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Facts & Figures 2009

(2010 edition)



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Finance FDF
Federal Customs Administration FCA

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Editorial

Dear reader,

Our message explaining that Schengen is coming but customs controls will remain has caught on. The Federal Customs Administration (FCA) implemented Schengen as contractually agreed. No security holes occurred in doing so. Cooperation with the security partners in Switzerland and abroad has improved thanks to Schengen.

Thanks to the agreement with the EU on the simplification of customs formalities and on customs security measures, it has been possible to avoid new hurdles for goods traffic with our most important trading partner, the EU. With mutual recognition of risk analyses, there is no need for stringent security regulations.



Switzerland will soon be the only remaining country in Central and Western Europe to have a customs border, and therefore efficient customs clearance is particularly important. The final issue is our competitiveness. We want to help maintain Switzerland as an attractive business location.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rudolf Dietrich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rudolf Dietrich, Director General of Swiss Customs

Federal Customs Administration FCA

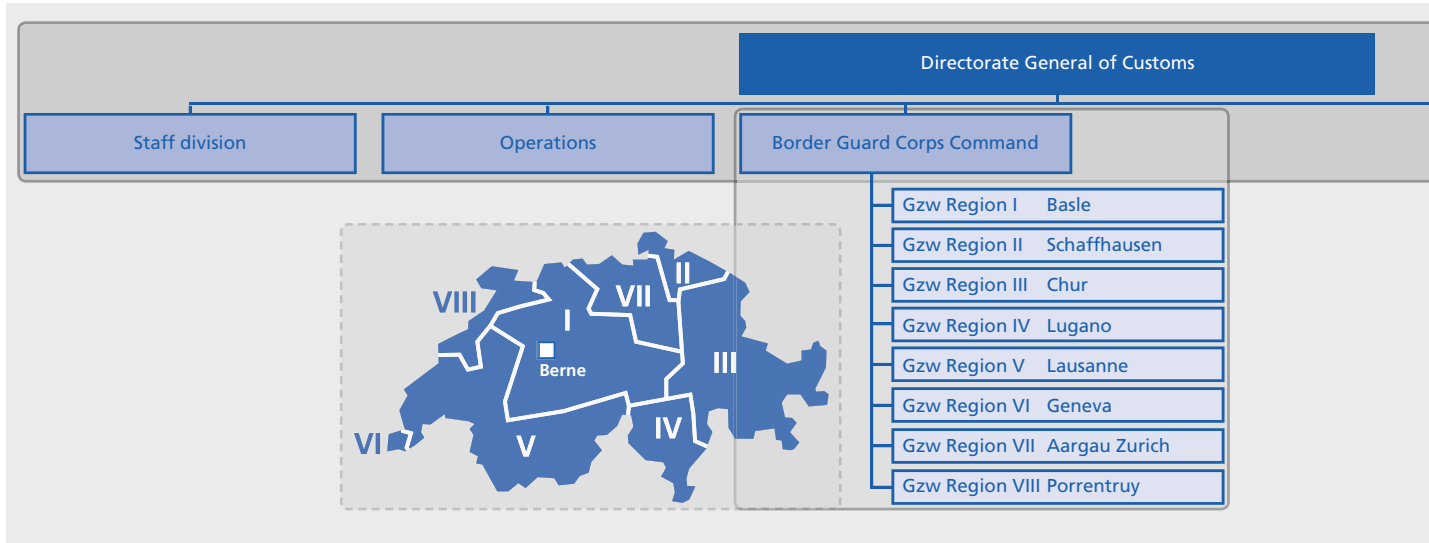
Switzerland generates every second franc abroad. It is able to do so only if the cross-border movement of goods and persons is smooth. The services provided by Swiss Customs seek to facilitate border crossing where possible. At the same time, however, Customs officers verify compliance with the legal provisions – in the interest of Switzerland as a business location and of the security of citizens.

