KNOW BEFORE YOU GO TO:  
GERMANY

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Note: Above table is hyperlinked to paragraphs below

WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS:
A. Navy personnel:
   1. No Weight restriction unless noted in orders

CONSUMABLES:
A. Alcoholic Beverages:
   1. No restrictions identified
B. Cigarettes/Tobacco Products:
   1. No restrictions identified
C. Medication (Narcotics)/Pharmaceutical Products:
   1. Private individuals to include personnel holding status under the NATO SOFA and the supplementary agreement are prohibited from introducing into Germany (in unaccompanied baggage or mail channels) any drugs or substances whose sale outside a pharmacy is prohibited by the German Pharmaceutical Law. Such drugs substances can be imported only when in accompanied baggage and prescribed by a physician.

ELECTRIAL EQUIPMENT:
A. No restrictions identified
B. Compatibility:
1. Off-base residences have 220V, 50 hertz cycles. American refrigerators and washers may be operated in off-base quarters by using transformers. American electric dryers and clock radios operated off-base will be affected by the 50 hertz cycle. Only 50 hertz cycle capable microwaves can be used off-base.

2. Individuals are encouraged to place non-compatible appliances and electronic items in non-temporary storage at origin.

3. Appliances that depend on a heating element, such as toasters, frying pans, boilers, etc., will not be affected by the 50 Hertz Cycle electricity but will require a transformer to operate off-base. American televisions, with NTSC system can only be used off-base with AFN Satellite Reception Dish and Decoder. Only PAL frequency television or multi-system televisions will operate off-base for Spanish services and other European transmissions.

**FURNITURE, OVERSIZED:**

Government and economy living quarters are generally smaller than those in CONUS. Economy housing in Germany, Italy or Belgium may accommodate more HHG than government quarters, but are still smaller than homes and apartments in the United States. Many have narrow doorways and tight stairwells that cannot accommodate furniture that would fit easily into an American home. Service members Civilians shipping large items such as king and or queen size box springs and mattresses, oversized sofas, or other large furniture items that cannot be disassembled, may encounter problems when residing in government or economy housing due to narrow stairwells. Washers, dryers, ranges, refrigerators, kitchen cabinets, and wardrobes are furnished for government and economy quarters so these items should be placed in Non-temporary storage (NTS) in CONUS and not shipped to Germany, Italy or Belgium. There is no NTS in Europe. Therefore, HHG shipped in excess of what will fit, or is too large to be placed in the Soldiers Civilians living quarters cannot be stored at government expense. Storage will be at the Soldiers Civilians expense as the Joint Travel Regulation does not allow reshipment back to CONUS for placement into NTS.

**SEXUALLY EXPLICIT/PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL:**

No restrictions identified

**FIREARMS:**

A. An updated copy of the Registration and Control of Privately Owned Firearms and Other Weapons in Germany (AER190-6) effective 08, November 2013 has been posted to SDDC Personal Property Web site under LINKS. (http: www.sddc.army.mil PP)

B. To avoid the possibility of German criminal prosecution for unauthorized possession of weapons or the possibility of punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, privately owned firearms will not be included in household goods unaccompanied baggage
shipments, hand-carried, or transported in luggage to Germany unless the owner possesses a valid German Weapons Possession Card (Waffenbesitzkarte) specifically listing those firearms. Antique POFs manufactured during or before 1898, and single-shot black powder POFs are not required to be registered with the German authorities, and may be shipped or transported in luggage to Germany. Headquarters, USAREUR and German Federal Ministry of the Interior are developing procedures to enable military and civilian personnel assigned to Germany and their dependents to obtain these cards through the USAREUR Central Registry. Members who have in their possession Waffenbesitzkarte from a previous assignment in Germany are authorized to ship POFs, as long as the Waffenbesitzkarte covering the POFs to be shipped has not expired. Copy of the Waffenbesitzkarte must accompany shipment.

PETS/QUARANTINE:

Standards laid out in the following document address requirements for shipping dogs, cats, and ferrets from the United States. PLEASE NOTE: Ferrets are not accepted as pets for movement on AMC military or commercially contracted aircraft. If you require information on shipments for ferrets or other exotic pets please contact your local USDA field office.

