

Moving to Germany: Your Relocation Guide



By Appointment To
Her Majesty The Queen
Removals and Storage Contractor Abels

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THE ART OF MOVING

Freephone: 0800 626769 E-Mail: export@abels.co.uk

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Memb No: A001



FS 23942



198656



TELEPHONE:	Country code (49) + Area code
STANDARD TIME:	GMT +1 hour
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	220v, 50Hz
INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:	Inoculation and vaccination certificate not required for EC citizens.
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Jan 1, *Jan 6 Heilige drei Koenige, 28 March & 1 Apr, Easter, 1 May Maifeiertag, *5 May Christi Himmelfahrt, 16 May, *30 May Fronleichnam, *15 August Maria Himmelfahrt, 3 Oct Unity Day, *31 Oct Reformationstag, *1 Nov Allerheiligen, 25 & 26 Dec. (*not fixed days / not in all states of Germany)
OFFICE HOURS:	08.00-12.00, 13.00-1600 Monday – Friday
BANK HOURS:	08.30-12.30, 13.30-16.00 Monday – Wednesday & Friday 08.30-12.30, 13.30-17.30 Thursday. Closed Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	110 Police (Polizei) 112 Fire (Feuerwehr) 1 9 222 Ambulance (Rettungsdienst / Krankentransport)
UK EMBASSY:	Wilhelmstrasse 70 10117 Berlin Tel: 030 204 570 Web: http://ukingermany.fco.gov.uk/en/
GERMAN EMBASSY IN LONDON:	23 Belgrave Square London SW1X 8PZ Tel: 0207 824 1300 Fax: 0207 824 1435 Web: http://germany.embassyhomepage.com/

Customs

Germany is part of the EU and as such, no official documents are required for personal effects and household goods if originating from another EC country.

If removal goods originating outside the EU the following is required.

Please note that goods with a single value approximately €5000 have to be declared.

Documents required:

- Customs registration form 0350
- Notice of foreign authority about change of residency showing how long the person lived outside the EU (Anmeldbestaetigung) or
- A letter from a third party (employer, German Embassy) confirming that the shipper has lived or planned to live more than 12 months in a foreign country.
- Registration of the shipper at the new residence in Germany (Anmeldbestaetigung)
- Copy of the shippers passport
- Renting contract of a domicile (if possible)
- Contract of employment (if possible)
- Goods inventory list
- A letter signed by shipper that the following goods are not inside the shipment: firearms, alcohol, tobacco, cigarettes, tea, and coffee is useful

Duty free entry if the shipper has lived more than 12 months or planned to live more than 12 months in a country outside the EU.

The removal goods are imported within one year of the owner establishing their permanent residence in Germany.

The household goods and / or vehicles have been owned and used for a minimum of 6 months prior to shipping date (vessel departure) to Germany.

The household goods shall be re-used in Germany for the identical purposes.

The goods must stay in possession of the importers for 12 months after importation.

House hold goods are items that the owner already uses at their previous domicile.

Portable instruments and tools used for skilled manual work or self-employed business.

Vehicles for private use.

Please note that single items of a value of EUR 5000 or more have to be declared.

Diplomatic Removals

Documents required are:

- Form 0349

- Certificate from the Embassy or the Consulate

Duty free entry for foreign diplomats if bilateral agreement with origin country.

Import of alcohol is allowed for diplomats but limited within the annual quota agreed by the local Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the respective embassies in the country. A special declaration signed and stamped by the embassy applicable has to be submitted (https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/DE/Downloads/BMF_Schreiben/Steuerarten/Umsatzsteuer/Umsatzsteuer-Anwendungserlass/027_a.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=4).