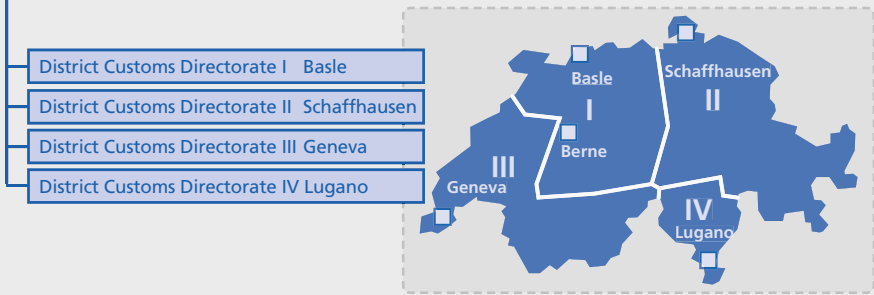
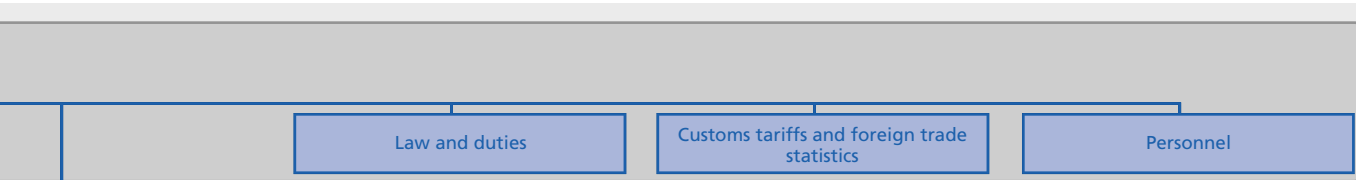
Customs also levy several consumption taxes such as value added tax, mineral oil tax and tobacco tax. Customs are furthermore responsible for controlling precious metals, issuing the motorway tax sticker, levying the mileage-related heavy vehicle charge, and other tasks.

The Border Guard (BG) is the uniformed and armed section of the FCA. As the largest national civil security agency in Switzerland, the BG carries out a wide range of duties in addition to customs services and customs police tasks (combating smuggling). These include tracing persons, vehicles and stolen property, combating drug smuggling and document fraud, and carrying out duties linked to the aliens police and traffic police.



FCA organisation





Staff

Number of employees

(as at 31 December)

	2000	2004	2008	2009
Women	719	810	749	820
Men	4,074	3,973	3,640	3,700
Total	4,793	4,783	4,389	4,520

Structure

(as at 31 December)

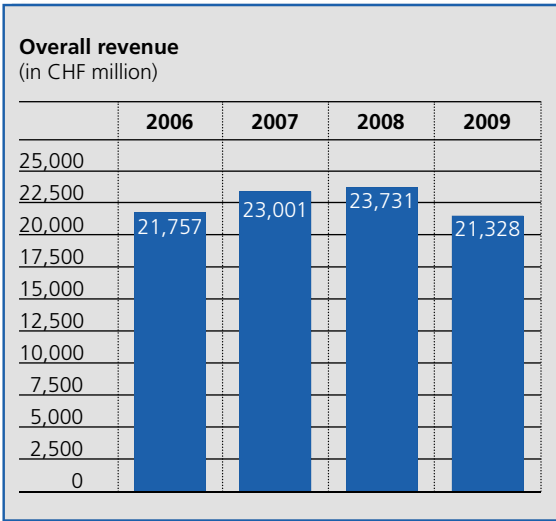
	2000	2004	2008	2009
Customs technical personnel	1,363	1,399	1,341	1,440
Scientific personnel*	27	28	21	
Other civilian personnel	1,313	1,305	1,012	998
Border Guard personnel	2,038	1,999	1,960	2,026
Precious Metal Control personnel	52	52	55	56

* Scientific personnel are now counted together with the Customs technical personnel.