- Importing dog and cat food that includes animal products (such as meat, milk, cheese, or yoghurt) is prohibited. Food [containing animal products] that is brought into the EU will be confiscated and disposed of.
- Pit bull terriers, American Staffordshire terriers, Staffordshire bull terriers and bull terriers, or crossbreeds among them or with other breeds must not be brought into Germany regardless of any provisions established by individual German Federal States.
  - The decision of whether or not a dog belongs to one of the breeds listed will be exclusively based on the appearance of the dog.
  - Bringing a dog of the above-mentioned breeds or crossbreeds among them and with other breeds into Germany may be punished with imprisonment of up to 2 years or a fine.
  - The different German Federal States have established additional provisions. Therefore, [the person responsible for the dog] must also review whether or not keeping a dog of a certain breed will be allowed in the respective German Federal State.

NOTE: For the remainder of this document the term pet or pets refers to dogs and cats only.

ATTENTION: An examination fee of 55 Euro per pet will be implemented February 1, 2013, for all non-EU citizens who import a pet into the country.

A. Quarantine Period: There is no quarantine period for pets entering Germany.
B. Pet Identification (Via standard electronic identification system with a read-only passive radio frequency identification device known commonly as a transponder Microchip):
   1. Microchip should be compliant with ISO standards 11784 or 11785
2. For non-compliant ISO standard 11784 or 11785 microchips, the owner or the designated guardian responsible for the pet must provide the required equipment (Microchip Reader Wand) for reading non-compliant ISO microchips at the time of examination.

3. The microchip must be implanted before, primary rabies vaccination or valid rabies booster is given to the pet, prior to travel.
   a. Primary Rabies Vaccine - This is the first rabies vaccination a pet receives. For EU countries, this also applies to the first rabies vaccine given after the microchip was implanted. Rabies vaccinations received prior to the pet being microchipped are NOT recognized in the EU.
   b. Valid Rabies Booster - A rabies booster that is given to the pet before the previous (Either after the primary rabies vaccine or another rabies booster) rabies vaccination expires.

C. Rabies Immunization:
   1. Please refer to website "http://www.aphis.usda.gov regulations vs iregs animals " (Enter the destination country (Germany) you will be residing in under "Search Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS)").
   2. Pets less than three months of age coming from the United States may not always require the rabies vaccination IF: (a) These pets have pre-authorization from the EU member state BEFORE entering the country.
   3. Any one year dose or three year dose rabies vaccine is valid as long as it is a U.S. approved vaccine, and was administered according to the manufacturer’s specifications (for instance, a vaccine labeled for 1 year use cannot be utilized as a 3 year vaccine).
   4. A valid rabies vaccine must occur after the animal has been microchipped to be valid for entry into an EU member state.
   5. At least 21 days must have elapsed between completion of the primary rabies vaccination (as specified above) and before the pet enters the EU member state. However, if the animal received a valid rabies booster, 21 days does not have to elapse before travel.
   6. If a pet received a non-ISO compliant microchip and then received a valid rabies vaccination with 21 days having elapsed since that vaccination and entering the EU member state; they:
      a. Do not require implantation of another ISO compatible microchip, but are required to carry with them a microchip reader wand capable of reading the non-ISO compatible microchip implanted in their pet.
      b. Do not require administration of another rabies vaccination before traveling as long as the rabies vaccination received is still valid.
      c. Can have an ISO compatible microchip implanted in their pet so they do not have to carry the reader wand with them.
         i. Pets with ISO compatible implanted microchip do not have to receive another rabies vaccination following the second microchip implantation. They are only required to document both chips on the required forms with the microchip implantation dates.
D. Documentation (Verify the correct required documentation with your local U.S. Department of Agriculture Office):

1. APHIS Form 7001 (Nov 2010) Acquired from any Army veterinarian, local veterinarian or U.S. DA office.
   a. Valid for only 30 days after issuance.
   b. Duration of the Form 7001 validity can be shortened per the requirements of the Airline the service member is traveling.
   c. Requires certification by a U.S. DA Accredited Veterinarian, Army Veterinarian, or GS-0701 Veterinarian before travel.
   d. Form 7001 is not required to enter the European Union (EU). However, it is highly recommended that service members acquire this form before travel from their on-base Army veterinarian to preclude the following:
      i. If a member flies on a commercial carrier they may be required to have this form.
      ii. If a member is scheduled to fly AMC Contracted flight (Patriot Express) and diverts to a commercial carrier, having this form in advance alleviates last minute costs ($200 or more) or delays.
      iii. This form is not required to travel on Patriot Express.
   e. EU Non-Commercial Pet Form (Bilingual Health Certificate)
      i. For "Pet Dog, Cats, and Ferrets" destined to Germany, see link Under Pets heading Pets Dog, Cats, and Ferrets) please refer to "http: www.aphis.usda.gov regulations vs iregs animals (Enter the destination country you will be residing in under "Search APHIS").
      ii. Valid for 10 Days to enter European Union and 4 months once inside European Union
      iii. Timeframe the form is valid can be shorten per the requirements of the Airline the service member is traveling on
      iv. Requires certification by a USDA Accredited Veterinarian, Army Veterinarian, or GS 0701 Veterinarian before traveling

