



### Introduction

Getting ready to move is generally accompanied by a combination of excitement and apprehension due to the fact that one is facing a largely unknown situation. To make the experience thoroughly beneficial, in this chapter we have gathered some useful information on the main issues you should prepare for prior to moving, together with a check list to help you get ready.

Knowing about the required permits, housing and its associated issues, as well as the basic customs regulations should not only make your preparation easier but should also help you become more acquainted with some aspects of the country.

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- 2.2 Work and residence permits
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## 2.1 Getting ready to move (checklist)

Moving from your home country to Switzerland - or to any other country - calls for careful planning. Though each case is different, some general advice can be given to each person preparing for an international move:

- ◇ First some good news: inoculations are not required to enter Switzerland.
  
- ◇ **Get all documents** ready well in advance, such as:
  - passports (valid for all family members)
  - visas (depending on the country you come from), Assurance of a Residence Permit, *assurance d'autorisation de séjour / Zusicherung der Aufenthaltsbewilligung*
  - marriage and birth certificates
  - criminal record certificate
  - health certificates
  - medical records from your doctor
  - dental records
  - driving licenses
  - insurance policies (accident, health, life, etc.)
  - registration cards for motor vehicles
  - proof of accident-free driving from your car insurance company (enables substantial price reduction by new car insurance company). To obtain the maximum reduction you need evidence that you have not made an insurance claim in the last ten years. Each car will require a separate letter.
  - vaccination certificates for pets
  - ID, passport photos



- ◇ Prepare a list of all the **goods and items you intend to move**
  - Check if there are specific requirements for each of these articles, be it to take them out of your home country, to transit through other territories, or to import them into Switzerland. *For further information see section 2.5 “Customs regulations”.*
  - Check if your television, DVD and video equipment is compatible with the systems used in Switzerland (European Pal/Secam, Zone 2 systems). If not, you may want to leave them behind. *For further information see section 3.3 “Television, DVD, video and radio”.*
  - As electric power in Switzerland functions at 220 volts and 50Hz, you should check if your appliances are capable of operating on 50Hz before moving. As a matter of fact you can get a transformer to convert your appliances to work on 220 volts, but there is nothing you can do to adapt the North American 60Hz appliances to work on 50Hz. Either your appliance is already capable of operating on 50Hz, or you may need to use them for shorter periods of time to prevent motor damage. Check the label on your appliance. *For further information see section 2.4 “Utilities”.*
  - Make a budget including transport charges and customs taxes and duties; you may find out, for instance, that shipping your old car may not really be worth the expense.
  - If you have cook books that you would like to use in Fribourg, it would be better to take the various measuring instruments with you so that you will not have to convert your recipes’ ingredients into the metric system. *For conversion tables see section 6.1 “Conversion charts: weights, measures, clothing”.*
  - Arrange shipping.



- ◇ Ask professionals (international movers, lawyers, bankers, doctors, insurance and tax experts, etc.) to advise and assist you in their fields of experience.
- ◇ Carefully discuss with a tax expert in your home country about your legal situation as a taxpayer. It will probably be to your advantage to have the assignment in Switzerland for a period of time that is sufficiently long enough to become a non-resident of your home country. That way you would not have to pay income tax in your home country, (unless you are US citizens, who are required to submit a tax return to the IRS no matter where they live). Inquire attentively about the applicable rules before moving.
- ◇ Arrange to have your mail redirected by the post office or send change of address cards to concerned parties.





## 2.2 Work and residence permits

Essentially you will need permits to establish residence and to work in Switzerland. In most cases you cannot obtain a residence permit without first securing a work permit. Without a residence permit you will not be allowed to lease an apartment or a house. Therefore you can see the work permit is a vital document to have before moving to Switzerland.

For some readers it may be your company has already settled the details relative to your work and residence permits. As such we will not go into too much detail here and we will just give you a global summary. If you need any more information, the Federal Office for Migration's website, [www.bfm.admin.ch](http://www.bfm.admin.ch), is very complete and will be very useful as it offers the most recent developments on this issue.

### Tourists

Naturally **tourists** do not need a work or a residence permit. Anyone holding a valid passport, if necessary with a visa, may visit Switzerland for a period up to **three months** after which they must leave the country for at least one month. Two visits of up to three months each are allowed per year. Visitors are **not allowed to work** in Switzerland.

### Residency permits

There are basically two ways to obtain a residency permit: either a company in Switzerland obtains a work permit for you, or if you want to retire in Switzerland. As this second possibility is more of an exception we will concentrate on the residence permits for employment.

