

Importing Vehicles for Private Use



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Finance FDF
Federal Customs Administration FCA

Importing Vehicles for Private Use

Reporting

When crossing the border, any vehicle which has not yet been cleared through customs must be spontaneously reported to a manned customs office for the placing under a customs procedure.

If you wish to place your vehicle under a customs procedure at a customs office inside the country the border customs office will issue an interim license valid for two days.

Import declaration can only be made during office hours.

Customs Duty Rates / Free Trade

Customs duty rates are the same for both used and new vehicles. They range (depending on cubic capacity and weight) from SFr 12.– to SFr 15.– per 100 kg gross.

The rate for motor bicycles is SFr 37.– per 100 kg gross.

Vehicles and motor bicycles are exempt from duties if imported from Europe (EU, EFTA, some countries in central and eastern Europe) if you provide a certificate of origin (e.g. a EUR. 1).

Any additional information can be obtained at all Swiss customs district directorates and customs offices.

Tax on Motor Vehicles

The import of cars and certain vans and small busses is subject to Swiss tax on motor vehicles.

The tax rate is 4% of the value of the vehicle (including customs duties).

Value Added Tax

VAT of 8,0% of the value of the vehicle plus customs duties and vehicle tax.

Licence Plates and Documents

Vehicles may be imported with either foreign licence plates or Swiss interim licence plates.

Vehicles to be registered must correspond with the regulations on construction and equipment; a EU Type Approval from the supplier or vehicle manufacturer in form of a Certificate of Conformity simplifies registration formalities.

Respective information may be obtained at the Cantonal Traffic Licensing Departments.

Special Cases

Information on the following cases may be obtained at the customs directorates:

- vehicles owned by foreign workers or students
- vehicles owned by persons immigrating into Switzerland
- vehicles owned by persons emigrating from Switzerland

Documents

In order to pass customs and registration formalities you have to present the following documents:

- receipt, sales slip or sales contract
- registration papers
- personal identification
- certificate of origin (if applicable)

This leaflet is not intended to be all inclusive and contains merely general information. It does not give rise to any right.

Information offices

District Directorates of Swiss Customs

- Basel
Tel. + 41 61 287 11 11
kdbs.zentrale@ezv.admin.ch
- Schaffhausen
Tel. + 41 52 633 11 11
kdsh.zentrale@ezv.admin.ch
- Geneva
Tel. + 41 22 747 72 72
kdge.zentrale@ezv.admin.ch
- Lugano
Tel. + 41 91 910 48 11
kdti.zentrale@ezv.admin.ch

Customs offices will also gladly provide you with further information.

Other fact sheets on travelling and shopping abroad can be obtained on our website and from all customs offices which are open. Information can also be obtained by phoning the freephone +41 800 222 040.