Wedding Trousseaux

- Marriage certificate
- Proof that the person has lived or planned to live more than 12 months outside the EU
- Certificate of registration with the German Police authorities
- Renting contract (proof of a domicile)
- Inventory list

Duty free entry for

- The items belong to the persons transferring their permanent residence from a non-EU country to Germany because of the marriage to an EU citizen
- Residence had been at least the previous 12 consecutive months outside the EU
- The goods must be imported between at most two months before the wedding and four months after it
- The goods must not leave the possession of the importers for 12 months after importation
- Wedding Trousseaux
- Gifts not exceeding €1,000 in value per gift)

Excluded from duty free entry are:

- Tobacco and alcohol
- Motarised vehicles
- Gifts exceeding the value of €1,000 are excluded from these provisions

If the household goods are imported before the marriage, proof is required that the marriage will take place within two months (the time-limit may be extended upon request).

Inheritance

Documents required are:

- Justification of the entitlement as heir or legatee

Duty free entry when the inheritor or legatee has a permanent residence or in the EU, and must ask for duty free entry of the inherited goods within 2 years of their coming into possession.

By inherited property it is meant:

Used objects for which legatee can provide proof, they received the goods from the testator (only in case of death) and that these goods constitute their share of the inheritance or legacy.

Excluded from duty free entry are:

- Tobacco and Alcohol
- Commercial vehicles
- Commercially used objects and equipment (except for portable tools and instruments)
- Stocks of raw materials, or finished or half-finished products

Vehicles for private use

Documents required are:

- Copy of ownership document
- Copy of the last registration in a foreign country for a minimum of six months prior to shipping the vehicle to Germany

Duty free entry provided the person who is importing it has used the car for at least six months before.

After the customs clearance, a technical inspection performed by the vehicle registration office is required. Then a title will be issued.

Commercial Vehicles, commercial goods, portable instruments and equipment for craftsmen or self-employed persons subject to payment of duties.

Subject to payment of duties.

Spirits, wine, tobacco

Subject to payment of duties.

Import of alcohol is allowed for diplomats but limited within the annual quota agreed by the local Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the respective embassies in the country. A special declaration signed and stamped by the embassy applicable has to be submitted (https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/DE/Downloads/BMF_Schreiben/Steuerarten/Umsatzsteuer/Umsatzsteuer-Anwendungserlass/027_a.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=4).

Food

Duty free entry, provided in quantities, which can be considered as normal provisions.

The importation of all meat or meat by-products, sausage, poultry, fish, milk or milk by-products is prohibited.

Arms, ammunition, dangerous objects

Documents required are:

- A valid German Gun licence
- Hunting permit

- A valid German permit to import the weapon(s)

Importation of objects from the arms register needs authorisation. Importation forbidden for objects, which are mentioned in Annex 2 of the law on arms.

Pets / Domestic Animals

Every pet (dogs, cats, ferrets) that comes from a third country and is imported into the EC must be

- Clearly identifiable by **microchip** or a readable tattoo (microchip obligatory for pets marked after July 2011)
- Properly **vaccinated against rabies**
- Accompanied by a **veterinary inspector's certificate** in which the microchip or tattoo number is indicated. In addition, vaccination certificates and in some cases blood-test details must be carried

Coming from a third country where rabies occurs or where the epidemic status is unknown, e.g. Turkey, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Thailand or India.

- A **blood test** (rabies antibody test) must be carried out before leaving by an EU-approved laboratory in the respective country
- A **three-month waiting period** must be observed from the date of the blood test until entry into the EU

Because of all the waiting periods that have to be respected (for the vaccination and blood test), dogs, cats and ferrets from these countries must be at least seven months old in order to meet the entry conditions as prescribed by the laws on animal epidemics.

It must also be borne in mind that no more than five animals may be brought in.

When importing dogs, the law on the restriction of the introduction or importing of fighting **dogs** into the country is to be respected.

This law bans the introduction or importation into Germany of pit-bull terriers, American Staffordshire terriers, bull terriers and hybrids resulting from interbreeding or crossbreeding these breeds with other dogs. The ban also applies to other breeds that are considered dangerous according to the regional regulations that apply in the German Bundesland where the dogs shall be permanently kept. Further information is available from the local *Ordnungsamt* (town clerk's office).

