



# Transporting weapons of war in line with the War Weapons Control Act

Notes for those applying for a permit from the Federal Ministry for  
Economic Affairs and Climate Action

## **Please note:**

**This guidance is not exhaustive and its substance is not legally binding. It is designed to provide a brief overview of the application process for a permit for transporting weapons of war on the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany. The relevant provisions are subject to interpretation by the judiciary and the public prosecution services, which may differ from the interpretation given here. Both the administrative practice described and the guidance document itself may be updated at any time.**

**This guidance document was last updated on 1 January 2024.**

## **When do I need a permit and whom do I need to contact?**

Any transport of weapons of war that are listed on the War Weapons List on or across the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany is subject to authorisation pursuant to War Weapons Control Act, regardless of whether these goods are being imported, exported or shipped in transit.

The regulatory authority in charge of issuing permits for the transport of weapons of war – with the exception of transports organised by the Bundeswehr (German Armed Forces), the German customs and border authorities and the agencies responsible for the upholding of public security and the penal system – is the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Division EC6 (cf. Section 11(2) War Weapons Control Act and Section 1 of the First Ordinance on the Implementation of the War Weapons Control Act).

## **What information do I need to provide?**

Applicants for a permit to transport weapons of war pursuant to the War Weapons Control Act must provide the following information:

- Name and address of the applicant
- Name and address of the party dispatching the weapon of war
- Name and address of the party receiving the weapon of war
- Exact description of the weapons of war
- Number as listed in the War Weapons List (see below)
- Number of weapons of war (indicate the exact number of items for each type of weapon; in the case of ammunitions calibres must also be stated)

- Name and address of the companies transporting the goods (airline, shipping line, railway company, other transport company and/or transport by the applicant)
- Purpose of the transport
- Mode of transport (aeroplane, vessel, railway, truck)
- Place of dispatch and destination (including the exact details of which companies will be transporting the weapons of war on what transport routes within the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany, e.g.: Transport from Munich to Frankfurt by company A, from Frankfurt to Hamburg by company B, from Hamburg by shipping line C, direct route)
- Time of transport

These requirements are all set out in the Second Ordinance implementing the War Weapons Control Act. All of the information above must be indicated in the application, which can be made without the need for a specific form. However, the information must be contained in the application itself, not merely in supporting documents, consignment notes etc.

Please classify your goods according to the excerpt from the War Weapons List attached and indicate the relevant number(s).

Applications can also be made for transport services by other logistics companies that are not specifically named. These must hold an international authorisation or licence for road transport in Germany under the Road Haulage Act (GüKG). The permit will then be granted subject to special requirements. Any transport of weapons of war from a foreign country to the Federal Republic of Germany and further to another foreign country is subject to the requirement that the names of all logistics companies involved must be stated in the permit.

### **Which additional documents do I need to submit along with my application?**

- Authorisation to submit an application (in cases where the applicant and the permit holder are not the same);
- For exports and transits: official 'End User Certificate' and, if applicable, an import permit issued by the recipient country. Forms that can be used as templates for the end user documents required for exports from Germany are available for download from the website of the Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA) (in German)<sup>1</sup>;
- Provided that the permit application concerns the transport for the purpose of participating in a trade fair in the Federal Republic of Germany, it is not required to submit an 'official end-use declaration'. However, it is required to submit a confirmation of participation from the company organising the trade fair, permit or export authorisation issued by the exporting country.

Additional documents may be requested on a case-by-case basis. These may include proof of end use of weapons of war or import permits.

### **What else do I need to know?**

Please make sure to submit your original application in German. As a matter of principle, all applications for transportation for export purposes must be signed by the person responsible for exports.

Please note that your application for a transportation permit can only be processed once all the necessary information has been submitted along with all the relevant documents. Applications that are incomplete will not be processed until all of the missing data and documents have been submitted.

In very urgent cases and only by way of exception, a digital copy of the application may be submitted in advance to the following email address: buero-vb8@bmwk.bund.de.

---

<sup>1</sup>[http://www.bafa.de/DE/Aussenwirtschaft/Ausfuhrkontrolle/Antragsstellung/Endverbleibsdokumente/endverbleibsdokumente\\_node.html](http://www.bafa.de/DE/Aussenwirtschaft/Ausfuhrkontrolle/Antragsstellung/Endverbleibsdokumente/endverbleibsdokumente_node.html)

However, a hard copy of the application must also be sent by post.

Please send your application to:

**Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz,  
Referat EC6  
Scharnhorststr. 34-37  
10115 Berlin**

Please make sure to submit your application well in advance. Applications may take several weeks to process. If your application relates to exports or transits to ‘third countries’ (countries outside NATO and the EU, with the exception of countries having equivalent status to NATO members, i.e. Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand and Japan), please prepare for longer processing periods.

