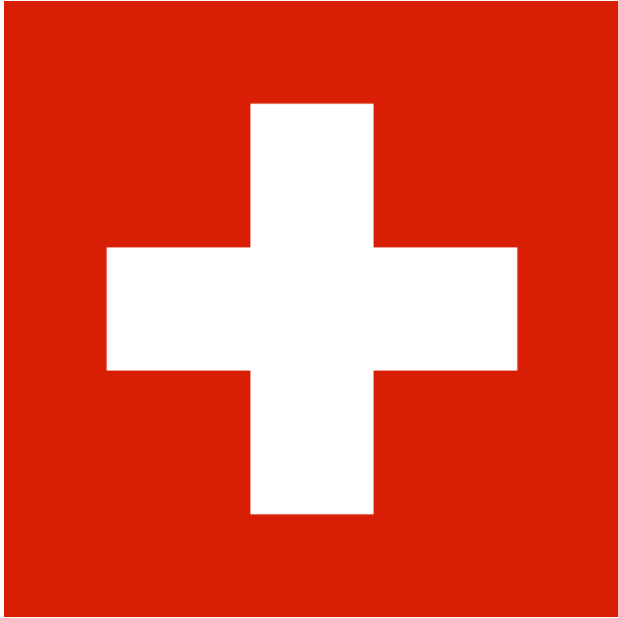


# Switzerland Country Guide - IAM

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[iamovers.org/ResourcesPublications/CountryGuides.aspx](http://iamovers.org/ResourcesPublications/CountryGuides.aspx)

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## Used Household Goods and Personal Effects

- Copy of passport with clear photo
- Copy of bill of lading (OBL) / CMR (Road) / air waybill (AWB)
- Originally signed Customs form 18.44 (application for duty & tax-free clearance of removal goods)
- Supplemental declaration for alcoholic products
- Detailed inventory list
- Copy of residence permit (except for Swiss citizens and immigrants from the 15 initial EU states and from the EFTA states)
- Registration at local Swiss town hall
- Copy of lease agreement / purchase contract (property title)
- Detailed packing list in German, French, Italian, or English
- Proof of stay more than 1 year outside of Switzerland (military booklet, attestation from Swiss Consulate or earlier de-registration) (returning citizens)
- Copy of the work contract or letter of employment confirming the relocation (residents of European Union (EU) countries)
- Original Customs form 14.60 provided by employer, duly signed, and stamped (diplomats)
- Copy of "Carte de Légitimation" (diplomats)

## Specific Regulations

- The importation of used household goods and personal effects into Switzerland is usually duty and tax free.
- All documents must be available at the time when the Customs formalities are affected.
  - If documents are missing, Customs formalities can only arrange a temporary clearance.
  - In these circumstances, Swiss Customs will levy an appropriate fee or ask for a deposit which is laid down according to the volume of the removal.
- The "Carte de Légitimation" takes approximately 2 months to obtain.
- Used household goods may be imported if it is in the owner of the goods' possession, has been used abroad for at least 6 months, are for the continued use of the owner of the goods, and correspond to the normal requirements of an intended resident after importation.
- Personal office goods and papers belonging to the owner of the goods are considered household goods.
- Returning Swiss citizens qualify for duty-free entry if the duration of employment abroad exceeded 12 months.
- If possible, all goods should be imported in one consignment.
- Later consignments should be listed on the inventory of the first shipment.
- - If a later shipment is to follow, it should be noted on the owner of the goods' declaration of personal household goods under the appropriate section.
  - If the owner of the goods can prove that he is unable to proceed with the clearance of a second shipment, Customs will extend a delay for clearance up to 24 months from the date of the first clearance.
- Unaccompanied hand baggage may be imported duty free, provided it consists only of used personal effects and/or books.
  - The shipment should be accompanied by an inventory and is subject to Customs inspection.
- If a secondary home is bought or rented, import of removal goods is free of duties and taxes.
  - However, importation must occur close to the time of the issue of the purchase or lease contract.
  - Cars do not fall under this rule and are not duty and tax-free, even if used.

