



BMF

FEDERAL MINISTRY
OF FINANCE

Customs *Info* 2012

Tips for the entry to Austria





Ladies and Gentlemen!

This brochure from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance is intended to provide you with helpful information about the import of goods into Austria. In line with our philosophy of striving to be service-oriented and accessible to citizens, we constantly update and expand the information we offer you. In this way, we want to help you avoid committing offences against the customs rules merely because you are unaware of them. Ignorance is no excuse, of course. For that reason this leaflet summarizes the current rules on imports when you travel. Additionally you find more information on our website english.bmf.gv.at (under "Customs").

One of the Tax Authority's main goals is to ensure fair ground rules for our domestic economy, as part of its general policy of transparency. Please bear in mind that customs controls on passenger travel will continue to be necessary in order to combat smuggling and product piracy, to protect the environment and the health of citizens and to secure jobs.

We would be pleased if you would refer to this "Customs Info 2012" brochure as a source of important information before your next trip.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Maria Fekter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Finanzministerin, Dr. Maria Fekter

Entry from EU states

Duty-free import of goods

You may import goods for your personal use or consumption or for family members without having to pay customs or other duties in Austria. Exceptions to this are made for new vehicles.

The following are EU states: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.



Entry from non-EU states

Customs declaration of goods

The following goods must be declared:

- Goods not intended for your personal consumption or use, or family use,
- Goods obtained outside the EU which either exceed the traveller allowances for tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, still wines, beer and medicinal products or monetary threshold for other goods of EUR 430 for air travellers or EUR 300 for all other travellers (see table)
- Goods subject to specific import bans and restrictions.

If you are carrying goods to be declared you must, for customs declaration purposes, use the red exit. If the customs point does not have separate exits you should declare the goods voluntarily. In accordance with the customs declaration all customs and other import duties (e.g.: VAT valid in Austria) are to be paid. In most cases, the purchase price will be used to calculate these duties. Therefore, keep the receipts and invoices of the goods purchased abroad.

If you are not carrying any goods to be declared then use the green exit.

There are special regulations with Switzerland/Liechtenstein applicable to transport personnel, local border traffic and travellers normally resident in Austria, arriving from Samnauntal.



Import of cash

If on entering Austria you are carrying cash or equivalent means of payment in the amount of EUR 10,000 or more, these must be declared to customs. The registration form “Cash Control” can be downloaded at english.bmf.gv.at under “customs”, travellers / cash controls or is available at your customs office.

Duty-free import of goods – tax exemption limits

From non-EU countries you may import per calendar day the following goods for your personal consumption or use or for that of your relatives or as a present exempt from customs or other duties:

Tobacco products (17 years or older)

200 pieces	cigarettes <i>or</i>
100 pieces	cigarillos <i>or</i>
50 pieces	cigars <i>or</i>
250 grams	smoking tobacco <i>or</i>
an assortment of these goods	

Alcoholic beverages (17 years or older)

1 litre	a total of 1 litre of alcohol and alcoholic beverages of an alcoholic strength exceeding 22% vol (volume percent), or undenatured ethyl alcohol of 80% vol and over <i>or</i>
2 litres	a total of 2 litres of alcohol and alcoholic beverages of an alcoholic strength not exceeding 22% vol, <i>or</i>
a proportional assortment of these goods <i>and in addition</i>	
4 litres	still wines as well as
16 litres	beer

Medication

amounts consistent with your personal needs during the trip

Comment: Without authorisation travellers resident in the EU are allowed to import medication to Austria they carried already with them on their departure. Import of medication bought abroad is only permitted up to an amount of three (retailer) packages each per person.

Other goods

with a cumulative value of EUR 430 for air travellers or EUR 300 for all other travellers per calendar day. For travellers younger than 15 years those amounts are generally reduced to EUR 150.

Comment: Import bans and restrictions also have to be considered when importing above mentioned duty-free goods.

Specific import bans and restrictions

The import of animals, plants, food products, medication, weapons and many other goods is subject to specific bans and restrictions. These restrictions are applicable to entries from both EU and non-EU states. Special attention must be paid to these regulations in order to protect the life and health of human beings, animals and plants and to ensure public security. It is advisable that you make inquiries prior to embarking on your trip regarding the current import regulations at the Customs Information Office / Customs or at your local customs office.

Customs controls

There are still customs controls as far as tourist travel is concerned. These controls are carried out at the borders of non-EU states on a permanent basis and sporadically at the borders of EU states and on a random basis inland. Their purpose is to combat smuggling and product piracy, as well as to protect the economy and the general public.

Information

Central Information Office / Customs

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