Each canton dispenses a limited number of work permits of different types per year. A distinction is made between citizens of the European Union (EU citizens), the EFTA countries, and the citizens from the remaining countries of the world (non-EU citizens). In June 2002, a new agreement with the European Union came into force, which facilitates workforce movement within Europe. This agreement distinguishes the policy for European citizens from the one for non-European citizens. For each group the Federal Council makes yearly decisions relative to new quotas. In essence, each group has the same kind of permits, nonetheless the rights and conditions are a little bit different depending if you are an EU citizen or not. The most common permits are mentioned below:

- ◇ The **“4-month”** or **“120 day”** Permit is a short-term residence permit for 120 days within a calendar year. It enables foreigners to take up short-term employment in Switzerland for a specific and limited purpose. The families of EU citizens are allowed to join the permit holder during their stay.
- ◇ **“L” Permits** are issued to foreigners employed in Switzerland for a definite period of time. The “L” permits are valid for a maximum of one year. EU citizens can ask for a renewal, whereas non-EU citizens can only ask to extend it for a maximum of 24 months. The families of EU citizens are allowed to join the permit holder. The families of non EU citizens are, in principle, not allowed to join the permit holder (exceptions are however possible).
- ◇ **Residence Permits** (B Permit) are issued to foreigners employed in Switzerland for an indefinite period of time.



For EU citizens they are valid for 5 years and are renewable, whereas for non-EU citizens they are also renewable but valid for only one year.

The families of EU citizens and of non-EU citizens are allowed to join the permit holder. A regulation allows the spouse/husband of a 'B' permit holder to be employed without being subject to the usual quota restrictions; she/he has to ask for a special authorization at the canton's Foreign Police office.

- ◇ **Permanent residence permits (C Permit)** are granted to permanent foreign residents. 'B' permit holders are eligible for 'C' permits after five or ten consecutive years as a resident in Switzerland. Citizens of Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom (U.K.), the United States (U.S.) and The Vatican qualify for a 'C' permit after five years. For citizens of other countries the qualification period is ten years. Holders of 'C' permits do not require permission to change jobs, their cantons of residence or to become self-employed. There are conditions that enable you to retain your 'C' permit if you leave Switzerland for an extended period of time.

Non-EU permit holders are not usually permitted to change employer, profession or canton, unless holding a valid 'C' permit. They may work outside the canton in which they live or change employer and profession, only if they receive special authorization from the canton's Foreign Police, *Service de la population et des migrants / Amt für Bevölkerung und Migration (rte d'Englisberg 11, 1763 Granges-Paccot, Tel. 026 305 14 92)*.

Unemployed foreign children **under eighteen (EU citizens: 21)** are, except in some very unusual cases, allowed to move with their parents. When they start working, or at the age of eighteen (EU citizens: 21), foreign children must apply for their own residence permits.

Foreign teenagers may apply for work in Switzerland but require an offer of employment from a prospective employer before a permit will be granted.

**Foreign students** in Switzerland require a special 'B' permit, which is valid for 1 year and renewable. The educational establishment provides students with a certificate verifying their status. After satisfying the authorities that they can support themselves financially, students may apply for a residence permit in the customary way. Students attending University may work for up to fifteen hours per week after the second semester. They may also work during vacations. An authorization must nevertheless be requested.

## **Procedure**

To work and establish residence here you have to obtain the appropriate visa before entering Switzerland. The procedure can be summarized as follows:

### **For EU or EFTA nationals (with the exception of the citizens of the 10 new Member States)**

**Stay with the intent to carry out a lucrative activity for more than 3 months**



Workers from EU/EFTA, Cyprus and Malta request the granting of a residence permit by personally contacting the canton's labor office, *Service de la population et des migrants, Section Europe / Amt für Bevölkerung und Migration, Sektion Europa*, (Rte d'Englisberg 11, 1763 Granges-Paccot) and provide the following documents:

- a work contract or an engagement letter indicating the percentage of activity and the expected duration of employment,
- a copy of an I.D. card or of a passport,
- two passport-size pictures.

### **Stay with the intent to carry out an activity as independent**

Independent workers from EU/EFTA, Cyprus and Malta, request the granting of a residence permit by personally contacting the canton's labor office *Service de la population et des migrants, Section Europe / Amt für Bevölkerung und Migration, Sektion Europa*, (Rte d'Englisberg 11, 1763 Granges-Paccot) and provide the following documents:

- a business plan (bookkeeping, orders, etc.);
- a copy of an I.D. card or of a passport,
- two passport-size pictures.

