

PCS to Germany checklist

<https://nextbaseguide.com/guides/pcs-to-germany/>

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When you have orders

- ☐ Contact the transportation office at your current installation as soon as you have orders. That office helps with entitlements, the household-goods shipment, and problems with the moving company. Military OneSource (<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/moving-pcs/living-oconus/a-service-family-checklist-for-moving-oconus/>).
- ☐ Book and track the shipment in the Defense Personal Property System (<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/moving-pcs/moving-personal-property/>).
- ☐ Ask that office what your weight allowance is. Military OneSource (<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/moving-pcs/living-oconus/a-service-family-checklist-for-moving-oconus/>).
- ☐ If family is coming, ask for command sponsorship. It is not guaranteed. If it is approved, your orders say dependents are authorized. Military OneSource (<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/benefits/obtaining-command-sponsorship-before-oconus-move/>).
- ☐ A unit sponsor is not command sponsorship. Ask the gaining unit for a sponsor. Military OneSource (<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/moving-pcs/living-oconus/a-service-family-checklist-for-moving-oconus/>).
- ☐ The government may ship one privately owned vehicle. Schedule it with the transportation office. USAG Bavaria (<https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/military-installation/usag-bavaria/transportation/motor-vehicles>).

Pets

- ☐ Germany does not quarantine pets. You still need a 15-digit chip before the rabies shot, a rabies shot at least 30 days old and not more than a year old, and a bilingual health certificate no more than 10 days old. USAG Stuttgart (<https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/military-installation/usag-stuttgart/moving/shipping-pets>).
- ☐ Pit bulls, American Staffordshire terriers, Staffordshire bull terriers, and dogs descended from them cannot be imported. Use that page, not an old list.

Driving

- ☐ You need a valid state, German, or other recognized license before you can get a U.S. Army Europe license. The minimum age to drive is 18. USAG Bavaria (<https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/military-installation/usag-bavaria/transportation/motor-vehicles>).
- ☐ Take the driver's orientation, in person or online, and pass the test. Study the driver's testing manual first. That page says about half of first attempts fail.
- ☐ A shipped car, and a used car bought in Germany, needs a safety inspection before it can be registered.

Allowances

- ☐ Contact the gaining housing office for housing options, and for Overseas Housing Allowance if installation housing is not available. Military OneSource (<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/moving-pcs/living-oconus/a-service-family-checklist-for-moving-oconus/>).
- ☐ Overseas Housing Allowance is paid toward rent, utilities and recurring maintenance, and move-in costs for privately leased housing. Apply with DD Form 2367 and a copy of the lease. DTMO (<https://www.travel.dod.mil/Allowances/Overseas-Housing-Allowance/>).
- ☐ Look up the rate for your locality. A rate for another locality does not apply. DTMO OHA Rate Lookup (<https://www.travel.dod.mil/Allowances/Overseas-Housing-Allowance/OHA-Rate-Lookup/>).

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- ☐ Overseas COLA offsets higher prices of non-housing goods and services. It is not a fixed amount. Do not build a budget that depends on it. DTMO (<https://www.travel.dod.mil/Allowances/Overseas-Cost-of-Living-Allowance/>).