E. Helpful Hints:

1. As soon as travel date is determined, but no later than 22 days prior, have the pet micro-chipped first and vaccinated for rabies, if not already completed. Remember: A VALID RABIES VACCINE MUST OCCUR AFTER THE MICROCHIP IS IMPLANTED. This will ensure the required 21 days has elapsed post vaccination prior to travel
2. When completing required documentation (before mailing the forms or traveling to your local USDA office, get documents notarized, if not using your on base Army veterinarian), fax or over-night ship to ensure they are filled out correctly before traveling to veterinary office.
   a. This will ensure you do not waste travel time or postage only to have to redo the paperwork.
3. Many overseas bases have a full-time veterinarian on staff as well as commercial veterinarians available on the local economy.
   a. Most bases require pets to be registered with the base veterinarian after arrival. Check with base veterinarian for details.
4. The pet cage or carrier (See carrier shipping rules for correct cage dimensions based on pet size) used for shipping the pet must be labeled with the owner’s name, pet’s name, owners (or appointed persons) address, contact number and contact number at the final destination.

5. Since 21 Apr 2001, Germany has had a law in place prohibiting importation of certain dog breeds regarded as dangerous. For more information consult http://www1.zoll.de/english_version/a0_passenger_traffic/e0_vub/h0_dangerous_dogs/index.html. You may also contact the base veterinarian at your destination.

F. Unauthorized Pets:
   1. The import of Pit bull Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers and their crossbreeding is prohibited.

G. Pet Fees:
   1. The USDA form certification fee (approximately $70+, plus any shipping and handling if by mail)
   2. Transporting pets to and from the PCS destination is at the member’s expense and cost is based on the weight of the pet being transported. Connecting flights may have fees in addition to AMC fees from Norfolk Naval Station.
   3. EFFECTIVE 1 February 2013, the fee for the pet import examination is 55 Euros.
   4. All pet requirements are at the member’s expense.

PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES (POVs):

USAREUR CERTIFICATE OF LICENSE:  In order to register and operate a POV in Germany, a USAREUR certificate of license must be obtained which requires passing a very stringent test on European driving rules, requirements, and road signs. An individual must be in possession of a valid U.S. state license, or a valid license from another country, as a prerequisite for taking the test. Unit issued military operator’s permits also meet the requirement for obtaining a USAREUR certificate of license, however, these permits can only be issued to service members and civilian employees. Family members cannot be issued a military operator’s permit, therefore, family members not in possession of a valid license from the USA or another country, cannot be issued a USAREUR certificate of license. Any additions of different classes, such as a motorcycle endorsement must first be authorized on the valid state or country license. USAREUR is no longer permitted to issue learner’s permits, or instructor’s permits; and parents are not allowed to "teach" family members how to drive. Individuals arriving in Germany without a valid license desiring to obtain a USAREUR certificate of license must first complete requisite training and licensing in CONUS, or complete local German training and licensing requirements prior to being issued a USAREUR certificate of license. Cost of local training is expensive.

A. POVs: (includes data on prohibited vehicles, colors, etc.)
The inland pickup and delivery of POV in Germany (program applies to personnel assigned to locations in the Federal Republic of Germany, Giessen and points south). Berlin and points north of Giessen are not included in this program.
1. Military Communities Served: Each Area Support Group (ASG) Vehicle Processing Center (VPC) location and telephone numbers are provided in PPCIG, VOL II, Overseas, Appendix IV, out loading Port for Privately Owned Vehicles.