### **What do I need to consider during transport?**

Before handing over the weapons of war to the carrier/forwarder, the permit holder must verify that:

- the number and type of the weapons of war being prepared for transport are covered by the permit,
- that the transport services are being conducted only by the carriers/forwarders listed in the relevant permit documents, and
- that the carrier is carrying the permit.

In those cases where the goods are being transported by a logistics company that is not specified in the permit, a copy of the necessary international authorisation or licence required for road haulage must be carried along with the goods. The permit holder is responsible for verifying prior to the transport that the company holds such a licence and that it is valid.

The permit holder must also ensure that the transport is conducted immediately and that the goods are stored in line with the provisions of Section 12 (1) War Weapons Control Act for the entire duration of the transport: during the entire process of transport, the carrier (forwarding agent/consignor) must take all the precautions necessary to keep the weapons of war safe, notably to prevent theft or the use of the weapons by unauthorised persons. All of the obligations set out in Section 12 War Weapons Control Act and Sections 9-14 Second Ordinance Implementing the War Weapons Control Act apply.

All transports of weapons of war are expected to be conducted without any delay and (to the extent that they are being conducted in Germany) to be completed within a maximum of five working days, even in difficult cases. Forwarding agents must plan and make their arrangements accordingly.

Any unforeseen delay exceeding this period must be notified immediately to the regulatory authority in charge (usually the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action or the Federal Ministry of Defence). Should it prove impossible to contact these agencies, you can instead contact the Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control – Division 222 – about the need for verification as to whether any (additional) approvals are required.

Any interim storage that might become necessary and any transport being conducted by a forwarding agent/carrier other than the one(s) stated in the permit is subject to approval pursuant to Section 2(2) War Weapons Control Act and, if applicable, Section 3 (1) or (2) War Weapons Control Act. Applications to this effect must be submitted, without delay, to the regulatory authority in charge.

The licence holder within the meaning of Section 3(1) War Weapons Control Act has overall responsibility for ensuring that the entire transport is conducted in line with the approval. Failure to comply with these requirements may constitute criminal offences pursuant to Section 22a War Weapons Control Act and may result

in the licence holder's reliability within the meaning of Section 6(3) No. 3 War Weapons Control Act being called into question.

In the event that weapons of war are being delivered in too high a quantity or that the specifications are wrong or that the delivery is taking place too early or that there is any other discrepancy between the permit pursuant to the War Weapons Control Act and the goods being delivered, the recipients ought to take the delivery and safekeep the weapons of war for the sake of protecting the public and maintaining public order. In these cases, taking delivery of the weapons of war does not amount to unauthorised acquisition of war weapons within the meaning of the War Weapons Control Act, provided that the incident is reported, without delay, to the regulatory authorities in charge (usually the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action or the Federal Ministry of Defence) so that these can address the issue of the missing authorisation. Notification is to be made by the end of the first working day following the delivery of the weapons of war. If the regulatory authorities prove unavailable for contact, notification can instead be made to the Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control – Division 222.

Preliminary notification can be made by phone or fax. However, notification by phone must be followed by a written notification. A record must be made of the circumstances of the delivery and of the safekeeping of the weapons of war.

Failure to notify the authorities in the way described above may result in criminal proceedings being brought pursuant to Section 22a War Weapons Control Act. The regulatory authorities will have to report the case to the public prosecution services for further investigation.

For any additional information on the provisions governing the transport of weapons of war and the transport of military goods for the Bundeswehr or on behalf of foreign armed forces, please consult the various information sheets that are available from the website of Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control<sup>2</sup>.

### **What goods are classified as weapons of war? / For what goods do I need a permit?**

If you would like to find out which goods are subject to the authorisation requirements set out in the above, please consult the Annex to this document, which contains an excerpt from the War Weapons List.

---

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.bafa.de/DE/Aussenwirtschaft/Kriegswaffenkontrolle/kriegswaffenkontrolle\\_node.html](http://www.bafa.de/DE/Aussenwirtschaft/Kriegswaffenkontrolle/kriegswaffenkontrolle_node.html)

## Annex

Excerpt from the War Weapons List: Part B of the War Weapons List (“Other war weapons”)