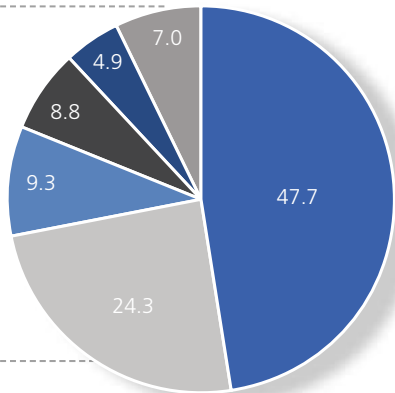
MOIS FRONTIÈRE

FCA revenue



Main sources of revenue
(in CHF million)

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Import duties	1,027	1,040	1,017	1,033
Value added tax	11,033	12,062	12,293	10,177
Fuel tax	4,994	5,086	5,222	5,183
Tobacco duty	2,161	2,186	2,186	1,987
Heavy vehicle charge	1,306	1,336	1,441	1,452
Other revenue	1,236	1,291	1,554	1,496



Sources of revenue 2009
(in %)

- Value added tax
- Fuel tax
- Tobacco tax
- Heavy goods vehicle tax
- Import duties
- Other revenue



The FCA works on behalf of security

Except for agricultural products, where a high level of border protection persists, the significance of customs for trade protectionism is continuing to diminish. The average worldwide customs burden has sunk dramatically over the past few years. The perception that customs exist only to protect the domestic economy by imposing high duties is less and less accurate. This can also be seen in the revenue figures. Import duties – approximately CHF 1 billion – now represent only a fraction of the total of approximately CHF 21 billion generated for the Federal Treasury by Customs last year.

Customs still play a protective role, however, albeit with a different content. Today, the goal is increasingly to ensure the security of citizens in a wide range of areas.

Schengen

The Schengen agreement entered into force in Switzerland on 12 December 2008. The BG had used an information campaign to make the public aware in advance that Schengen did not herald an open road through Switzerland. While Switzerland is indeed part of the Schengen area, it is not a member of the EU Customs Union. This means that customs controls continue to be carried out. The same provisions as before apply as regards customs. The implementation of the Schengen agreement was generally unproblematic, as the BG had prepared for the new control philosophy already a few years previously. The checks carried out by the border guards were largely in compliance with the Schengen agreement even before 12 December 2008.

**Schengen Information System (SIS):
1 January to 31 December 2009**

This database allows access to all registered cases throughout the entire Schengen area and the matching of details regarding a person or object with this data in the course of inspections. In the period from 1 January to 31 December 2009, the BG intervened in areas such as the following based on SIS queries:

- 83 searches for persons for extradition purposes
- 1,126 denials of entry to citizens of third countries
- 106 missing persons
- 615 determinations of whereabouts for judicial authorities
- 1,342 searches for objects (lost documents, etc.)

Approximately 60% of all SIS matches in Switzerland were achieved by the BG.



The FCA works on behalf of security

Migration

The duties of the aliens police include efforts to combat illegal entry to and departure from Switzerland, illegal residence, undeclared employment, smuggling and trafficking in human beings.

In 2009, the BG detected 61 illegal entries at external borders, and discovered illegal residence in the case of 3,467 people (3,581 in the preceding year). The BG successfully intervened in 141 cases of people smugglers (297 in 2008).

Weekly joint situation assessments by the Border Guard, the Federal Office for Migration, the Federal Office of Police (fedpol) and the Swiss Coordination Unit against the Trafficking of Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (KSMM) allow synergy utilisation and the timely deployment of resources.



Forgery and misuse of documents

In 2009, the Border Guard seized a total of 1,774 forged documents (2,199 in 2008). Overall, 1,436 persons carrying forged or misused documents were stopped (1,845 in 2008); 170 persons were using an identification document not in their name (181 in 2008). The quality of forgeries is high, and only experienced specialists are able to distinguish „real“ from „counterfeit“. These verifications require substantial experience and technical know-how from specialists. Many documents are discovered on trains (623 counterfeits) and by mail and courier (149 cases).