Forbidden items

The importation of the below listed articles is only granted under special conditions or forbidden:

- mushrooms from Eastern Europe,
- potatoes,
- food of animal origin,
- supplementary means of food,
- organic seeds,



- plants,
- wood,
- explosives,
- radioactive stuff,
- writings which are forbidden by the constitution or pornographic writings,
- absinthe,
- methyl alcohol, pure alcohol,
- narcotics,
- wine, grape juice and other various foodstuffs and consumer goods in large quantity, which are usually held as provisions, various fodders as well as goods concerned by the Washington protection agreement.

Solid Wood Packaging Regulations

EU applies the ISPM 15 standard related to the treatment of solid wood packaging and dunnage (wood used to wedge or support non-wood cargo). All arriving solid wood packaging must carry the ISPM15 mark indicating that all the timber has received appropriate treatment. The approved measures are heat treatment and fumigation.

Failure to include the ISPM15 mark will result in either the timber being ordered for examination or mandatory treatment. Excepted from ISPM15 mark: raw wood of 6mm thickness or less, processed wood producer by glue, heat and pressurer.

Generalities

Due to the great number of importation restrictions and prohibitions, it is advised prior to importation to ask the nearest German customs office or German representation in a foreign country, for the conditions.

General Information on The Federal Republic of Germany

Background

As Europe's largest economy and second most populous nation (after Russia), Germany is a key member of the continent's economic, political, and defense organizations. European power struggles immersed Germany in two devastating World Wars in the first half of the 20th century and left the country occupied by the victorious Allied powers of the US, UK, France, and the Soviet Union in 1945. With the advent of the Cold War, two German states were formed in 1949: the western Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and the eastern German Democratic Republic (GDR). The democratic FRG embedded itself in key Western economic and security organizations, the EC, which became the EU, and NATO, while the communist GDR was on the front line of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact. The decline of the USSR and the end of the Cold War allowed for German unification

in 1990. Since then, Germany has expended considerable funds to bring Eastern productivity and wages up to Western standards. In January 1999, Germany and 10 other EU countries introduced a common European exchange currency, the euro.

Geography

Situated in central Europe, Germany borders nine countries and has coastlines on the North and Baltic Seas. In the North of the country the terrain is low land, a region of fertile farm land and sandy heaths. The central highlands are a belt of forested hills and plateaus and in the far south the Bavarian Alps. The climate is temperate with continental conditions in eastern areas where winters are colder.

Natural resources are: coal, lignite, natural gas, iron ore, copper, nickel, uranium, potash, salt, construction materials, timber and arable land. There is a small agriculture base, its industries are amongst the worlds most technologically advanced, producing machinery, motor vehicles, electrical equipment, chemicals and pharmaceuticals. The majority of trade is with other countries in the EU.

Climate

Germany has both a temperate and marine climate. It can be cool, cloudy with wet winters and wet summers. There is occasionally a warm mountain (foehn) wind. In Eastern areas the climate is more continental where the winters are colder. Natural hazard is flooding.

Population

Germany has an estimated population of 82,422,000, which is highly urbanized with over 85% living in cities and towns.

Religion

Protestant 34%, Roman Catholic 34%, Muslim 3.7% unaffiliated or other 28.3%.

German Culture

Germans are seen as serious people who have a strong work ethic. In business they are very thorough and reliable. Communications are quite formal, even after colleagues have known each other for 20 years they will address each other as Herr Schmidt or Frau Schneider.

Family life is highly regarded, and usually employees leave work on time to be with their families. Germans are very conscientious about the environment. When shopping they take along their own bags and separate their garbage quite fastidiously.

Quiet hours are between 1300-1500, evenings and Sundays you are not allowed to make loud noises, which include vacuuming or cutting grass.



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Currency

The monetary unit is the Euro.

Notes: 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 & 5 euros.

