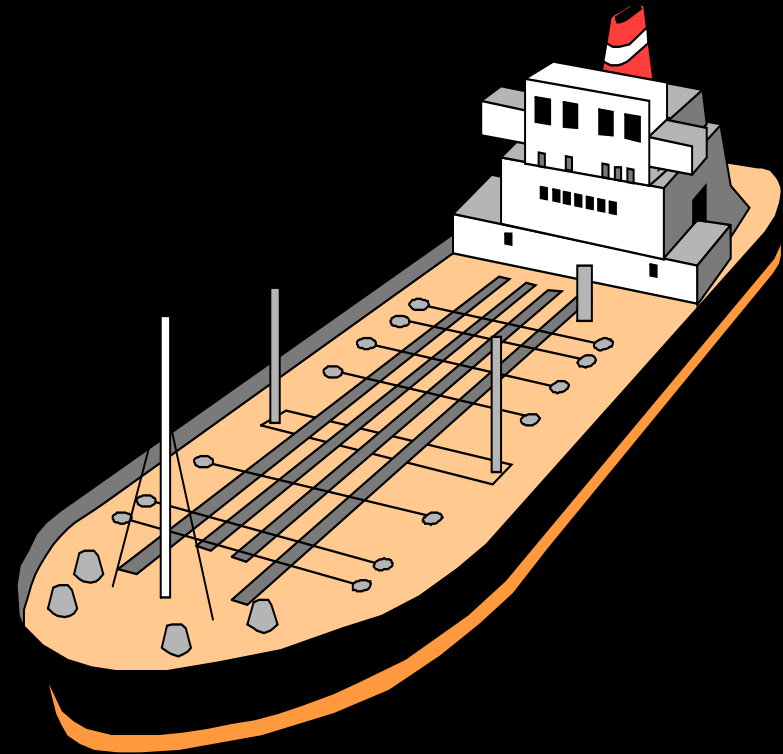
## Import/Export Certificate/Purchase Permit

### 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.

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

## 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.**



# 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

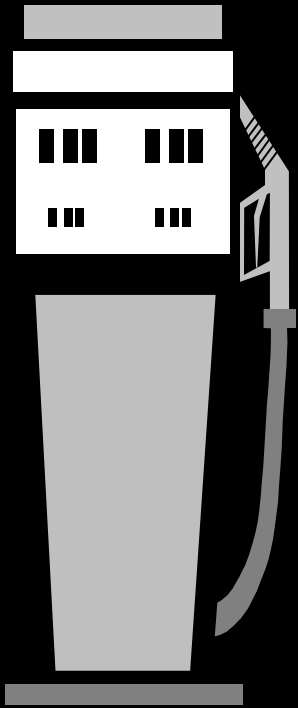
400 – 600 liters per month

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.**

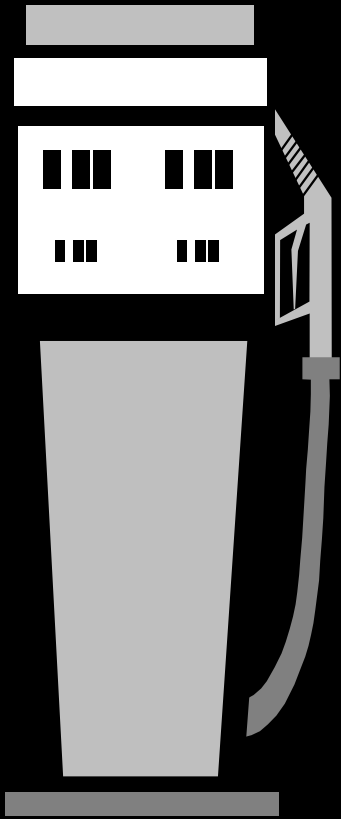




# Gasoline Rations in other Countries



(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.**





# Privately Owned Firearm

## AE Reg. 190-6



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 or Sportsman Shooting License
- Possess a German weapons possession card WBK (= *Waffenbesitzkarte*)
- Additional information can be obtained at the MWR Outdoor Facility

# WARNING

- 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 (726<sup>th</sup> AMS)

**Operating Hours: Mon – Fri: 1600-1800  
Sat: 1200-1800**

**E-mail: [customs@spangdahlem.af.mil](mailto:customs@spangdahlem.af.mil)**

**Customs Web Page: <http://www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/customs.htm>**