Narcotics

Once again in 2009, the Federal Customs Administration successfully cracked down on the illegal possession of and dealing in narcotics. The Border Guard and Civil Customs officers seized the following amounts:

- 48.7 kg hashish (122.1 kg)
- 46 kg marihuana (95 kg)
- 29.6 kg heroin (19.1 kg)
- 280.2 kg cocaine (145.2 kg)
- 1,483.8 kg kat (585.8 kg)
- 2,513 pills of various psychoactive substances (LSD, ecstasy, etc.) (12,386 units)

Security checks of heavy vehicles

Swiss Customs found 16,928 heavy goods vehicles (2008: 11,711) to have safety deficiencies. The vehicles were too heavy, too long, or else too wide. Other cases involved defective brake discs or tyres and other deficiencies. In 141 cases, lorry drivers were unfit to drive (influence of alcohol, drugs, medicines). The highest blood alcohol content measured was 0.208%.

The FCA works on behalf of health

With their inspections, Swiss Customs help protect citizens from certain dangers. For instance, Customs officers crack down on product counterfeiters. In addition to the financial loss for the economy, counterfeits may also endanger the health of citizens. This is particularly true of counterfeit medicinal products and so-called lifestyle preparations, as well as smuggled foodstuffs. Since it is not known under which conditions such foodstuffs are produced, and since they are often transported in an unhygienic environment, they carry a health risk. This is also particularly true of tainted meat, for instance if false production dates are indicated.

Medicinal products

In 2009, Swiss Customs reported 1,154 cases (2008: 687) of attempted importation of illegal medicinal products into Switzerland to the Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products, Swissmedic.

The most frequently seized drugs were the following:

1. Erectile dysfunction treatments
2. Slimming aids
3. Bodybuilding supplements
4. Addictive drugs, particularly sleeping pills
5. Hair growth products



The FCA works on behalf of health

Smuggling of foodstuffs

In 2009, Swiss Customs again investigated the amount of smuggled foodstuffs. However, only cases involving amounts over 200 kg were taken into account. Overall, 251 tonnes of foodstuffs (previous year: 175 tonnes) of all kinds were seized or detected. Of this amount, approximately 95 tonnes (2008: 23 tonnes) were smuggled meat, 49 tonnes (2008: 38 tonnes) were cereals and 28 tonnes (2008: 91 tonnes) were fruit and vegetables. The duties evaded were approximately CHF 2.1 million (2008: CHF 700,000). Other cases of smuggling detected in 2009 are still being evaluated.

The foodstuffs smuggled the most:

1. Meat and meat products (2008: 3rd)
2. Cereals (2nd)
3. Fruit and vegetables (1st)
4. Flour (4th)
5. Cooking oil / olive oil (5th)
6. Milk products / cheese (7th)
7. Wine (–)
8. Pasta (6th)

In 2009, the Customs Investigation Department investigated approximately 6,100 cases of smuggling (2008: 7,000 cases). Approximately 3,100 criminal dossiers (2008: 3,600 dossiers) were opened. Most of these involved VAT evasion and customs duty evasion. The cases of smuggled goods included foodstuffs, animals, spirits, wines, tobacco goods, mineral oils, products containing VOCs, looted cultural assets, and goods violating the protection of species (animals and plants).



The FCA works on behalf of Switzerland as a business location

Swiss Customs are responsible for maintaining what will soon be the only customs border in Western and Central Europe and in such a way that it interferes as minimally as possible with the import and export economy. Domestic companies should not suffer any competitive disadvantage because of the customs border. This is not a matter of creating as many controls as possible but of creating the right ones. The controls must be appropriate to the risk involved. This is why risk analyses are needed. „Risk analysis“ is the magic term in customs all over the world, and by adopting it, cross-border trade will be simplified and made more secure.