Coins: 2, 1 euros then 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 & 1 cents.

Environmental Issues

Emissions from coal-burning utilities and industries contribute to air pollution, acid rain, resulting from sulfur dioxide emissions, is damaging forests, pollution in the Baltic sea from raw sewage and industrial effluents from rivers in eastern Germany. Hazardous waste disposal, government established a mechanism for ending the use of nuclear power over the next 15 years. The government are working to meet EU commitment to identify nature preservation areas in line with the EU's Flora, Fauna and Habitat directive.

Economy

The German economy - the fifth largest economy in the world in PPP terms and Europe's largest - is a leading exporter of machinery, vehicles, chemicals, and household equipment and benefits from a highly skilled labor force. Like its Western European neighbors, Germany faces significant demographic challenges to sustained long-term growth. Low fertility rates and a large increase in net immigration are increasing pressure on the country's social welfare system and necessitate structural reforms.

Reforms launched by the government of Chancellor Gerhard SCHROEDER (1998-2005), deemed necessary to address chronically high unemployment and low average growth, contributed to strong growth and falling unemployment. These advances, as well as a government subsidised, reduced working hour scheme, help explain the relatively modest increase in unemployment during the 2008-09 recession - the deepest since World War II. The new German Government introduced a minimum wage of about \$11.60 (8.50 euros) per hour that took effect in 2015.

Stimulus and stabilization efforts initiated in 2008 and 2009 and tax cuts introduced in Chancellor Angela MERKEL's second term increased Germany's total budget deficit - including federal, state, and municipal - to 4.1% in 2010, but slower spending and higher tax revenues reduced the deficit to 0.8% in 2011 and in 2015 Germany reached a budget surplus of 0.9%. A constitutional amendment approved in 2009 limits the federal government to structural deficits of no more than 0.35% of GDP per annum as of 2016, though the target was already reached in 2012.

The German economy suffers from low levels of investment, and a government plan to invest 15 billion euros during 2016-18, largely in infrastructure, is intended to spur needed private investment. Following the March 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, Chancellor Angela MERKEL announced in May 2011 that eight of the country's 17 nuclear reactors would be shut down immediately and the remaining plants

would close by 2022. Germany plans to replace nuclear power largely with renewable energy, which accounted for 27.8% of gross electricity consumption in 2014, up from 9% in 2000. Before the shutdown of the eight reactors, Germany relied on nuclear power for 23% of its electricity generating capacity and 46% of its base-load electricity production. Domestic consumption, bolstered by low energy prices and a weak euro, are likely to drive German GDP growth again in 2016.

Health

When choosing a doctor or dentist it is always best to rely on recommendations from friends or colleagues, your embassy can probably provide you with a list of doctors who speak your language.

Only pharmacies (Apotheke) have the right to sell medicine for example you will not find aspirin in a supermarket.

Health Insurance (Kranken Kasse);

You can have private medical insurance from your home country or in Germany. You will also be insured by the German national health care system (Kranken Kasse), you are then a Kassen patient.

If you have insurance from your home country it is advisable to find out what exactly you are insured for, you may not be insured for the same services that a private German insurance company would insure you for.

Hospitals

There are non-private and private hospitals. You can be treated as Privatpatient or a Kassen patient if you have had approval of your doctor.

Education

Education is compulsory for all children aged 6 to 18, though some are allowed to attend part time after they are 16 years old.

Kindergartens prepare children for primary school by concentrating on unstructured play.

Primary school (Grundschule)

From the age of 6 to 10. In most states, work in the first two years at school is not graded, but instead assessed in the form of a report giving a detailed description of the individual pupil's progress and weaknesses in specific areas of learning.

Secondary General school (Hauptschule)

The secondary general school certificate awarded at the end of five or six years is generally used to gain acceptance to vocational training programs. Graduates enter a vocational training program and, as part of their training, attend a part-time vocational school (Berufsschule) until at least the age of 18.