Number used in the War Weapons List (“WWL number”)	Description of the war weapon
<b><i>I. Projectile</i></b>	
7.	Guided projectile (guided missile)
8.	Unguided projectile (missile)
9.	Other projectiles
10.	Firing devices (launchers and launching equipment) for the weapons specified in items 7 through 9 including portable firing devices for guided projectiles to combat tanks and aircraft
11.	Firing devices for weapons specified in item 8, including portable firing devices as well as rocket launchers
12.	Aero-engines for the propulsion of the weapons enumerated in items 7 through 9
<b><i>II. Combat Aircraft and Helicopters</i></b>	
13.	Combat aircraft having at least one of the following features: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. integrated weapons system equipped particularly with target acquisition, firing control and relevant interfaces for avionics,</li> <li>2. integrated electronic armaments,</li> <li>3. integrated electronic combat system</li> </ol>
14.	Combat aircraft having at least one of the following features: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. integrated weapons system equipped particularly with target acquisition, firing control and relevant interfaces for avionics,</li> <li>2. integrated electronic armaments,</li> <li>3. integrated electronic combat system</li> </ol>
15.	Cells for the weapons enumerated in items 13 and 14
16.	Jet, turboprop and rocket engines for the weapons referred to in item 13
<b><i>III. Vessels of War and Special Naval Equipment</i></b>	
17.	Vessels of war, including those for military training
18.	Submarines
19.	Small vessels with a speed of more than 30 knots, equipped with offensive weapons
20.	Mine sweeping boats, mine hunting boats, mine layers, mine breakers as well as other mine combat boats
21.	Landing crafts, landing vessels
22.	Tenders, ammunition transporters
23.	Hulls for the weapons specified in items 17 to 22
<b><i>IV. Combat Vehicles</i></b>	

24.	Combat tanks
25.	Other armoured combat vehicles, including combat-supporting armoured vehicles
26.	Any type of special vehicles exclusively designed for the use of weapons specified in items 1 through 6
27.	Carriages for the weapons enumerated in items 24 and 25
28.	Turrets for combat tanks
<b><i>V. Barrel weapons</i></b>	
29.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Machine guns, except those with water cooling;</li> <li>b) submachine guns, except those introduced as a model in a military armed force before September 2, 1945;</li> <li>c) fully automatic rifles, except those introduced as a model in a military armed force before September 2, 1945;</li> <li>d) semiautomatic rifles, except those introduced as a model in a military armed force before September 2, 1945, and rifles for hunting and sporting purposes</li> </ul>
30.	Machine guns, rifles, pistols for combat grenades
31.	Cannons, howitzers, any kind of mortars
32.	Automatic cannons
33.	Armoured self-propelled guns for the weapons enumerated in items 31 and 32
34.	Barrels for the weapons referred to in items 29, 31 and 32
35.	Breech blocks for weapons referred to in items 29, 31 and 32
36.	Revolving breeches for automatic cannons
<b><i>VI. Light Anti-tank Weapons, Military Flame Throwers, Mine-laying and Mine-throwing Systems</i></b>	
37.	Recoilless, unguided, portable anti-tank weapons
38.	Flame throwers
39.	Mine-laying and mine-throwing systems for land mines
<b><i>VII. Torpedoes, Mines, Bombs, Autonomous Ammunitions</i></b>	
40.	Torpedoes
41.	Torpedoes without warheads (explosive)
42.	Torpedo bodies (torpedoes without warhead – explosive – and without target detection device)
43.	Mines of all types
44.	Bombs of all types including water bombs
45.	Hand flame cartridges
46.	Hand grenades
47.	Infantry explosive devices, adhesive and hollow charges as well as mine-sweeping devices
48.	Explosive charges for the weapons referred to in item 43
<b><i>VIII. Other Ammunition</i></b>	
49.	Ammunition for the weapons listed in items 31 and 32
50.	Ammunition for the weapons listed in item 29 a, c and d except cartridge ammunition having a soft core projectile with full casing, if the projectile does not

	contain any accessories, particularly a flare, incendiary or explosive charge, and if cartridge ammunition of the same calibre is used for hunting and sporting purposes
51.	Ammunition for weapons referred to in item 30
52.	Ammunition for the weapons listed in items 37 and 39
53.	Rifle grenades
54.	Projectiles for the weapons enumerated in items 49 and 52
55.	Propelling charges for the weapons specified in items 49 and 52
<i>IX. Other Essential Components</i>	
56.	War heads for the weapons listed in items 7 through 9 and 40
57.	Ignition charges for the weapons listed in items 7 through 9, 40, 43, 44, 46, 47, 49, 51 through 53 and 59, except propellant charge igniters
58.	Target detection heads for the weapons enumerated in items 7, 9, 40, 44, 49, 59, 60
59.	Submunition for the weapons listed in items 7 through 9, 44, 49 and 61
60.	Submunition without ignition for the weapons referred to in items 7 through 9, 44, 49 and 61
<i>X. Dispensers</i>	
61.	Dispensers for the systematic distribution of submunition
<i>XI. Laser weapons</i>	
62.	Laser weapons specially designed for causing permanent blindness

**Contact:**

**Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action**  
**Division EC6 – War weapons control, special export control procedures**  
**Scharnhorststraße 34-37**  
**11019 Berlin**  
**Tel.: 030-18 615-0**  
**Email: [buero-ec6@bmwk.bund.de](mailto:buero-ec6@bmwk.bund.de)**