Last year the agreement on the simplification of customs formalities and on customs security measures was concluded with the EU. This was also a contribution to Switzerland as a business location. The agreement makes provision, in direct traffic between Switzerland and the EU, for waiving the security regulations in accordance with the EU Customs Code such as e.g. prior notification (the 24-hour rule), provided there is mutual recognition of the risk analyses. The international development of the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) concept is directly related. The customs administrations certify companies in the area of security. This provides these companies with advantages in terms of simplified customs control procedures.

Foreign trade

Imports, exports, and balance of trade (in CHF billion)

	2004	2007	2008	2009
Total imports	144.0	193.2	197.5	168.8
Total exports	152.8	206.3	216.3	187.2
Balance of trade	8.8	13.1	18.8	18.4

2009 imports and exports by trade blocks

(in CHF billion)

	Imports	Exports
EU27	131.6	111.7
USA/Canada	10.7	21.3
Japan	3.5	7.1
Transition countries ¹⁾	7.3	9.3
Emerging markets ²⁾	7.4	18.6
Developing countries	7.5	16.3

1) Transition countries: Southeast Europe, CIS countries, China, North Korea and Mongolia

2) Emerging markets: Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Philippines, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Turkey, South Africa, San Marino and the Vatican City State

The FCA works on behalf of Switzerland as a business location

Free trade agreements

With its free trade policies, Switzerland wishes to improve the framework for economic ties with partners who are important from an economic point of view. The growing number of free trade agreements represents a special challenge for customs. The aim is to identify which goods enjoy privileged treatment. For this purpose, complex rules of origin must be applied, which may vary from one agreement to the next. The partner countries can demand that Swiss Customs carry out reviews of exporters. At the end of 2009, there were 22 free trade agreements in force.

Trafic des marchandises de commerce: Declarations (millions of units)

The high share of computerised clearance procedures (imports 94.8%, exports 44.5%, international transit 100%) allows widespread automation of customs clearance. Material inspections represent less than 1%.

	2004	2007	2008	2009
Imports (number of assessments)	12.2	14.4	23.4	11.1
Exports	5.9	6.6	6.5	6.2
Transit	7.1	6.7	6.7	6.6

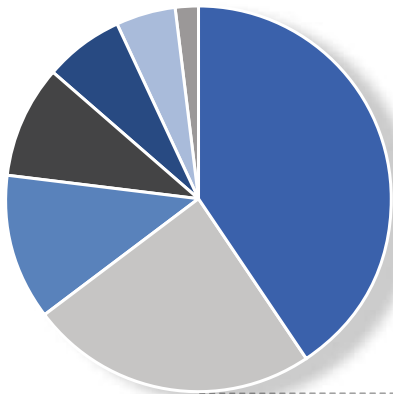
Intellectual property

Number of interventions and market value of seized shipments
(in CHF million)

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total market value	3.7	1.3	14.0	4.7
Number of interventions	383	460	1,176	1,622



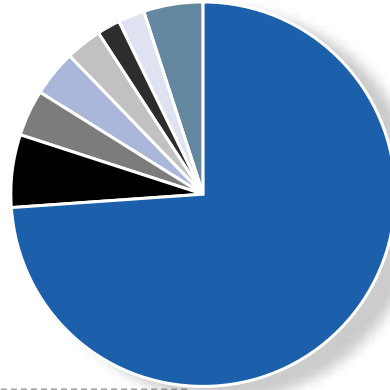
The FCA works on behalf of Switzerland as a business location



Counterfeits by product group:

■ Accessories (handbags, sunglasses, etc.):	40.8%
■ Other clothing:	24.2%
■ Watches and jewellery:	12.2%
■ Sportswear:	9.2%
■ Medicinal products:	6.8%
■ Electrical appliances:	4.9%
■ Other:.....	1.9%





Origin of counterfeits:

China:	74%
Thailand:	6%
Hong Kong:.....	4%
India:	4%
Turkey:	3%
USA:	2%
EU:	2%
Other:.....	5%

Precious metal control

The Precious Metal Control (PMC) office within the FCA carries out risk-based import inspections and supervises the domestic market in the field of precious metals as well as the trade in waste, melting charge, and melted products. All goods circulated for trade in Switzerland and subject to the Precious Metal Control Act must comply with the formal and material requirements. It makes no difference whether the goods were produced in Switzerland or abroad.