In the first stage, a 6-month authorization (installation period) will be provided. At the end of this period, if the independent worker exhibits proof that he/she performs an independent activity, a 5-year residence authorization will be granted. He/she will then benefit from professional mobility, in particular the right to carry out a lucrative activity as a dependent (employee).



### **For nationals of all other States**

- The prospective employer in Switzerland applies for the work permit at the canton's labor office, *Service de la population et des migrants, Section main-d'oeuvre étrangère / Amt für Bevölkerung und Migration, Sektion ausländische Arbeitskräfte, (Rte d'Englisberg 11, 1763 Granges-Paccot)*. As a rule, only individuals who have been offered jobs that cannot be filled by Swiss nationals have a chance of obtaining work permits.
- If such a permit is granted, an Assurance of a Residence Permit, *assurance d'autorisation de séjour / Zusicherung der Aufenthaltsbewilligung*, is sent to the employer as well as the prospective employee.
- While the employer applies for the work permit in Switzerland, nationals who require a visa to work in Switzerland (most non-Europeans) must file a personal application form for the work visa at a Swiss embassy or consulate of their home country.
- After the work permit has been issued, an authorization to deliver the visa is sent to the competent Swiss Embassy/ Consulate General.
- Once in possession of this visa or of the Assurance of a Residence Permit, you can then enter Switzerland to establish residence.
- The Assurance of a Residence Permit should be presented to the Foreign Police, *Police des étrangers / Fremdenpolizei*, **within eight days of arrival** and, in any case, before starting work.
- At that point the appropriate residence permit will be issued to you.
- Holders of residence permits are subject to local regulations and taxes, but do not have the right to vote and are not obliged to do Swiss military service.



## 2.3 Housing

Most foreigners moving to the canton of Fribourg initially rent housing. It is much easier to find moderately priced apartments and houses in Fribourg than in larger cities.

In the canton of Fribourg the usual description of housing mentions each room, *une pièce / ein Zimmer*, as a livable space, therefore kitchens and bathrooms are not always counted. A  $\frac{1}{2}$  *pièce / ½ Zimmer*, normally means that the kitchen is big enough to be used as a dining area. For example, *un appartement 3½ / 3 ½ Zimmer-Wohnung*, means that there are 2 bedrooms, 1 living room and 1 kitchen with enough place to put a table.

Contrary to other cantons, in Fribourg most housing is rented with a refrigerator, a stove, and an oven as well as, in most cases, a dishwasher. Washers and dryers are usually located in the basement of the building for all tenants to use on a rotation basis.

Most housing is rented without furniture and light fixtures. If you desire to rent furniture you can ask the Development Agency for the addresses of furniture stores that do make such offerings.

Garages and parking spaces are generally not included in the lease and are rented separately.

Very useful information:

[www.bwo.admin.ch/mietrecht/00239/index.html?lang=fr](http://www.bwo.admin.ch/mietrecht/00239/index.html?lang=fr)

## How to find housing

**Real estate agencies**, *Agences immobilières / Immobilien-agenturen*, or *régies / Liegenschaftsverwaltungen*. Check in the telephone book for a complete list of agents in the city you intend to move to. Most real estate agencies have websites, where they list properties for rent or sale. The information is appropriately organized into different categories. You can sometimes register with the site to be contacted by e-mail when a property that suits your needs comes on the market. Furthermore the association of real estate agents of Fribourg, which includes most of the real estate agencies, publishes a free list of housing on the website, [www.cfi-ikf.ch](http://www.cfi-ikf.ch). **On the web** you can also use various websites such as, [www.immoscout.ch](http://www.immoscout.ch), [www.homegate.ch](http://www.homegate.ch) or [www.immovista.ch](http://www.immovista.ch), which include ads of many real estate agencies.

There are also ads daily in **local newspapers** under *Appartements à louer / Mietwohnungen*. Besides ads of real estate agencies you will find ads from private owners. Addresses may or may not be given. A quick phone call will give you the address plus any additional information about the rental. A typical ad will give you the price plus utilities, *charges / Nebenkosten*, additional sums added to the rent for heating and hot water.

You can also ask your company's human resources department. They may know of housing that is to be vacated due to a transfer, or other available housing.

Another source of information is to scan the bulletin boards at the customer service sections of large department stores and supermarkets.



