

RATION CONTROL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why do we need a ration control program?

The Status of Forces Agreement between the United States and Republic of Korea (ROK) requires US to make *reasonable & practical* efforts to control access of unqualified persons to duty free goods. It also requires US to “prevent abuse” of this duty free privilege.

2. What are my limits?

Liquor: Defined as any beverage that contains 20% or more alcohol by volume.

One bottle (fifth, quart, or liter) counts as one unit. A 1.75 liter bottle counts as two units.

Individuals may purchase 3 units per month. Families may purchase 5 units per month.

To receive the “family” size ration there must be two adults (age 20 and older) in the family.

Beer: Eligible persons (20 years and older) may purchase 2 case-lots per day, not to exceed eight case-lots per month. Purchases of up to three six-packs per day by an individual will not be counted against the eight case-lot monthly limit.

Commissary: See the table below

Family Size	Dollar limit
1	\$550.00
2	\$850.00
3	\$1,100.00
4	\$1,300.00
5	\$1,500.00
6+	\$1,800.00

3. What is an anvil card?

The IBM cards anvilled by sales clerks and signed by the patron at the time of purchase to record sales of high values items and the liquor. Processed on a monthly basis, to identify suspected system abusers and record accountable items.

4. What is a controlled item?

Controlled items are single items or sets of items (such as golf clubs) which are selected for special monitoring by the Black Market Working Group (BMWG). A current list of controlled items is below. Purchase of these items is recorded and monitored.

Air Conditioner

Clothes Dryer

Color Television/monitor over 27in

Computer hardware

Cosmetics costing more than \$50.00

Diamonds or jewelry with diamonds

Furniture costing over \$200.00

Golf Clubs (single clubs costing over \$50.00)

Perfume costing more than \$50.00

Ranges

Refrigerators/freezers

Washing machines

Watches costing more than \$200.00

5. How much liquor can I purchase?

Defined as any beverage that contains 20% or more alcohol by volume.

Individuals may purchase 3 units per month. Families may purchase 5 units per month.

To receive the “family “ size ration there must be two adults (age of 20 or older) in the family.

One bottle (fifth, quart, or liter) counts as one unit. A 1.75 liter bottle counts as two units.

6. Is beer/wine considered liquor?

No. Liquor is considered any beverage with 20% or more alcohol by volume.

7. How much beer can I purchase?

Beer: Eligible persons (20 years an older) may purchase 2 case-lot per day, not to exceed 8 case-lots per month. Purchases of up to three six-packs per day by an individual will not be counted against the eight case-lot monthly limit.

8. How much wine can I purchase?

There is no limit on wine purchases.

9. My parents who are non-military are coming to visit me in Korea. Can they shop at the commissary/AAFES facilities?

Sorry, the answer is no. There are no provisions in the Status of Forces Agreement to allow non-dependents to purchase items at the commissary and AAFES facilities. In addition, non-military affiliated personnel cannot enter the commissary (i.e., your non-military parents).

10. My spouse is coming to visit me in Korea. Can he/she shop at the commissary/AAFES facilities?

Yes, unless you are a local hire civilian.

11. Both my spouse and I decided to visit Korea. Can we shop in the commissary/AAFES facilities?

If you are active duty or retired military both you and your spouse can shop at the commissary and AAFES facilities.

12. I’m stationed in Germany. My spouse wants to visit relatives in Korea. I will not accompany him/her. Can my spouse shop in the commissary/AAFES facilities if he/she visits Korea unaccompanied?

Sorry, the answer is no. There are no provisions in the Status of Forces Agreement to allow unaccompanied dependents to purchase items at the commissary and AAFES facilities.

13. If my monthly commissary limit is \$900 per month and I only spend \$700 in January, can I spend \$1100 in February?

Sorry, the answer is no. The dollar limits are monthly and not cumulative from month to month.

14. I'm having a promotion party and anticipate needing 4 units of liquor. My limit is 3. What do I do?

You may request a short-term exception to policy.

15. My boss asked me to purchase \$500 worth of food from the commissary for our unit's annual picnic. I don't want this \$500 to apply towards my monthly limit. What do I do?

The purchases should be made against the unit or organization's Ration Control Card. For information on requesting a unit RCC for your organization, requesting the use of the unit RCC, or making purchases with the unit RCC.

16. What is a "show cause" letter? What happens if I get one? What do I do?

An itemized listing of purchases from the commissary by an individual sent to the unit command, adjudication Authority, and the individual indicating that the individual has exceeded their monthly commissary or alcohol limits. This report is for individuals who have previously received a warning letter or have exceeded their dollar limits by more than 5%.

Personnel receiving a "show cause" letter must contact their area support group commander to adjudicate the violation.

