

# France Wants Your Cash

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## Key Points

- **You must make a customs declaration when entering or leaving the EU with €10,000 or more in cash or its equivalent in other currencies - this rule has been around forever.**
- **But watch out for this gotcha in France - if you're planning on bringing in cash over this threshold and leaving it on the aircraft, you need to declare it in advance, or else you might get fined.**
- **Both reports we have received relate to LFPB/Paris Le Bourget airport. It's not yet clear whether this issue is just limited to this airport, or affects other airports in France.**

## OPSGROUP member report

*On arrival at **LFPB/Paris Le Bourget** recently, we were met by a team of customs officials who **asked us if we carried aircraft cash on board**. We were told that we should have declared any amount over €10,000.*

*As we had not attempted to take any cash into the country we asked if we could file at that time. The answer was that we have to file before departure online and that failure to do so was counted as attempting to bring in undeclared cash from outside of the EU. **Unaccompanied cash must be declared online before entry and before departure.***

*There is no limit to the amount of cash that you can declare, and once declared any amount can be taken into the country and spent. I would imagine that there may be a requirement to account for any difference between the amount declared inbound and the amount declared outbound, but have not tested this.*

**We were fined a substantial sum, put on a EU watchlist for 5 years and told that any repeat violations will be subject to a sliding scale of sanctions up to complete confiscation of the funds.** We have flown in the area for many years, but have never been notified of the this rule.

## ANOTHER member report

We had Customs officials board our aircraft in **LFPB/Paris Le Bourget** for a “routine pre-departure check” and they were **exclusively focused on declared/undeclared cash.**

We had not declared (we were not carrying anything close to the qualifying amounts of cash), so they **asked questions about our onboard safe.** They knew most Global models had one, and they knew exactly where it was. We never use it, so we didn't even take the key on the trip and were unable to open it for inspection.

That made them suspicious, so we were delayed 20 minutes while they phoned supervisors to **decide if we were grounded or not.** They even discussed bringing in a team to **physically break into the safe** to verify contents, but supervisors decided to forego that option.

They cautioned us to have the key with us next time we entered France. **Needless to say, it is onboard now.**

**Bottom line:** They know about safes and want to inspect their contents. Be able to open it.

## What are the rules?

These are all in EU Regulation 2018/1672, which got updated in 2021, and are basically as follows:

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 (banknotes, coins, cheques, traveller cheques, promissory notes, money orders without a named beneficiary, and all manner of gold coins/bars/nuggets etc).
2. If customs think you're bringing in cash over this threshold in any kind of “unaccompanied way” they can tell you to lodge a “disclosure declaration” - which you have to have to then do within 30 days.

## So, nothing about having to tell them in advance.

Even on the French customs website, there's **no mention of having to declare or disclose anything in advance.** It says you either do it on arrival, or use their DALIA website to declare it online.

## Where and when to file your declaration


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A declaration can be submitted by the person transporting the funds:

- To French Customs, **at the time of entry into or exit from French territory**
- Online, via **DALIA**, the online declaration service, **at the soonest 30 days before the transfer date and at the latest before crossing the border.** To do so, you must create a user account on [douane.gouv.fr](https://douane.gouv.fr).

## How to make the declaration?

As of 2021, there's now a standard form that the EU have published for this.

		CASH DECLARATION			
		Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1672			
For official use		Reference number			
<b>1. I am</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> entering the European Union (EU)		<input type="checkbox"/> leaving the EU	
<b>2. Details of the carrier of the cash</b>					
First name(s)		Nationality			
Last name(s)		Personal identification number*			
Gender		<input type="checkbox"/> male <input type="checkbox"/> female <input type="checkbox"/> other		Address	
Date of birth		DD MM YYYY		Street and number *	
Place of birth		Town		Postal / ZIP code*	
ID document		<input type="checkbox"/> passport <input type="checkbox"/> ID card <input type="checkbox"/> other(specify) _____		Country	
ID document number		Telephone number*			
Country of issue		Email address*			
Date of issue		DD MM YYYY			
<b>3. Transport details</b>					
Country of first departure		Departure date		DD MM YYYY	
Country of final destination		Arrival date		DD MM YYYY	
Via (transit country/-ies)*		Transit date*		DD MM YYYY	
Means of transport		<input type="checkbox"/> AIR (specify) <input type="checkbox"/> commercial flight <input type="checkbox"/> private jet <input type="checkbox"/> other		<input type="checkbox"/> SEA / FLUVIAL (specify) <input type="checkbox"/> commercial vessel <input type="checkbox"/> yacht <input type="checkbox"/> cruise <input type="checkbox"/> other	
		<input type="checkbox"/> RAIL		<input type="checkbox"/> ROAD (specify) <input type="checkbox"/> truck <input type="checkbox"/> bus <input type="checkbox"/> car <input type="checkbox"/> other	
		<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (specify) _____			
Itinerary of transport		Name/place of the first airport/port/train station of departure			
		Name/place of the final airport/port/train station of arrival			
		Name/place of the airport/port/train station of transit			
		Land border crossing point (only by road)			
Reference number ( e.g. flight number, ship identification, train number, country code and license plate)					
Transport company*					
<b>4. Details of cash</b>					
Currency (banknotes and coins)		Value		Currency	
		1)		3)	
		2)		4)	
Bearer negotiable instruments		Type of bearer negotiable instrument		Value	
				Currency	
Commodities used as highly-liquid stores of value (i.e. gold)		Type		Quantity	
		Total weight (in grams)		Value	
				Currency	

Click for PDF.

This is available in other languages, if you're headed somewhere in the EU and they want a copy in something other than English.

### Why the weird rule in France about having to do it in advance?

As far as we can tell, it's an incorrect reading and application of the EU Regulation.

Both reports we have received relate to **LFPB/Paris Le Bourget airport**. It's not yet clear whether this issue is just limited to this airport, or affects other airports in France. If you have experienced similar at LFPB or other airports in the country, please let us know: news@ops.group.

We did reach out to some local agents at LFPB, one of whom told us that from their understanding the principle is to do the declaration online before arrival, or if you are already on ground - go spontaneously to the customs advising that you have something to declare before they make any check!