

Your way through customs

If you are only carrying the duty-free goods listed below or are only travelling within the EU (with the exception of special territories, e.g. Canary Islands, British Channel Islands) you may pass through customs without declaring goods.

If you are carrying other goods or goods above the quantities listed below, you must declare them to customs.

The following goods need not be declared:

Personal effects

- that you were carrying with you when you left the EU (returning goods)
- that you are carrying with you on your journey, provided that these items will be re-exported – however, this only applies if your main place of residence is not in the EU

Travellers' allowance

up to the following quantities and value thresholds that you purchased

- in a non-EU country or
- in a special excise duty region (e.g. Canary Islands, British Channel Islands) or
- in a duty-free shop or on board an aircraft:

Tobacco goods (only for persons aged 17 and over)

- 200 cigarettes or
- 100 cigarillos or
- 50 cigars or
- 250 grams of smoking tobacco or
- a proportional assortment of these goods

Alcohol (only for persons aged 17 and over)

- 1 litre of alcoholic drinks with an alcoholic strength exceeding 22% by volume or
- 2 litres of alcoholic drinks with an alcoholic strength not exceeding 22% by volume or
- a proportional assortment of these goods,
- 4 litres of still wine and
- 16 litres of beer

Medical products

- the quantity corresponding to your personal requirement during your trip (maximum of three months' supply)

Other goods

- Travellers of 15 years and over: goods to a total value of € 430
- Travellers below 15 years: goods to a total value of € 175

Note: if these goods are subject to prohibitions and restrictions they must be declared.

The following must always be declared:

- goods imported for trade or commercial purposes
- goods whose import is prohibited or subject to special formalities/restrictions (e.g. narcotics, weapons and ammunition, protected species of plants and animals and products manufactured from such species)
- animals and products of animal origin (e.g. meat/meat products and milk and milk products – see the information of the European Union on protection against animal diseases)

Duty to declare cash/funds:

If you enter the EU from a non-EU country carrying cash/funds of € 10,000 or more you must declare the cash/funds to customs in writing without being asked.

Cash/funds means e.g.:

- cash in any currency
- shares
- cheques
- savings bonds
- bills of exchange

Please note:

The duty to declare cash/funds of € 10,000 or more relates to the cash/funds actually carried by a person and exists regardless of the reason for travel (private or business travel) and regardless of who owns the cash. It is not permitted to divide the cash among a number of persons in order to circumvent the duty to declare.

Infringements of the duty to declare can be punished with a fine up to € 1,000,000!

In your own interest, you should contact customs if you are not sure whether your goods/cash must be declared!

Violations of import regulations can lead to the initiation of criminal proceedings and fines.

