

Customs News Release

POC: Velvet Crockett, Chief Customs Services

Unit 29351
OPC 467 BOX 4
APO AE 09005-9997

Tel: DSN 537-3957 Civ: +49-611-1435373957
E-mail: usarmy.wiesbaden.usareur.list.opm-customs-service@army.mil

Monday, September 29, 2025

No Cybertrucks on German Roads

By Astrid Glockner, Customs Translator/Operations Specialist, Customs Executive Agency

WIESBADEN, Germany – It might come as a surprise to U.S. citizens, but it is true: Tesla's Cybertrucks are currently not allowed to be imported or registered in Germany (or the EU).

The Cybertruck has no type-approval from the European Union (EU) due to significant passive safety concerns. Several specifications of the Cybertruck, particularly the sharp-edged, stiff stainless-steel body, violate EU safety standards, primarily for the protection of vulnerable road users.

EU safety standards do not only focus on the safety of the vehicle occupants but also on the safety of other road users and in particular of vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists. These standards require, for example, passive safety features such as impact protection zones prohibiting sharp edges on the vehicle body and speed limiters on vehicles weighing over 3.5 tons – requirements clearly violated by the Cybertruck.

Nevertheless, the U.S. Forces submitted an inquiry to the German Federal Ministry of Transport (FMoT) about the possibility for members of the U.S. forces to import and register Cybertrucks in the USAREUR-AF system.

After a legal review, the German Ministry of Transport denied the request, because the Tesla Cybertruck not only fails to meet the EU legal requirements but deviates significantly from them. This means that a Cybertruck could also not receive national individual vehicle approval. According to the FMoT, a safe operation in German public road traffic, which is a prerequisite for registration of a privately owned vehicle by the U.S. Forces in accordance with the Supplementary Agreement to the NATO SOFA, is not ensured.

Another concern is that the Cybertruck would attract a lot of attention when operated in public traffic. This would defeat the purpose of issuing USAREUR-AF cover plates for force protection. It is commonly known that the Cybertruck cannot be registered and operated in Germany.

For the above reasons, U.S. Army Customs Agency will not issue import certificates for Tesla Cybertrucks. Personnel who nevertheless decide to import a Cybertruck, risk having to ship the vehicle back to the US at their own expense.