2. Entitlement: POV larger than 20 measurement tons (800 cubic feet) will incur excess cost unless an exception is granted for medical need (i.e., handicapped family members) or when joint spouse military couples elect to combine their 20 MT entitlement into one 40 MT entitlement.

3. Window Tinting: IAW with German Law, vehicles with aftermarket window tinting on the windshield, front driver’s side, and front passenger side window are not authorized. Vehicles that are being shipped in connection with a new assignment to USAREUR must have the film removed before shipping. Soldiers or civilians that have shipped their vehicles without meeting the current German law must have the film removed before going through USAREUR inspection station. In addition, several vehicles are being customized by replacing factory glass with dark tinted glass imbedded in the glass by the manufacture. This may also be an issue. The US Government standard for factory tinted glass is 30%, while the German tint standard is about 10% from the factory manufacture; however the German government will allow US vehicles with the U.S. Federal standards. This is not to be confused with individual State standards that in many cases are darker than the U.S. Federal Standards. For more information please contact the Customer Service Office, USAREUR Registry of Motor Vehicles at DSN: 542-2021 2022 2023 or CIV: 49-611-143-542-2021 2022 2023.

4. Inbound shipments (to Germany). To order, owner needs to:
   a. Obtain USAREUR POV driver’s license. (See b below)
   b. Obtain POV insurance
   c. Obtain verification that POV has arrived at local VPC
      i. Post Card from local VPC
      ii. Name on weekly arrival list posted at local TMO ITO (List provided by contractor)
      iii. Copy of Fax listing via ITO for direct inquires
   d. Bring copy of PCS orders, driver’s license, DD Form 788, USAREUR Registration ID and proof of insurance to contractor’s office.
   e. Ensure any damage or missing items are noted on DD FORM 788.
   f. Show at scheduled time to receive POV.
   g. Proceed to POV safety inspection station.
   h. Proceed to vehicle registration.

5. US State license plates are not required on POVs arriving in Germany since USAREUR plates are issued when the member picks up the POV. As some states provide a partial refund for plates turned-in prior to expiration date, members have the option to remove the plates when the POV is turned-in to the port for shipment. It is a member’s responsibility to remove the plates. A claim for lost plates will not be authorized.

6. POV Tracing: Log into the website www.PCSMyPOV.com, or contact the destination Vehicle Processing Center (VPC) toll free at 0800-02277447.

B. MOTORCYCLES/MOPEDS:
   1. Personnel: must have a valid state of country license with a motorcycle endorsement, and a course completion card from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation in order to be
licensed to operate a motorcycle in Germany. Persons who do not have a valid state or country motorcycle license will be required to be licensed at a German driving school at personal expense (approximate cost $1400.00).

2. Accompanied personnel: Two POVs and two motorized recreational POVs, or one motorized and one non-motorized recreational vehicle are permitted to be registered in Germany.

3. Unaccompanied personnel and single parent: One POV and one motorized or non-motorized recreational POV are permitted to be registered in Germany.

4. Non Temp Storage (NTS): Customers must be briefed prior to shipment of a motorcycle as to potential costs and the option to place their motorcycle in NTS.

5. Alteration Motorcycles: Motorcycles will be rejected when the motorcycle has been altered or modified to change the center of gravity or wheel base from what was established by the manufacturer.

6. NOTE: A recreational vehicle is defined as a POV normally used only during certain seasons (for example, motorcycle, camper, motor home, and trailer).

C. GASOLINE/CATAYTIC CONVERTERS:
No restrictions

D. INSURANCE AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Service members should be informed of the higher insurance rate for Privately Owned Vehicles (POV) in Germany, before shipping their POVs. Only insurance companies approved by the German Government are authorized to issue a 29a (proof of German Minimum third party liability insurance) to register a POV in the U.S. Forces system in Germany. There are two insurance systems service members can choose from in Germany. NATO Tariff and German Tariff. Several companies issue policies in the United States for registration of POVs in Germany. The differences in the systems are the following.

   a. NATO Tariff: Annual tariff rates are based on age and marital status (all payments can be made in US currency). The most expensive category personnel are individuals under 25 years of age and single.

   b. German Tariff: Rates are based on POV HP PS or KW, location where POV is registered and individual’s driving record (substantiated by letter from service member’s home insurance office in U.S. only). Payment in the local German currency is required.

2. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS: A POV shipped to Germany must also pass USAREUR safety standards before it can be registered for driving in Germany. The cost of repair work and parts are very expensive in Germany and should be done in CONUS before POV is delivered to the Vehicle Processing Center. Counselors need to stress to each member on orders to Germany. It is the member’s responsibility to ensure POV meets USAREUR safety standards. This is best done before making delivery to the POE. The most common causes of POV inspection failures in Germany are:

   a. Tires: All tires must have at least 1.6mm tread over the complete tire surface. No regrooved tires are allowed; snow tires (if on vehicle) must be on the drive wheels; and there can be no mixing of radial and conventional tires.
b. Exhaust System: No rusted out or leaking exhaust system components allowed. Exhaust systems with cutouts, fiberglass packed, or straight through exhaust systems are not allowed.

c. Brakes: A mismatch of 20 percent or more between wheels, as measured on the brake wheel drag machine. Hand brake must hold vehicle on incline.

d. Wheel Alignment: Wheels must be able to be turned to full right or full left without jamming or rubbing any part of vehicle; tie rod steering arm assemblies must not be damaged or worn.

e. Lights: All installed lights must be operational.

f. Exterior Condition: Missing fenders, broken windows, extensive body damage, deterioration, broken springs, or oil leaks are not allowed. Foreign manufactured vehicle frames are usually an integral part of the body; therefore, rust damage is critical and will necessitate costly reconstruction to pass the inspection.

g. Horns: POVs must be equipped with a horn and it must be operational.

h. Modifications: Any modifications changing the vehicle body style (as to engine not being covered), altered bumpers which are not to manufacturers specifications, missing or damaged running boards, or tires protruding beyond the fender wells are not allowed. Dark tinted glass on the front drivers and passengers doors or on the front windshield that comes down from the top of the windshield more than 4 inches that makes it impossible to see the driver and occupants is prohibited by German law.

TRANSMITTING EQUIPMENT:

A. Germany has different rules and regulations governing the use of the Frequency Spectrum within their borders. As visitors in this country, we are subject to their rules and regulations. Violations of these rules and regulations governing the use of the Frequency Spectrum in Germany, can result in fines, confiscation of equipment, and imprisonment.

B. The frequency band equipment is authorized to operate if determined by the nations Spectrum Allocation Tables(SAT). The Spectrum Allocation Table in Germany is very different from the US (i.e., U.S. cordless phones operate in the German cellular phone band but will cause local interference with the German cellular network).

C. In the US the FCC verifies all transmitters (legal) sold adhere to the US Spectrum Allocation Tables and are marked with FCC numbers (i.e., FCC: 1234567). Transmitters with the FCC numbers are not legal for use in Germany.

D. The following U.S. manufactured items are NOT authorized for use in Germany: CB Radios, cellular phones, cordless phones, baby monitors, wireless intercoms, radio frequency remotes, radio controlled vehicles, and radio frequency wireless LANs.  

   NOTE: Items above can be purchased in Germany that adhere to the German Spectrum Allocation Tables.

E. INFRARED TRANSMITTER REMOTE CONTROLS: No restrictions.

F. CBS: None
G. AMATEUR/HAM RADIOS: Radio Operators. Importation of this equipment is not prohibited. However, radio operators you must coordinate with the local German authorities (Bundespost) to acquire a German license prior to turning on the equipment.

H. MARS EQUIPMENT: None

I. DISH ANTENNAS:

1. Importation of TV satellite dishes is not prohibited. However, installation and operation must be approved by the local Bundespost.

2. Administrative procedures: The 5th SIGCOM, Wiesbaden, Germany is the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) for processing requests for exceptions. Questions concerning transmitting equipment should be submitted to the 5th SIGCOM as follows: (CH)

3. Mail:
   HQ, 5th Signal Command
   ATTN: Frequency Management Officer (G6)
   APO AE 09014-9351

   Tel: DSN: (314) 537-6379 6365
   COMM: 011-49-611-143-6379 6365
   FAX: N A

J. CORDLESS PHONES: None

SEPARATEES/RETIREES ENTITLEMENTS/LIMITATIONS:

A. Personnel contemplating retirement, separation or relocating dependents to Germany should be counseled that all customs entry requirements to include payment of duties and taxes remain the responsibility of the member and is a personal matter between the member and the German Government. Additional customs and tax information may be obtained by contacting the USEUCOM Customs Executive Agency, as noted in paragraph 6, above.