An additional approach is to place an ad in the local paper under *Demandes de location / Mietgesuche*. It is advisable to place the ad personally rather than doing it by telephone. This can be done through:

**Publicitas SA**

Rte du Petit-Moncor 1  
1752 Villars-sur-Glâne  
Tel. 026 408 29 00  
Fax 026 408 29 49

or Case postale 1232  
1701 Fribourg  
[fribourg@publicitas.ch](mailto:fribourg@publicitas.ch)  
[www.publicitas.ch](http://www.publicitas.ch)

When you move from abroad, professional relocation agencies can save you a lot of hassle. For a fee, these companies contact real estate agents, preview properties and take you to see only the properties that they feel best suit your requirements.

In Fribourg, the following companies offer these services:

**Crown Relocations**

Rte Henri-Stephan 12  
1762 Givisiez  
Tel. +41 (0)26 460 87 40  
Fax +41 (0)26 460 87 41  
[fribourg@crowrelo.com](mailto:fribourg@crowrelo.com)  
[www.crowrelo.com](http://www.crowrelo.com)

**ReloCare**

Promenade de Belle Croix 12  
1752 Villars-sur-Glâne  
Tel. +41(0)26 402 14 84  
Fax +41(0)26 402 14 85  
[info@relocare.ch](mailto:info@relocare.ch)  
[www.relocare.ch](http://www.relocare.ch)

### Terms and technicalities

A lease, *un bail / Mietvertrag*, is usually drawn up with a three-month notice clause, *le préavis / die Kündigungsfrist*, given to either side for cancellation of the lease. Many leases allow cancellation on only two dates/periods per year (end of March and end of September). However, you can be released from the lease contract if you find a new solvent leaseholder ready to take over the lease contract. Cancellation of a lease must be made by registered mail.

The leases are detailed documents. It is essential to have someone fluent in both French or German and your mother tongue read it through with you. Rent may be increased or rarely, decreased, each year depending on the amount of interest being charged to the owner for his mortgage, inflation and maintenance expenses.

Housing usually requires a deposit, *une caution / eine Kaution*, of one to three months' rent. This money is usually deposited in a bank account, from which you will receive interest. Joint signature, from you and the real estate agency, is required to release the money. When the premises are vacated providing no damage has been done, the deposit is returned.

When you first move into your rented housing, you will be asked by the landlord to walk around with him and to establish a detailed inventory of the premises, *l'état des lieux / Übernahmeprotokoll*. This should describe in minute detail everything that is damaged or worn. A form should be filled and signed. When you leave, a similar inspection will take place and anything that is found to be damaged, which is not on the list, will be considered to be your fault.



To a certain extent, normal wear and tear is allowed, with consideration given to the age of the item(s) in question. Everything must look practically the same when you leave as when you entered. If you do not notice some things during the inspection, and find them after moving in, you have ten days to report them to your landlord.

Some of the utilities (e.g. heating) may be included in your rent, but most likely you will have to pay for them separately. The electricity costs are normally not included in the rent. *For more information see section 2.4 "Utilities"*

## Insurance

- **Building Insurance**, *assurance bâtiment / Gebäudeversicherung*. If you own a building such insurance is compulsory. It covers your building against fire, explosion and natural disasters. This insurance is done through the *Etablissement cantonal d'assurance des bâtiments / Kantonale Gebäudeversicherung*, (Maison-de-Montenach 1, 1701 Fribourg / Granges-Paccot, Tel. 026 305 92 92, [www.ecab.ch](http://www.ecab.ch) or [ecab@fr.ch](mailto:ecab@fr.ch)).
- **Household Insurance**, *assurance ménage / Hausratversicherung*, is not mandatory but strongly recommended. Its coverage includes theft, water damage, and some glass breakage. You will need to provide an estimate of the value of your household contents. All insurance companies offer such coverage and the premium is quite low.
- **Liability Insurance**, *assurance responsabilité civile / Haftpflichtversicherung*, is not mandatory but strongly recommended as well. It covers accidental damage to your home and its contents.



Nearly everyone has a policy of this kind. Some owners even request a copy of your policy when you rent an apartment or villa. A great advantage of this is that it covers you, for example, if you break something in someone else's home. All insurance companies offer such insurance and the premium is quite low.

### **Tenants' Association**

- **Swiss tenants' Association – ASLOCA**, *Association Suisse des Locataires / Schweizerischer Mieterinnen- und Mieterverband*, defends the rights of tenants in Switzerland and will help if you have any problems.

