



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
Sweden

The Chief of Protocol presents her compliments to their Excellencies the Heads of Diplomatic Missions and Career Consular Posts in Sweden and has the honour to convey the following.

The Protocol Department would like to remind Diplomatic Missions and Career Consular Posts about existing procedures for duty free imports of i.a. cigarettes and alcoholic beverages.

Firstly, a clear distinction should be made between purchases for the official use of the Diplomatic Missions or Career Consular Posts, and purchases for the personal use of the diplomatic agent or his/her family and household. While the same form is used for both types of purchases, there are different boxes to be checked when filling out the form.

Secondly, while Sweden has no official quotas or restrictions, it should be recalled that all tax-free purchases have to be reasonable in quantity. The Protocol Department will therefore reserve its right to reject applications which are excessive in quantity (both in terms of purchases made for official use of a Diplomatic Missions or Career Consular Posts, and those made for personal use of a diplomatic agent).

As an illustration, it could be argued that the official use of cigarettes for a mission (such as offering to guests at dinners and receptions) should be relatively limited.

When studying each application, the Protocol Department will take into account also the quantities purchased by the Diplomatic Mission/Career Consular Post/diplomat earlier in the year, making an overall assessment of what could be regarded as a reasonable annual quantity. If warranted, the Protocol Department will inform the party

Their Excellencies the Heads of Diplomatic Missions and Career Consular Posts in  
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concerned that it cannot approve the application. The Protocol Department trusts that this will not affect the overriding majority of purchases. However, any kind of situation in which it could even be remotely suspected that the purchased goods were in fact not for the official use of a Diplomatic Missions or Career Consular Post, or the personal use of a diplomat must be avoided.

The Protocol Department would therefore encourage applicants to fill out the forms correctly and to keep quantities within reasonable limits. It should be correctly indicated whether a particular order is made for the official use of a Diplomatic Mission or Career Consular Post, or the personal use of a diplomat.

The Chief of Protocol avails herself of this opportunity to renew to their Excellencies the Heads of Diplomatic Missions and Career Consular Posts in Sweden the assurances of her highest consideration.

Stockholm, 24 May 2013