PMC hallmarks are considered to be a seal of quality worldwide for precious metal products and are increasingly also used as a marketing tool for goods where hallmarking is voluntary, both for domestic and foreign companies.

Hallmarking (millions of units)				
	2006	2007	2008	2009
National hallmark (St. Bernard dog's head)	1.7	2.0	1.9	1.1
International standard hallmark	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.0

Inspections

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Checked consignments	13,600	12,800	10,290	11,247
Inspections in Switzerland	99	123	44	112
Infringements of the law	2,279	2,161	2,038	2,376



Other responsibilities: International assignments

International assignments have a long tradition at the Federal Customs Administration (FCA). They are carried out within the framework of Swiss foreign, peace, security, and trade policy. Since 1991, the FCA has made expert personnel available to various international organisations, for instance. More than 100 staff members have been successfully engaged so far for the United Nations (UN), the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Commission of the European Union, and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

Seconding border guards and civilian police observers (UNPOL or EUPOL), especially in Balkan countries, is a proven measure of Swiss peace policy.

Approximately 20 FCA employees are currently working as (chief) visa officers at Swiss representations abroad.

As part of the free trade agreement, the FCA supports the training of Tunisian customs agents. The project is funded by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).

In 2009, approximately 30 FCA staff members were engaged in international missions.



Other responsibilities: Protection of species, environmental protection

Protection of species

In 1973, Switzerland was one of the first signatories of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). CITES encompasses and governs the protection and trade of more than 26,000 plant species and 4,000 animal species world-wide.

The import and export of species protected under CITES is either entirely banned or subject to a licence. The licence is granted by the exporting country. As the enforcement authority for CITES in Switzerland, the Federal Veterinary Office (FVO) approved the export and re-export of nearly 100,000 shipments last year. In the same period, approximately 25,000 licensed shipments were imported. Swiss Customs verifies freight and documents at the border. It refuses improper goods or confiscates them.

In 2009, Swiss Customs objected to 697 shipments of plants and about 320 shipments of live animals and animal products.

Environmental protection

CO₂ fee

Switzerland wants to permanently reduce its CO₂ emissions. To create appropriate incentives, the CO₂ fee was introduced as an incentive tax on 1 January 2008. It supplements voluntary and other CO₂-reducing measures and is levied on all fossil fuels (especially heating oil, natural gas, and coal). Swiss Customs are responsible for levying and reimbursing the CO₂ fee.

Incentive tax on volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are used as solvents in many industries (in particular in paints, varnishes and various cleaning solutions). If these compounds become airborne, they and nitric oxides contribute to the excessive formation of ground-level ozone (summer smog). The VOC incentive tax has been levied since 1 January 2000. A market-based instrument was thus created as a financial incentive to reduce VOC emissions. Customs

are responsible for levying and reimbursing the VOC tax. Revenue is repaid to the population each year via health insurance schemes.

Mileage-related heavy vehicle charge

The use of public roads entails costs that should be paid by the persons who cause them. For this reason, the mileage-related heavy vehicle charge was introduced on 1 January 2001. The mileage-related heavy vehicle charge is linked to the total weight, emissions level, and kilometres driven in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein. Swiss Customs are responsible for levying the mileage-related heavy vehicle charge.



Customs Museum

Welcome to the Customs Museum!

Take a behind-the-scenes look at the work of the Swiss Customs. Situated directly opposite Gandria on Lake Lugano, the Swiss Customs Museum is in an idyllic spot. The museum, referred to in the vernacular as the „Smugglers’ Museum“, attracts some 20,000 visitors each year.