#### ***Association Suisse des locataires (ASLOCA)***

*Section Sarine*

*rue de l'Hôpital 2*

*1700 Fribourg*

*Tel. 0848 818 800*

### **Acquisition of real estate by foreigners**

Anyone with a B or C Permit is allowed to purchase real estate to establish their main place of residence or to use it for their economic activity, with the exception of realtors.



## 2.4 Utilities

### **Central heating, *le chauffage / die Heizung***

The cost of central heating is usually included in the utilities, *les charges / die Nebenkosten*, of an apartment or multiple-unit building. The service charge is a fixed amount, based on an estimate of real costs. Generally, you will be billed the estimated amount and at the beginning of the following year the owner will calculate the actual amount due and then will either reimburse you or bill you a supplement to cover the actual costs.

For those occupying a single-family dwelling, it is generally the responsibility of the tenant to maintain the heating system and to check and re-order oil if it is not done automatically. Be sure to verify your obligations before signing the lease.

### **Chimneys, *les cheminées / der Kamin***

In houses, regular inspections by a chimney sweep, *un ramoneur / der Kaminfeger*, are required for validation of the obligatory fire insurance policy. Typically, the owner is responsible for payment, but not always, so please be sure to look into this. Prices vary according to the number of chimneys. Frequency depends on the age and size of the house. If the chimney sweep does not come, contact your local town hall, *l'administration communale / die Gemeindeverwaltung*, for his name.

### **Electricity, *l'électricité / die Elektrizität***

Remember that the electrical system in Switzerland is 220 volts, 50Hz. You cannot use your 110-volt appliances without a transformer. Even with a transformer, some appliances, such as blenders and sewing machines, may need to be used for shorter periods of time to prevent motor damage. Note that electrical



outlets differ from those used in the UK, America and most overseas countries. Adapters are available in hotels and can be bought in many shops.

*Le Groupe E*, (bd Pérolles 25, 1700 Fribourg, Tel. 026 352 52 52, [www.groupe-e.ch](http://www.groupe-e.ch), [info@groupe-e.ch](mailto:info@groupe-e.ch)), handles new contracts, cancellations and billing service for electricity. Total consumption for all electrical appliances is payable by the tenant and is usually billed directly. A deposit is sometimes required. Bills are sent every three months. You can make arrangements to have these bills paid automatically from your bank or your post account.

### **Water**, *l'eau / das Wasser*

Each individual house has a water meter and bills are usually sent twice a year. If you lease an apartment, the cost of water is included in the utilities cost for heating.

### **Garbage**, *les ordures / der Abfall*

In most municipalities you must use special 'official' garbage bags that carry a tax. You can find them in local stores or at the communal administration office. Unofficial bags will not be collected and people not using official bags are subject to a fine. In apartment buildings, the superintendent, *concierge / Abwart*, will explain the procedure to follow. Ordinarily, there are regulations for the disposal of glass, grass and yard trimmings, newspapers and large objects. If you live in a village, ask a neighbor or telephone your town hall concerning local regulations. *For further information see section 4.10, "Recycling"*



**Cantonal administration,**  
*administration cantonale / Kantonsverwaltung*

If you need to contact any official service of the canton of Fribourg, look in the Fribourg telephone book under “*Administration Cantonale*” / “*Kantonsverwaltung*” and locate the appropriate agency. Office hours are listed as well. You can also take a look at the official cantonal administration’s website, [www.fr.ch](http://www.fr.ch).





## 2.5 Customs regulations

### General rules

The general principle of the Swiss customs taxation is quite unusual. Switzerland is one of few countries in the world to levy import duties **based on weight, volume or number of pieces**. There are no restrictions regarding the import or export of Swiss and foreign bank notes

In addition to the customs taxation, a VAT (Value Added Tax), *TVA / MWST*, of 2,4% on normal alimentary goods and books, and 7,6% on all other goods, will have to be paid at Swiss customs. On the other hand, you may be able to get the VAT, of the foreign country, returned. Inquire at the place of purchase for details.

On duty-free and tax-free items, you have a daily allowance of **CHF 300 worth of goods purchased abroad *per person*** – for your personal use, for this a child is considered an adult. If the total value of goods per person exceeds CHF 300, then all goods become taxable. Any cumulating of this limit for several people traveling together is excluded – e.g. you will have to pay duties and VAT on a new television worth CHF 400, even if there are two of you crossing the border together. In this duty-free and tax-free allowance you might include the quantity of special items listed below:

**Alcohol** (minimum age: 17), *alcool / Alkohol*

Below 15% vol.		2 liters
More than 15% vol.	<i>and</i>	1 liter

**Tobacco** (minimum age: 17), *tabac / Tabak*

Cigarettes		200
Cigars	<i>or</i>	50
Pipe tobacco	<i>or</i>	250 grams

**Meat**, *viande / Fleisch*

Fresh or frozen red meat	500 grams
Salted, dried, smoked red meat or poultry, rabbit, fish, game	3.5 kilograms

If you plan to buy a few **bottles of wine** abroad, it is worth taking note that customs taxes on wine are very progressive: up to 20 liters the tax amounts to CHF 0.60 per liter, but for each additional liter you will have to pay an additional CHF 3.