17. What is a "warning" letter? What happens if I get one? What do I do?

This is an itemized listing of purchases from the commissary by individual sent to the unit commander and the individual. This report lets the unit commander and the individual know that the individual exceeded monthly commissary or alcohol limits. This report is used for informational purposes only and no actions need be taken. This report is issued to first time offenders who have exceeded their monthly allotment by 5% or less.

18. Is gas rationed?

Gasoline is not rationed but can only be purchased by individuals authorized access to duty free goods.

19. Is heating fuel rationed?

The installation commander sets heating fuel limits in writing. Limits will be posted at appropriate locations for patrons to see. Gasoline can only be purchased by individuals authorized access to duty free goods after presentation of the appropriate access documents. Gas RCC cannot be used to purchase heating fuel (kerosene).

20. What are shelf limits?

These are limitations specifying the number of items or dollar amount that can be purchased during a specified time period for a given product.

21. What do I do if I suspect someone of violating the ration control program or committing acts of black-marketing?

Report the offense(s) to the installation law enforcement agency.

22. How do I get a temporary ration control card?

Individuals authorized a Temporary Ration Control Card may obtain one through their organization's ration control clerk or supporting Issuing Agent.

23. How do I get a permanent ration control card?

Individuals authorized a Permanent Ration Control Card may obtain one through their organization's ration control clerk or supporting Issuing Agent.

24. My son is 9 years old. Does he need a ration control card?

Sorry, the answer is no. In order for a dependent to get a minor ration control card, he/she must be 10 years of age or older.

25. I'm active duty. Do I need a ration control card?

No. The Status of Forces Agreement allows active duty military access to duty free goods.

26. I'm an un-remarried widow. Am I eligible to have a ration control card?

Yes.

27. I'm serving in the Australian Army on temporary duty to United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC), (or Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC)), (or United Nations Command (UNC)), (or the UNC Liaison Group)? Can I shop at the commissary/AAFES facilities?

Yes. You must present your id and copy of your orders to gain access to duty-free goods.

28. I am a US citizen employed by DoD (or NAF agency). Can I shop at the commissary/AAFES facilities?

Yes, provided you do not normally reside in the ROK and work 20 hours or more per week or 40 hours or more within two weeks.

29. I am an invited contractor. Can I shop in the commissary/AAFES facilities?

Yes, provided you ordinarily reside in the U.S. and within the terms of your contract.

30. I am an active member of the US Reserve component? Can I shop in the commissary/AAFES facilities?

Yes, provided you are assigned to a Troop Program Unit in the ROK.

31. I am retired military. Can I shop at the commissary/AAFES facilities?

Yes. The Status of Forces Agreement allows you access to duty-free goods.

32. I am a Korea government service (KGS) employee. Can I shop at the commissary/AAFES facilities?

No, unless you are an IMPAC cardholder and have an IMPAC Card Order and Receipt form detailing the specific items you are purchasing at AAFES only. You are not authorized to shop at the commissary.

33. I am a dependent of a civilian employee. Can I shop at the commissary/AAFES facilities?

Yes, if your sponsor is not ordinarily resident in Korea and is working 20 or more hours per week or 40 or more hours within two weeks except those of civilian local hires.

34. I retired from the Reserve component. Can I shop at the commissary/AAFES facilities?

Yes, provided you are receiving full retirement benefits.

35. I am a member of the Reserve component, visiting Korea. Can I shop at the commissary/AAFES facilities?

Sorry, the answer is no. There is no provision in the Status of Forces Agreement that allows visiting Reserve component members access to duty-free goods.

36. I am an unaccompanied dependent, visiting relatives in Korea. Can I shop at the commissary/AAFES facilities?

Sorry, the answer is no. However, you can apply to an exception to policy for extenuating circumstances

37. I am a dependent, living with my military spouse in Korea. Can I shop at the commissary/AAFES facilities?

Yes

38. How do I gain access to the commissary/AAFES facilities?

If you are permanent party, active Duty U.S. military members are not required to present a ration control card to gain access to duty-free goods. Civilian sponsors, and all dependents will be granted access to duty free goods only when presenting a valid ID card and ration control card. See question 39 for additional information.

All others should consult their local issuing agent.

39. My family and I just arrived in country. Do I need a ration control card to shop in the commissary/AAFES facilities?

For permanent party, newly arrived dependents can use their dependent ID card and a copy of their sponsors orders to gain access to the commissary and AAFES facilities for fourteen days after their arrival in country. After fourteen days the dependent must either present a temporary or permanent ration control card. See question 38 for additional information.

All others should consult their local issuing agent.

40. What is a unit of liquor?

One bottle (fifth, quart, or liter) counts as one unit. A 1.75 liter bottle counts as two units.

41. What are shelf limits?

These are limitations specifying the number of items or dollar amount that can be purchased for a given product during a specified time period.