The museum is open daily from Good Friday (2 April 2010) to mid-October, from 1.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m., and is best reached by ferry from Lugano. Entry is free of charge. The special exhibition on species protection has been extended and, from June 2010, will be opened at the same time as the new special exhibition on the International Transfer of Cultural Property, which has been realised in cooperation with the Federal Office of Culture (FOC).

For further information go to: www.ezv.admin.ch (The FCA > Customs Museum)



Customs addresses

Federal Customs Administration
Directorate General of Customs
Monbijoustrasse 40
CH-3003 Bern
Tel.: +41 31 322 65 11
Fax: +41 31 322 78 72
ozd.zentrale@ezv.admin.ch

District Directorate of Customs I
Elisabethenstrasse 31
CH-4010 Basel
Tel.: +41 61 287 11 11
Fax: +41 61 287 13 13
kdfs.zentrale@ezv.admin.ch

District Directorate of Customs II
Bahnhofstrasse 62
P.O. Box 1772
CH-8201 Schaffhausen
Tel.: +41 52 633 11 11
Fax: +41 52 633 11 99
kdsh.zentrale@ezv.admin.ch

District Directorate of Customs III
Avenue Louis-Casaï 84
P.O. Box
CH-1211 Geneva 28
Tel.: +41 22 747 72 72
Fax: +41 22 747 72 73
kdge.zentrale@ezv.admin.ch

District Directorate of Customs IV
Via Pioda 10
CH-6900 Lugano
Tel.: +41 91 910 48 11
Fax: +41 91 923 14 15
kdti.zentrale@ezv.admin.ch

Border Guard addresses

Border Guard Command
Monbijoustrasse 40
CH-3003 Bern
Tel.: +41 31 322 67 92
Fax: +41 31 322 65 54
zentrale.kdo-gwk@ezv.admin.ch

Border Guard Division I
Wiesendamm 4
P.O. Box 544
CH-4019 Basel
Tel.: +41 61 638 14 00
Fax: +41 61 638 14 05
zentrale.region1-kdo@ezv.admin.ch

Border Guard Division II
Ebnatstrasse 77
P.O. Box 536
CH-8201 Schaffhausen
Tel.: +41 52 630 60 00
Fax: +41 52 630 60 10
zentrale.region2-kdo@ezv.admin.ch

Border Guard Division III
Kasernenstrasse 112
P.O. Box 255
CH-7007 Chur
Tel.: +41 81 257 58 00
Fax: +41 81 257 58 50
zentrale.region3-kdo@ezv.admin.ch

Border Guard Division IV
Via Calprino 8
P.O. Box 741
CH-6902 Paradiso
Tel.: +41 91 986 75 50
Fax: +41 91 986 75 51
centrale.regione4-cdo@ezv.admin.ch

Border Guard Division V
Avenue Tissot 8
CH-1006 Lausanne
Tel.: +41 21 342 03 50
Fax: +41 21 342 03 61
centrale.region5-cdmt@ezv.admin.ch

Border Guard Division VI
Avenue Louis-Casaï 84
P.O. Box
CH-1211 Geneva 28
Tel.: +41 22 979 19 19
Fax: +41 22 979 19 18
centrale.region6-cdmt@ezv.admin.ch

Border Guard Division VII
P.O. Box 187
CH-8058 Zurich Airport
Tel.: +41 43 816 49 10
Fax: +41 43 816 49 19
zentrale.region7-kdo@ezv.admin.ch

Border Guard Division VIII
Rue des Tarrières 14
P.O. Box 1192
CH-2900 Porrentruy
Tel.: +41 32 465 50 70
Fax: +41 32 465 50 72
centrale.region8-cdmt@ezv.admin.ch

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Cover: Swiss Customs mobile X-ray machine
Rear page: Chiasso Brogeda Merci

