Getting up to speed with the latest Cash Control rules!

Entering or leaving the EU with large amounts of cash or other valuables?

You already have to make a cash declaration when entering or leaving the EU with €10,000 or more in cash or its equivalent in other currencies, cheques, travellers’ cheques, and money orders.

As of 3 June 2021 these cash controls will tighten:

1. You must lodge a cash declaration to customs when entering or leaving the EU with €10,000 or more in cash or its equivalent in other currencies, made up of one or more of the following items:
   - banknotes and coins (including currency now out of general circulation but that can still be exchanged in a financial institution or central bank)
   - cheques, traveller cheques, promissory notes or money orders without a named beneficiary
   - and for the first time as of 3 June 2021, gold coins with gold content of at least 90%, and gold bars, gold nuggets or clumps with a gold content of at least 99.5%.

2. Authorities may now also act on and detain amounts lower than €10,000 when there are indications of a link with criminal activity.

3. Customs authorities may now request that a cash disclosure be made for cash worth €10,000 or more sent by post, freight or courier.
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How do I make the declaration?
Member States use a harmonised declaration form, which you must complete in one of the languages available for the country where you enter or leave the EU. Non-EU language reference versions of the form are also available to help travellers complete their declarations. Forms are available online or from the authorities at the control point through which you enter or leave the EU.

The declaration must be completed and lodged with customs (or another competent authority) at the control point through which you enter or leave the EU.

What about cash sent by freight, post or courier?
Customs authorities may also now request that a cash disclosure declaration be made for detected unaccompanied cash sent by post, freight, or courier shipment and with a value of €10,000 or more. If requested, this declaration should be made within 30 days by the recipient, sender or by an appointed representative of the two.

What if I fail to complete the declaration or submit a false one?
Authorities may detain the cash and you could be subject to penalties for non-compliance.

UNSURE WHETHER YOU NEED TO COMPLETE A CASH DECLARATION?
Check with your national authorities, or with customs officials when you enter or exit the EU.

Don’t forget that penalties may be incurred if you do not follow procedures correctly!

Visit our website to find out more about the updated rules and for the full list of national customs authorities in the EU: https://ec.europa.eu/eucashcontrols