



Thinking about importing goods?



If you are reading an electronic version of this document, click on the terms that are underlined for links to additional information. (These links lead to websites in the Swedish language.)

Import

Import in this information means to bring in a product from a country outside the EU and to place it on the internal market or, in some cases, put it into own use.

Rules for importers exist both in terms of customs clearance of goods, and in terms of placing products on the market. In this case, placing on the market means supply of a product to an end user or distributor, either for payment or for free.



Bear the following in mind before importing a product



As an importer, you must ensure that the product you intend to import meets the requirements in force for it to be placed on the market and that all customs formalities are met. Swedish customs shall only allow products that meet these requirements to be released for free circulation.

If you want to know what rules apply for a particular product, you can get in touch with the [National Board of Trade](#). If you want to know which authority is responsible for a particular product area, you can find guidance on the [Market Surveillance Council's website](#).

For many products, legislation imposes requirements that, amongst other things, mean the importer:

- must ensure that the manufacturer has performed a conformity assessment, has drawn up technical documentation, has affixed marking to the product and has provided the necessary accompanying documentation
- must ensure that the manufacturer has met the requirements for marking and traceability
- must ensure that copies of documents are kept available to the market surveillance authorities for 10 years
- must ensure that market surveillance authorities can have access upon request to the manufacturer's technical file for 10 years.

In order to meet these requirements, it is normally required that the importer has a contract with the manufacturer to ensure that the manufacturer can meet these requirements.

Eori number and import restrictions

If your business operations engage in activities covered by customs legislation, you must have a so-called Eori number in order to identify yourself in the Swedish customs declarations. An Eori number is a unique registration number to be used in all customs-related activities within the EU.

You need to find out the commodity code for your product and to learn whether there are any special provisions applicable to such imports before importing the product. There may be products subject to restrictions and where you must contact other authorities before the product can be imported. Examples of such products are weapons, medicinal products, iron, steel, textile products, certain foods and pyrotechnic products. [More information is available from Swedish Customs.](#)

If a product does not meet all the requirements for being sold or used

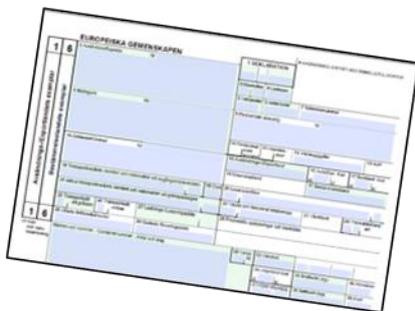
Before you import a product, you must consider under which customs procedure the product are going to be placed.

Release for free circulation: this customs procedure means that the goods are imported and brought into the EU. The basic principle is that Swedish Customs only shall allow products to be released for free circulation if they meet the requirements in force for them to be placed on the market. If a product is stopped by Swedish Customs because it doesn't meet the requirements, it may involve significant expense, such as administrative costs, storage costs and costs for re-export or destruction. Swedish Customs cooperates with the responsible market surveillance authorities to assess whether the products meet the requirements. Such an assessment and any testing may also involve costs for the importer. If it is not possible to ensure that the product meets all the requirements when it originates in a third country, you can apply for another customs procedure instead.



Inward processing: this customs procedure may be used for goods intended to undergo operations to ensure their compliance with technical requirements for their for free circulation. Inward processing requires [authorisation](#) from Swedish Customs and you need to provide a guarantee for customs duties and other taxes. If the product cannot be made compliant within the framework of what is allowed by the product legislation such as, for example, if the product was originally manufactured without taking into account the requirements in force in the EU at the time of import or when importing second-hand products from a third country, the product will be considered a completely new product, and the importer must assume full manufacturer responsibility for the product. Which of the requirements are the responsibility of the manufacturer are specified by the individual legal acts governing the design and performance of the product.

Consider this when making a customs declaration



Carefully consider whether the product meets all of the requirements in force for placing it on the market before you lodge a customs declaration for release for free circulation.

All products to be released for free circulation must be declared by filling in an import declaration. You can either do this yourself or engage a customs representative. The declaration can be submitted either as a standard customs declaration, providing all information, or as a simplified declaration where some information can instead be submitted in a supplementary declaration. The import declaration must be sent electronically

to Swedish Customs. If you do not have authority to declare electronically yourself, you can engage a customs representative. You must pay customs duties and other taxes to Swedish Customs when importing. It is the [commodity code](#) for your product that governs how much you pay in customs duties. Import charges can be paid either in cash or by card, or against a customs invoice. To pay against a customs invoice, a deferred payment scheme must be in place, which most agents have. You must also report import VAT, which is declared to the Swedish Tax Agency in the VAT declaration.

Consider this when placing the product on the market or putting it into use

Release for free circulation does not automatically mean that you are allowed to place the product on the market or put it into use. For many products, legislation also imposes requirements that, amongst other things, mean that the importer

- may only place on the market or use products that comply with the requirements in force
- must inform the manufacturer and the appropriate market surveillance authorities on suspicion that the product presents a risk
- must state own name and contact details on the product
- must ensure that the product is accompanied by instructions for use in the Swedish language (for the Swedish market)
- must ensure that storage and transport conditions do not compromise the compliance of the product.

Obligations after a product has been placed on the market

For many products, legislation imposes requirements which also mean that you as the importer

- must take action to correct any non-compliances if you have reason to believe that a product you place on the market does not comply with the requirements, or to recall or withdraw the product, and if the product presents a risk, inform the competent authorities in the countries where you have supplied the product
- upon request, cooperate with and inform the competent authorities
- for up to 10 years, be able to inform the competent authorities on who supplied the product to you, and on the retailers or other distributors to whom you have supplied the product.

In conclusion

To a certain extent, the above is a generalisation based on basic requirements in force in accordance with many European legal acts that govern the requirements that apply for placing products on the internal market. It is, of course, important that someone who intends to import a product investigates what is specifically applicable to that product. Bear in mind that a product may be covered by several different legal acts and that the requirements in all of them must be met. Requirements that may apply in conjunction with more obvious product rules may refer, for example, to chemical content, exhaust or noise levels, energy consumption or electromagnetic interference.



In addition to importers, the product legislation also contains requirements on manufacturers and distributors. Consider whether you are also affected by these requirements in certain situations.

You can find further information on

www.tullverket.se/sv/foretag

www.marknadskontroll.se

www.kommers.se

MARKNADS
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The Market Surveillance Council is a national coordination body for market surveillance issues. It functions primarily as a forum for the exchange of information and experience between authorities, but the council shall also facilitate contact between the general public and relevant authorities and consult with representatives of industry and consumers and other stakeholders.

The Market Surveillance Council is based at the Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (Swedac), which is responsible for the chairmanship and secretariat.

19 authorities are represented in the Council.

The Work Environment Authority; The National Board of Housing, Building and Planning; The National Electrical Safety Board; The Energy Agency; The Health and Social Care Inspectorate; The Public Health Agency, The Chemicals Agency; The National Board of Trade; The Consumer Agency; The Medical Products Agency; The Press and Broadcasting Authority; The Civil Contingencies Agency; The Environmental Protection Agency; The Post and Telecom Authority; The National Board of Health and Welfare; The Radiation Safety Authority; The Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment; The Transport Agency and Swedish Customs.