42. What if I lose my ration control card?

Applications for replacement RCC's, either permanent or temporary, must have the unit commander, first sergeant, or civilian equivalent's signature and be forwarded through the area commander or designated representative for final approval along with Military Police Report (DA Form 3975) or Statement of Witness (AF Form 1168).

43. How long is a temporary ration control card good for?

30 Days, reissued up to 90 days.

44. How do I apply for a ration control card?

Active Duty personnel who arrive in the ROK with their family members, and all civilian employees and their dependents must see their organization Ration Control Clerk or Ration Control Issuing Agent to process their application (USFK Form 42) for Permanent Ration Control Cards. In addition to USFK Form 42 which is used to initiate the application process, supporting documentation must be submitted. Required Documents

45. How long does it take to get a permanent ration control card?

Approximately 1-2 weeks, depending on geographical location. If you apply on-line through your issuing agent you will get your card quicker.

46. I completed my ration control card application three weeks ago and still haven't received my card. My temporary ration control card expires in a week. What do I do?

Notify your organization ration control clerk or issuing agent. IA Roster

47. What documents are required with my ration control card application?

A description of the required supporting documentation is available in USFK Reg 60-1. The individual may also contact his Ration Control Clerk for a list of required documentation that is applicable to him/her. Required Documents

48. How do I apply for a gas ration control card?

Gas ration control cards are only issued to those Korean Nationals supporting law enforcement investigative efforts. Applications for gas RCCs will be made by memorandum through the area commander and the servicing IA to FKJ1-DM. The requestor must be the unit commander or civilian equivalent. The memorandum must provide the applicant's name, SSAN or ROK ID number, and a justification.

49. What is the governing directive for the ration control program? Where can I get a copy?

A copy may be obtained from the EUSA intranet web site, <https://www-eusa.korea.army.mil>

50. What is an Issuing Agent? Who is my Issuing Agent?

Issuing Agents are individuals established by area commanders within geographical areas to administer the Ration Control Program at an intermediate level. IA Roster

51. What is a unit ration control clerk? Who is my unit ration control clerk?

Unit ration clerks are appointed, in writing, by the commander or civilian equivalent and forwarded, along with a DD Form 577, to the appropriate IA. They are responsible for

processing applications for RCCs and issuing RCCs to unit members and their dependents. See your unit commander or first sergeant to find out who is your ration clerk.

52. My commissary /AAFES privileges have been revoked by area commander. What do I do now?

If your privileges have been revoked by your area commander, you cannot access any commissary or AAFES facility ROK-wide. Upon completing of the revocation period, the offender may request reinstatement of privileges. Such a request must be made, in writing, to the area commander who revoked your privileges.

53. Can I loan my ration control card to a friend who lost theirs?

No. To do so is punishable under the UCMJ or provisions of your employment contract.

54. Can a buy a computer as a gift?

Gifts/transfer of duty-free and tax-free goods are covered by USFK Reg 643-1 and 643-2.

55. Who runs the ration control program?

The Assistant Chief of Staff J1, Data Management Division.

56. What is the Post/Commissary Exchange Oversight Committee (PCOC)?

The PCOC is an over watch council that makes recommendations to AAFES and DECA managers to help reduce command-wide black marketing, implement changes to the ration control policy, deter black marketing, and discuss any issues relating to the Ration Control Program.

57. I bought a refrigerator and had to fill out some form called an anvil card. Why? What is this form used for?

Anvil receipts are used to record the sale of liquor and controlled items. Liquor and controlled item purchases are monitored IAW USFK Reg 60-1. For a list of controlled items and information pertaining to liquor purchase limits see questions 2 and 4.

58. I received a warning letter that I exceeded my commissary limit. I believe this is an error. What do I do?

To contest a violation the individual must send a memorandum through the unit commander and servicing issuing agent to FKJ1-DM to request a correction of records. The unit commander must provide an endorsement that states that the violation was investigated and recommend the violation be removed from the FKJ1-DM violator database.

59. The cashier did not ask for my ID and/or ration control card. What should I do?

Report it to the manager of the facility.

Note: Uniform personnel are not required to show an RCC.

60. While standing in cashier line, I noticed what looked like someone in front of me making a purchase that exceeded the posted shelf limit. What do I do?

Notify the manager of the facility, or call the installation law enforcement office.

61. I bought beer and the cashier scanned my ID card and items in a machine. Why?

Beer is now an item that is tracked through the Double Swipe & Scan (DSS) system. The transaction data (who you are and what you bought) is then transmitted to J1 DM. These machines replace the old Anvil system.

62. What is the Double Swipe & Scan (DSS) device? What is it used for?

The DSS system is used to monitor and track high interest sales items and is designed to replace Anvil cards in the future. These machines takes in a person's ID and items they are purchasing and this information is transmitted to J1 DM for processing.