

**Customs Advice for US retirees,  
widow(er)s and unaccompanied  
dependents in Germany  
relating to**

**AE Form 550-175K**

**(US Forces Status Verification /  
Statusnachweis für  
versorgungsberechtigte Personen der  
US Streitkräfte)**



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<https://www.europeafrica.army.mil/customs/>

<https://intranet.eur.army.mil/hq/g34/opm/cea/customer-service/SitePages/Home.aspx>

July 2022

# WHO IS PERMITTED TO SHOP IN US SALES FACILITIES IN GERMANY AFTER MILITARY RETIREMENT AND LOSS OF INDIVIDUAL LOGISTICAL SUPPORT?

## ELIBILITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH AER 550-175:

- Retired military personnel and their dependents who permanently reside in Germany.
- Retired military personnel and their dependents who visit Germany for at least 30 uninterrupted days.
- Dependent spouses of retired military personnel who reside without their sponsors permanently in Germany.
- Widow(er)s of retired military personnel who have not remarried and reside permanently in Germany and their dependents.
- Retired reservists (reservists who are otherwise eligible for retirement, but are under the age of 60).
- 100 % disabled veterans.
- Unaccompanied dependent children of active duty or retired military personnel whose sponsor doesn't reside in Germany.
- Unaccompanied dependents of active duty service members who are assigned to a restricted short tour outside of Germany.
- 20/20/20 former spouses of retired military personnel.
- From January 2020: Veterans awarded a Purple Heart and Medal of Honor, veterans who were prisoners of war as well as disabled veterans and their caregivers on behalf of disabled veterans.

## **NOT ELIGIBLE ARE:**

- Retired civilian employees who reside or visit Germany.
- Widow(er)s and 20/20/20 former spouses visiting Germany.
- Dependents of retired military personnel visiting Germany without their sponsor.

## **WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING WITH ME TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR SHOPPING?**

You will need to obtain a status verification (AE Form 550-175K) from a military Customs Office in Germany. Military retirees, dependents, unaccompanied dependents (UD), unaccompanied dependent spouses, or widow(er)s will have to present following documentation:

- Respective ID cards (e.g. Military Retiree ID card, Dependent Retiree ID card, Widow(er) ID card)
- Passport or Personalausweis
- Valid residence permit if residing or ordinary resident in Germany

## **WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO NEXT?**

The AE Form 550-175K must be presented to your **local** German customs office for further processing and issuance of the actual authorization Form 0216 and Form 0217, which is also referred to as "Pink Card". In order to access US Forces sales facilities you will need both your respective ID card and "Pink Card".

## REMEMBER:

- Purchase of rationed items is not permitted.
- All purchases are only for personal use and resale or transfer is not permitted.
- You must present the "Pink Card" no later than the 5<sup>th</sup> working day of each month to the issuing German customs office together with ALL original cash register sales receipts for all purchases made in the previous month.

German customs will levy duties based on the € rate applicable in the month when the purchases were made (for further details please go to [www.zoll.de](http://www.zoll.de)).

For items with a **single item sales price** of **less than** the U.S. \$ equivalent of **50 Euro** German Customs will levy duties calculated by means of a flat rate of duty (currently 17.5%).

For items with a **single item sales price** of the U.S. \$ equivalent of **50 Euro and more** duties will be calculated on the basis of the customs tariff and the relevant tax regimes (customs duties, excise duties and import value-added taxes).

For further information on the determination of duty rates for items go to:

[www.zolltarifnummern.de](http://www.zolltarifnummern.de)

(English and German)

## WHAT IF I'M NOT ABLE TO SHOP MYSELF DUE TO A MEDICAL CONDITION OR HANDICAP?

The entitled person can appoint a **Shopping Assistant** in case additional help is needed due to **medical conditions**, a **handicap status** or an **existing custodianship**. This person can shop and/or register on behalf of the entitled person.

Please provide following documentation if you wish to apply for a shopping assistant:

- Written request for Shopping Assistant Authorization, dated and signed by the retiree, widow(er) or UD
- Certificate proving that the retiree/widow(er) or UD is medically incapacitated or under custodianship.
- ID card, passport or Personalausweis with valid residence permit of retiree, widow(er) or UD.
- Passport / Personalausweis of designated Shopping Assistant with valid residence permit or other immigration documents.

On receipt of the AE Form 550-175K the shopping assistant will take the form to the local German customs office and a Pink Card will be issued with the remark "Erfüllungsgehilfe". Remember that the shopping assistant is only shopping on behalf of the entitled person and not also for themselves.

**All forms will be issued on a walk-in basis.**



## HQ Customs Customer Service

Clay Kaserne, Building 1015  
CIV: +49-(0)611-143-537-3955;  
DSN: 537-3955



### **Ansbach Field Office**

Bismarck Kaserne, Building 5843-C, room 286  
CIV: +49-(0)981-183-7842; DSN: 314-468-7842

### **Baumholder Field Office**

Health Clinic Kaserne, Building 8747, room 7104  
CIV: +49-(0)611-143-531-2944/2945; DSN: 314-531-2944/2945

### **Grafenwöhr Field Office**

Grafenwöhr Garrison, Building 621, room 129  
CIV: +49-(0)9641-70-569-2896/2897; DSN: 314-569-2896/2897

### **Hohenfels Field Office**

Training Area, Building 10, room 126  
CIV: +49-(0)9472-708-3376; DSN: 314-522-3376

### **Kaiserslautern Field Office**

Kleber Kaserne, Building 3245, room 103  
CIV: +49-(0)611-143-523-4901/02; DSN: 314-523-4901/02

### **Ramstein Field Office**

Ramstein Air Base VOQ, Bldg. 305  
CIV :+49-(0)6371-47-3720/0100; DSN: 314-480-3720/0100

### **Spangdahlem Field Office**

Spangdahlem Airbase, Bldg. 139, room106  
CIV :+49-(0)6565-61-4500; DSN: 314-452-4500

### **Stuttgart Field Office**

Panzer Kaserne, Building 2913, room 303  
CIV: +49-(0)9641-70-596-2657/2732; DSN: 314-596-2657/2732

### **Wiesbaden Field Office**

Clay Kaserne, Building 1025, room 102  
CIV :+49-(0)611-143-537-3932/3933; DSN: 314-537-3932/3933

## **US Army Customs Agency – Europe**

### **HOURS OF OPERATION**

**0800-1600**

**For Customs Information and/or support at  
Garmisch and Geilenkirchen contact:**

### **Garmisch MP Station**

Artillery Kaserne, Building 209  
CIV: +49-(0)8821-750-3601/3801; DSN 440-3601/3801

### **Geilenkirchen**

470 ABS/US Customs, Bldg. 84, rooms 8 and 9  
CIV: +49-(0)2451-9151-4031; DSN 458-4030/4031