Intermediate school (Realschule)

Positioned between the secondary general school and the grammar school (Gymnasium) and imparts a more comprehensive general education to its pupils. As a rule, it encompasses six years of schooling, grade 5 through 10, and leads to an intermediate school certificate qualifying the recipient to continue his or her education at upper-level schools such as a full-time vocational school (Berufsfachschule) or a vocationally oriented upper secondary school (Fachoberschule).

Grammar school (Gymnasium)

This is a nine year secondary school, imparts a comprehensive general education to its pupils. In the upper stage of the grammar school, which encompasses grades 11 through 13, a course system has replaced the conventional classes. Upper secondary instruction at the grammar school concludes with the Abitur examination. Upon completing 13 years of schooling and passing the Abitur examination, the pupil is awarded the “certificate of general higher education entrance qualification” (Zeugnis der allgemeinen Hochschulreife). This certificate is required for admission to a course of study at a higher education institution. (university). Due to the high number of applicants for the limited number of study places, however, nationwide or local admissions are restricted for some courses of study.

Driving in Germany

Your driving licence is valid for 6 months from the date when permanent residency is established, after that you will have to obtain a German driving licence. It is recommended you also carry with you an International Driving Licence (IDR) acquired before you leave for Germany.

Traffic drives on the right and passes on the left. Seatbelts must be worn by all passengers. Children under 12 and smaller than 1.5 meters may not sit in the front seat unless they are in an approved child’s safety seat. However you may not use an approved child’s safety seat if there is an airbag. Vehicles must carry a warning triangle. Beware of enforcement cameras, Germany probably uses such cameras more than anyone else.

Public Transport

If you already have a ticket, you can board a bus or tram at any door, otherwise you can buy a ticket at the front door. Failure to produce a ticket to an inspector, could result in a fine and you should retain it until your journey is completed as inspectors and police regularly check tickets at underground station exits as well as on buses and trams (Warning: If you do not have a ticket you must pay about 30 Euro). Monthly and yearly season tickets are available for regular users.

Children under 6, accompanied by an adult, travel free.

Post/Telecommunications

Post offices in larger cities are typically open from Monday to Friday 8am - 6pm, closed at noon for an hour, and on Saturday till 12pm Local and long distance calls can be made from all post offices using public telephones looking. You are only able to use calling cards on most public telephones.

Utilities

Electricity: Voltage in Germany is 220 volts. British and Irish appliances work adequately despite the slight difference in voltage, but they need plug adapters, whereas America appliances will need a transformer.

Gas: Supplied regionally, the main companies are BASF and Ruhrgas.

Water: The water bill must be paid every month and often there are additional charges for sewerage based on the number of people living in the property.

German Law and Customs

Cleaning of Pavements – Occupants are responsible for cleaning snow from pavements outside their homes, and for scattering sand or ashes to prevent slipping. Failure to do so may result in legal action being taken.

Car Washing – Cars must not be washed on the public highway. Cars should not be washed in courtyards or garages unless the drainage system includes an oil filter.

Sundays and Public Holidays – It is forbidden to mow the lawn, clean cars or undertake any activity likely to create noise. Shops and banks are also closed, however, some petrol stations and restaurants are open. These are considered to be days of rest.

Quiet Hours – Between 13.00-15.00 and 22.00-07.00 are known as ‘quiet hours’. You should ensure you avoid causing any disturbance to your neighbors.

Lawn Mowers – Motor driven lawn mowers may not be used between 19.00-07.00 or on Sundays and Public Holidays.

Washing – Must not be hung outside (this includes balconies) on Sundays and Public Holidays. Occupants of flats with balconies should ensure that washing is hung below the level of the balcony wall.

Barbecues – The use of Barbecues and other such grills on balconies is now illegal.

Shopping – Most German supermarkets do not permit customers to carry baskets or shopping bags other than those provided in the shopping area.

Jaywalking – This is illegal in Germany and can result in a warning or ticket.

Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Abels Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Abels cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.