## Motor Vehicles

### Documents Required

- Official foreign driver's license
- Original certificate title
- Original bill of sale / purchase invoice
- Condition report

## Specific Regulations

- Items may be imported into Switzerland duty free if:
  - They are in the owner of the goods' possession
  - Used abroad for at least 6 months before the legal date of entry date shown on the work permit
  - Will be used in Switzerland for a minimum period of 1 year
- It is necessary for the owner of the goods to provide an official foreign license showing the date of issue.
- Company cars may be imported duty free.
  - In order to do so, the company will need to provide a written confirmation that the automobile has been for exclusive use of the owner of the goods since a given date and state that the owner of the goods is relocating to Switzerland.
  - This letter should be written and sent to Swiss Customs authorities 6 months prior to shipment.
- Used motor cars and/or used motor boats may only be admitted duty and tax-free provided they are destined for one's own requirements.
  - Used vehicles must be in the owner of the goods' possession for at least 6 months.
- First registration date abroad needs to be proved to the Motorvehicle Authorities (MFK)

## Pets

### Documents Required

- Vaccination record
- Veterinarian health certificate in German, French, Italian, or English
- Blood analysis

### Specific Regulations

- For countries with urban rabies, a blood analysis is required.
  - The import of the pet can only be done 4 months after the vaccination.
- The veterinary health certificate must include the following information:
  - Name and address of owner of the goods
  - Description of animal (breed, sex, age, color)
  - An attestation that the animal was clinically examined by a veterinarian prior to vaccination and found to be healthy
  - Date of the preventive vaccination against rabies, type of vaccine, name of vaccine producer, and serial number of vaccine

- Stamp and signature of the veterinarian
- The import of pets is allowed with some restrictions; check with the destination agent for details.
- Potential owners of the goods should contact a Swiss Customs authorities or a local agent in Switzerland no less than 6 months prior to import if it has not been determined the pet will be permitted for import.
- The vaccination must have been administered no less than 30 days prior, but no more than 12 months after entering Switzerland.

## **Antiques, Artifacts, Carpets, Paintings**

### **Documents Required**

- Written letter of confirmation
- List of paintings with artist names and values

### **Specific Regulations**

- For all pictures and paintings, the owner of the goods must submit a letter to Customs attesting that none of the imported items are original artwork.

## **Restricted/Dutiable Items**

- Food products
- Tobacco
- New articles and consumer goods, which do not correspond to normal household requirements
- Furnishings, which do not correspond to normal household requirements
- Weapons, including firearms (a permit is required)
- The following items are admitted duty and tax free, provided they are destined for one's own requirements:
  - Used motor cars and/or used motor boats (at least 6 months)
  - Maximum 12 liters of hard liquor over 25% volume
  - Maximum 200 liters of red / white wine, champagne
  - Hunting rifles
- The following conditions apply to the import of alcohol:
  - Swiss Customs authorities will personally assess whether the quantity of alcoholic beverages imported corresponds with the size of the shipment.
  - The maximum duty-free allowance for:
    - Spirits and liquors exceeding 25% alcohol by volume is 12 liters
    - Red or white wine is 200 liters

- Champagne or other alcohol less than 25% alcohol by volume, depends on the size of the shipment

## Prohibited Items

- Drugs and narcotics
- Weapons (other than sporting and hunting guns)
- Ammunition
- Anti-radar equipment
- Animal products from protected / endangered species (ivory, skins etc.)
- Fake items (e.g. watches, faked brand name & model items)

## Consignment Instructions

**Recommended:** Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air / sea shipments.

### Helpful Website(s):

<http://www.state.gov/p/eur/ci/sz>

<http://bern.usembassy.gov>

## Cultural and Other Information

[CIA World Factbook Entry for Switzerland](#)

[Wikipedia Entry for Switzerland](#)