



BUYING GOODS ONLINE FROM THIRD COUNTRIES?

Get up to speed with the new rules

- Until 1 July 2021, you could purchase VAT-free when the value of the goods did not exceed EUR 22. From 1 July 2021, **the VAT exemption of EUR 22 will be removed and VAT will be paid on all your online purchases.** To avoid unwelcome surprises when you order online from third countries, always read carefully the terms and conditions, including the information about taxes, and charges.

What charges might I have to pay?

Import VAT



When the goods are delivered into the EU from a non-EU country, you have to pay VAT, just like for goods bought within the EU.

Excise duty



Excise duty is also charged when you order tobacco or alcohol products from a third country.

Customs Duty



If the value of the ordered goods is above €150, you may also have to pay customs duties, in addition to VAT, when they enter the EU.

How do I pay charges due on my order?

IMPORT VAT USE OF IMPORT ONE STOP SHOP (IOSS)



- When you buy online from a non-EU country, the seller may include import VAT in the overall price he charges you for the goods. This means that the seller is using the so-called Import One Stop Shop (IOSS) and collects the VAT in advance.

By using the IOSS, the goods benefit of a speedier customs clearance, as those goods will not be stopped at the border for VAT payment. In this case, no further action is needed on your part.

IMPORT VAT PAYMENT AT THE BORDER



- If the seller does not use the IOSS, postal operator or the courier will ensure that the import VAT is charged when the package is delivered. You will then have to pay VAT upon delivery.
- You will receive an invoice for VAT (and, if applicable, for excise and/or customs duties) from the customs authorities, your postal operator or the courier. You must pay this invoice before the goods are handed over to you.

Postal operators and couriers may also charge a customs clearance handling fee.

Example 1

IZABELA

in Poland orders shoes worth €100 (not including VAT) from USA from a US-based website.

The US company is registered for IOSS in an EU country, in this example Italy.



When paying for the shoes, the US company charges 23% Polish VAT. In total, Izabela pays EUR 123.

Izabela receives then the goods directly to her home without the need to pay VAT upon importation.

Example 2

XENIOS

in Cyprus orders electronics from an online seller based in China.

The electronics are worth €50 (not including VAT).

The Chinese business did not register for IOSS.



Xenios pays €50 to the online seller.

He will then receive an invoice from the Cypriot customs authorities / postal operator or from the delivery company, asking him to pay the import VAT.

Xenios may also have to pay a handling fee to the postal operator or the delivery company.

Full details on ordering online from a non-eu country are available here: <https://ec.europa.eu/vat-ecommerce>

