



Information on the obligation to verbally declare cash and precious metals or stones when travelling within the EU

Failure to verbally declare cash and precious metals or stones is punishable by a fine **What are my obligations?**

Travellers leaving the Federal Republic of Germany for an EU Member State or entering from another EU country must verbally declare cash and precious metals or stones with a value of €10,000 or more when prompted to do so (this obligation is set out in Section 12a (2) of the Zollverwaltungsgesetz (Customs Administration Act)). The obligation to make a verbal declaration upon demand also applies even if you are in transit.

Officials belonging to customs, the federal police and the Länder (federal state) police forces in Bavaria, Bremen and Hamburg are authorised to ask you to verbally declare the cash and precious metals or stones you are carrying (pursuant to Section 1 (3b) of the Zollverwaltungsgesetz). The officials may also verify the accuracy of your statement.

Inspections may be conducted anywhere in the Federal Republic of Germany. A substantial fine may be imposed if you fail to declare or incorrectly declare the cash and precious metal or stones you are carrying.

What is the objective of the obligation for passengers travelling within the EU?

The objective of cash controls and the associated obligation to make a verbal declaration in the field of intra-Community travel is to detect the proceeds of crime and money movements from illegal sources and prevent these funds from flowing into economic circulation (in other words, the aim is to prevent and prosecute money laundering).

Part of the aim is also to identify people with contact to terrorist organisations who carry large sums of money as well as to seize such funds in order to crack down on cross-border terrorist financing. The obligation to make a verbal declaration and the inspections conducted by authorised officials do not represent a restriction on the free movement of capital. It will still be possible to carry unlimited amounts of cash and precious metals or stones without authorisation in future as well.

How to comply with your obligations:

- **What are the forms of cash that have to be declared upon demand?**

The obligation to verbally declare cash covers currency (in the form of banknotes and coins), securities (such as shares, debentures, cheques and traveller's cheques, money orders, bills of exchange as well as promissory notes and due interest warrants), precious metals and precious stones.

- **How do I make a verbal declaration and what information do I have to provide?**

Authorised officials will ask you to declare whether you are carrying cash and precious metals or stones with a value of €10,000 or more. You must then make a verbal declaration. When you declare cash, you will be asked to state the type, figure and value of the means of payment as well as to provide information about the provenance, recipient and intended use.

If you are not sure whether you have to declare the means of payment you are carrying or anything is unclear, it is in your own best interest to ask the officials conducting the inspection. You may be liable to severe penalties if you provide incorrect or incomplete information.

- **What happens once I have provided all the necessary information?**

If the information provided is complete and coherent, and does not constitute grounds to suspect money laundering or the financing or terrorism, customs will not detain your money and you can continue on your journey unimpeded.

- **What happens if there is reason to suspect money laundering or the financing of a terrorist organisation?**

Should there be reason to doubt the information provided by the person travelling or if there are any other grounds to suspect money laundering or the funding of a terrorist organisation, the means of payment being carried will be placed under customs custody and the matter clarified.

- **What are the consequences of failing to give information or providing false or incomplete information about the means of payment being carried?**

Anyone failing to declare or incorrectly declaring the means of payment being carried is committing an administrative offence pursuant to Section 31a of the Zollverwaltungsgesetz that may be punished with a fine of up to €1 million.

- **Who can I contact if I still have questions?**

Should you have any remaining questions about the obligation to declare cash, please contact any unit of the customs administration.

The customs information centre is the central information unit of the customs administration and can be contacted at:

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The customs information centre will be happy to answer all your questions regarding all of the customs administration's activities.