Do not forget to keep **sales receipts** as they can be required to prove the place of origin and price. Also, keep your customs declarations in the event that they are required for verification. Remember that the CHF 300 limit includes everything, even repairs on your car if they are made outside Switzerland, so make sure you declare everything.

If you need more detailed information, the website of the Swiss customs authority is very useful, [www.customs.admin.ch](http://www.customs.admin.ch)



## **Household effects**, *effets de déménagement / Haushaltwaren*

Fortunately, for **household goods** there is a different rule. If you import your own possessions and articles - which you have owned for at least 6 months prior to your change of residence - and you do not intend to sell them in Switzerland - their import into Switzerland is **duty-free** and **tax-free**. Of course the removal and importation of goods into Switzerland must take place within a reasonable period after the change of residence.

In order to import your goods duty free into Switzerland you will have to present the following **documents** to the Swiss Customs:

- your Swiss work and residence permit
- the lease or property title of the new apartment or house in Switzerland
- a detailed inventory of the goods
- the Swiss customs *form 18.44*, which exists in French, German and Italian ([www.zoll.admin.ch](http://www.zoll.admin.ch))

Please note that subsequent shipments are possible, but they have to be declared with the inventory when clearing the first shipment.

## **Some specific rules**

### **Pets**, *animaux domestiques / Haustiere*

A cat, dog or bird can be imported, or re-imported, only if you can show a certificate proving that it was vaccinated against rabies not less than 30 days and not more than 360 days before moving. Dogs younger than 5 months can not be imported if they have their tail and/or ears cut off. If you import more than 3 pets at the same



time, a check-up at the vet's before leaving may be necessary. For all other animals, please contact the Swiss customs authorities. Most probably, an import license and a sanitary visit will be required.

### **Motor vehicles, *véhicules motorisés / Motorfahrzeuge***

Cars, boats, planes, etc. can be imported with their foreign registration cards and foreign plates. To be considered as part of your removal goods - therefore duty and tax-free - a motor vehicle must have been in your possession for at least 6 months before changing your residence. The foreign registration card will have to be presented to Swiss Customs. In addition to this, you will have to sign a declaration stating that you do not intend to sell your vehicle for the next year. If you decide to sell the vehicle within the 12-month period, or if you have owned the vehicle for less than 6 months, the import will be treated as a "standard" import, i.e. import duties, VAT and taxes will be levied.

### **Works of art and antiques, *oeuvres d'art / Kunstwerke***

They will be handled as other removal goods. You must be able to prove that you are the actual owner.

### **Alcoholic beverages,**

*boissons alcoolisées / alkoholische Getränke*

Included in the removal goods, you can import tax-free a quantity of alcoholic beverage that is estimated reasonable and appropriate to the situation of the owner. By reasonable and appropriate, Swiss Customs means up to 200 liters of wine or beer per person. Otherwise, the usual duties and taxes will be levied, and they can be quite high. For strong liquor (over 25% of alcohol), the maximum quantity that can be imported duty-free is 12 liters. For additional quantities, heavy duties and taxes will be levied.



**Plants and fruit, *plantes et fruits / Pflanzen und Früchte***

A number of ornamental, aromatic and medicinal plants can be imported without a phyto-sanitary check-up (the list can be found on the website [www.customs.admin.ch](http://www.customs.admin.ch)), up to 20 kg per person per day. For other plants, fruits and vegetables, phyto-sanitary inspections are required, and import of many overseas plants is forbidden. For precise information, contact the Swiss customs authorities.

**Arms and ammunitions,**  
*armes et munitions / Waffen und Munition*

All arms, weapons and ammunitions as well as their parts, must be declared with Swiss Customs during import, export or transit. When you are preparing to move, it is strongly advisable to check with Customs on the guns you plan to import. Some arms are allowed without import licenses. Others are allowed but subject to an import license. Some weapons and their parts are forbidden and will not be allowed to enter the Swiss territory.