

U.S. military and civilian component personnel stationed in Germany - **but currently deployed/deploying/TDY outside of Germany** - may apply for an "In-LoCo-Parentis Authorization" for a person acting "in place of a parent" at their local U.S. Army Customs Agency - Europe (USACA-E) field office. The In-LoCo-Parentis (ILP) Authorization enables the appointed person (ILP guardian) to act on behalf of the SOFA status personnel, without falling foul of German tax and customs regulations.

PREREQUISITES:

The ILP Authorization can only be granted to single military or civilian component personnel, and dual military or civilian component personnel deployed/deploying or TDY outside of Germany.

POSSIBLE SUPPORT AUTHORIZED:

Provided all supporting documents are submitted with the application, an authorization may enable the ILP guardian to:

- Use U.S. Forces Sales Facilities on behalf of the family.
- Purchase in their own right ready-made foodstuff for immediate consumption as well as tax- and duty-free items (including rationed items, i.e. coffee, cigarette, and spirits) without paying taxes to German Customs. The single item sales price must not exceed the U.S. Dollar equivalent of **25 €**.
- Operate the sponsor's USAREUR-AF-registered POV(s).
- Use the AAFES/ESSO Fuel Ration Card.
- Limited use of the APO system for the receipt of the family's mail.

REQUEST PROCEDURES:

U.S. military and civilian component personnel can apply for an ILP Authorization at their servicing USACA-E field office. The field office submits the complete application containing all supporting documents to the U.S. Army Europe and Africa Customs Executive Agency (CEA) for approval. Field office personnel will need following information and documents:

- (1) The applicant's full name, rank/grade, DoD ID, unit/organization address, work phone number, APO/mailing address, physical address, personal phone number, and DEROS.
- (2) Copy of the deployment/TDY orders. If not available, a written deployment verification such as a memorandum endorsed by a unit or rear detachment commander.
- (3) ILP guardian's copy of passport and physical address (only if not living under applicant's physical address while acting ILP).
- (4) Verification of arrival in Germany/EU (immigration stamp) and/or applicable visa documentation (i.e. for visits over 90 days).
- (5) Required documents for driving in Germany, usually driver's license and International Driving Permit (IDP) valid for the period requested.

NOTE: If living in Government quarters, the U.S. Forces member must get the garrison or base commander's approval.

IDENTIFICATION- AND RATION CARD:

The CEA, NATO SOFA section, will issue an "Army in Europe Privilege and Identification Card" (AE Form 600-700A) for the ILP guardian outlining the authorized privileges. The ILP guardian must then visit the nearest

ID Card section to have it completed and laminated. The Unit Personnel Administration Center will issue a ration card for the authorized period.

NOTE: The status of an ILP guardian is not equal to status under the NATO SOFA, but it extends certain customs/ tax privileges and waives tax laws for the period acting in support of the personnel's child(ren). **It does not waive host nation immigration laws** and a SOFA Identification Certificate cannot be authorized.

OPERATING A USAREUR-AF-REGISTERED POV:

ILP guardians may use the sponsor's USAREUR-AF-registered POV in support of the family under the condition that they are in possession of all necessary documents for driving in Germany and covered by the sponsor's insurance.

NOTE: An IDP may be valid for driving in Germany only during a certain period, despite of the IDP itself being valid longer. It is highly recommended to contact the German "Führerscheinstelle" (licensing office) for further guidance, especially when planning to stay in country beyond tourist status and obtaining a temporary residence permit. Additional information may also be found on following website:
<https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/EN/Articles/StV/Roadtraffic/validity-foreign-driving-licences-in-germany.html>

IAW AER 600-700: A U.S. Forces Certificate of License will not be issued.

AAFES ESSO FUEL RATION CARD:

The ILP guardian must be added to the POV Registration Certificate as an authorized driver in order to use the AAFES/ESSO fuel ration card. The local AAFES Sales Facility will then issue a new fuel ration card.

NOTE: The ILP guardian's name must be deleted from the POV Registration Certificate upon expiration of the authorization.

MWR VAT Relief:

ILP guardians may request a VAT form for use on behalf of the family on a case by case basis.

BASE ACCESS:

Base access can be requested at the respective Installation Access Office.

RESTRICTIONS:

The ILP Authorization does not waive German labor laws. Obtaining employment with a German firm or the U.S. Forces makes the ILP Authorization immediately null and void.

NOTE: ILP guardians may be a DoD ID card holder if they are, for example, a reservist, National Guard member, or otherwise affiliated with the military. They must realize, however, that the mere possession of an ID card does not give them SOFA status in Germany. The cards do not entitle them to any customs or tax privileges in Germany, such as shopping at U.S. Forces Sales Facilities, purchasing tax-free fuel, etc. .



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)9641-70-587-5352/5353;
DSN: 314-587-5352/5353

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, Bldg. 2102, room 141
CIV :+49-(0)6371-47-3720/0100; DSN: 314-480-3720/0100

Spangdahlem Field Office

Spangdahlem Airbase, Bldg. 139, room 106
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

U.S. 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)9641-70-521-3601; DSN 314-521-3601

Geilenkirchen

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

In-Loco-Parentis Authorizations

Customs tips for U.S. military and civilian component personnel in Germany



Published by: USAREUR-AF, Office of the Provost Marshal,
U.S. Army Customs Agency-Europe

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

https://armyeltaas.sharepoint-mil.us/sites/USAREUR-AF_OPM_CEA/SitePages/Customs-Services.aspx

May 2025