



AM, RK

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# Online shopping

## Five-step calculation with examples

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### 1. Determine the value of goods:

Either the consideration – generally the [invoice amount](#) – or the market value (gifts, items for repair, etc.) is decisive. If foreign value added tax is shown in the invoice, it can be subtracted from the invoice amount. Now convert this amount in foreign currency into CHF using the [exchange rate](#) for the day preceding the customs declaration.

### 2. Determine **duties**: customs duty, [VOC incentive fees](#), tobacco duty, alcohol monopoly fee, etc.

Consult our [customs tariff – Tares](#) to determine all duties such as customs duty, for example. If the sum of these duties amounts to CHF 5 or less, then they are not levied. In order to qualify for a preferential rate of customs duty, a [certificate of origin](#) must accompany the shipment.

### 3. **Carrier's costs** (post/courier)

**Customs declaration costs** differ. Please contact your carrier in this regard. Furthermore, the transport costs, e.g. postage, have to be added (in CHF). These costs may already be included in the invoice amount of the sender/supplier. Swiss Post charges for any additional work involved in checking a parcel if the customs documents have missing, implausible or incomplete data.

### 4. Calculate **value added tax** (VAT)

The current VAT rates are 8% or 2.5%. VAT is calculated based on the value of the goods plus **duties** (provided they exceed CHF 5) and the **carrier's costs**:

$(\text{value of goods} + \text{duties} + \text{carrier's costs}) \times \text{VAT rate}$  (in per cent).

Value added tax amounts of up to CHF 5 are not levied.

### 5. Total costs of your goods order from abroad.

In addition to the purchase price and the postage costs, in your calculations you must include **duties** and **value added tax** as well as the **carrier's costs**.

**These additional costs will be billed to you by the carrier.** If you have any questions regarding the invoice, you must address them to your carrier.

## Online shopping: calculation of import duties and taxes

### Example 1: Without customs duty

Purchased online: men's jeans under tariff heading [6203.4200](#), gross weight 2 kg, from Germany. Delivered to you by post.

Steps	Cost	Amount in CHF
1. Determine value of goods Subtract foreign VAT from invoice amount. Convert foreign currency using <a href="#">forex sell rate</a> .	Value of goods	150.00
2. Determine <b>duties</b> The following duty was calculated using the information in the <a href="#">customs tariff – Tares</a> .	<b>Customs duty</b> (duty-free, as under CHF 5)	<b>0.00</b>
3. Swiss Post <b>costs</b> Swiss Post costs for customs declaration; postage is in addition, as not included in the invoice amount. Sender indicated contents correctly on outside of parcel, so no further fees are charged by Swiss Post. Thus:	<u>Postage</u> + <b>Basic charge Zone 1*</b> + <b>Value of goods supplement (3%)</b> = <b>Swiss Post costs</b>	15.00 12.00 4.50 31.50
4. Calculate <b>value added tax</b> The VAT value is calculated based on the sum of the goods' value (1), <b>duties</b> (2) and <b>Swiss Post costs</b> (3). This sum to the nearest franc is multiplied by the VAT rate of 8%.	<u>Value of goods</u> + <b>Customs duty</b> + <b>Swiss Post costs</b> = Subtotal = <b>VAT (8% of 181)</b>	150.00 0.00 31.50 181.50 14.50
5. Total cost for importation The total cost for importation is calculated using the sum of the <b>duties</b> (2), <b>Swiss Post costs</b> , excluding postage (3), and <b>value added tax</b> (4). This amount is thus in addition to the purchase price and postage.	<u>Customs duty</u> + <b>Swiss Post costs (excl. postage)</b> + <b>Value added tax</b> = <b>Total cost for importation</b>	0.00 16.50 14.50 31.00

\*Countries of origin:

Zone 1: Austria, France, Germany and Italy

Zone 2: other countries

## Online shopping: calculation of import duties and taxes

### Example 2: With customs duty

Ordered online from a fashion retailer in Spain: **ladies' silk dress** (tariff heading 6204.4991) "Made in China", weight of parcel 0.9kg. The parcel is sent to you by post from Spain.

Steps	Cost	Amount in CHF
1. Determine value of goods Subtract foreign VAT from invoice amount. Convert foreign currency using <a href="#">forex sell rate</a> .	Value of goods	1,000.00
2. Determine <b>duties</b> The following duty was calculated using the information in the <a href="#">customs tariff – Tares</a> . ATTENTION: No <a href="#">preferential rate of customs duty</a> , for Spain because the goods were produced in China.	<b>Customs duty</b>	<b>11.80</b>
3. <b>Swiss Post costs</b> Swiss Post costs for customs declaration; postage is in addition, as not included in the invoice amount. As sender did not indicate contents on parcel, Swiss Post charges a fee for opening parcel.	<u>Postage</u> + <u>Basic charge Zone 2*</u> + <u>Value of goods supplement (3%)</u> + <u>Supplementary clarification</u> = <b>Swiss Post costs</b>	45.00 16.50 30.00 13.00 <b>104.50</b>
4. Calculate <b>value added tax</b> The VAT value is calculated based on the sum of the goods' value (1), <b>duties</b> (2) and <b>Swiss Post costs</b> (3). This sum to the nearest franc is multiplied by the VAT rate of 8%.	<u>Value of goods</u> + <b>Customs duty</b> + <b>Swiss Post costs</b> = Subtotal <b>VAT (8% of 1,116.00)</b>	1,000.00 11.80 104.50 1,116.30 <b>89.30</b>
5. Total cost for importation The total cost for importation is calculated using the sum of the <b>duties</b> (2), <b>Swiss Post costs</b> , excluding postage (3), and <b>value added tax</b> (4). This amount is thus in addition to the purchase price and postage.	<u>Customs duty</u> + <u>Swiss Post costs (excl. postage)</u> + <b>Value added tax</b> = <b>Total cost for importation</b>	11.80 59.50 89.30 <b>160.60</b>

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Zone 2: other countries

*Tariffs applicable as at January 2013*