

Shipping Vehicles into the United Kingdom



First you need to apply for your Transfer of Residence (TOR) with UK Customs ([www.gov.uk/government/TOR Application](http://www.gov.uk/government/TOR_Application)). This will cover both your vehicle and personal effects. Processing of your application can take anywhere from a few days to a few weeks during busy periods. To avoid any delays, make sure you apply for your TOR well before your vehicle and personal effects are shipped. Once you have been issued a Unique Reference Number (URN), your TOR will last for 12 months.

Vehicles need to comply with the British motor vehicle regulations and pass the IVA/MOT compliance. There are different compliance requirements for vehicles less than 10 years old and those over 10 years of age.

Documentation required when in the UK

The following documents are required to secure the necessary IVA compliance test for vehicles.

- Original **New Zealand Certificate of Registration**
- Copy of **New Zealand Certificate of Motor Insurance** covering at least 6 months immediately prior to shipping, to prove possession and use of the vehicle for at least 6 months outside the EC. The certificate must identify the car by registration number or VIN/chassis number and show the name of the person that appears on the certificate of registration. If no certificate is available, a statement from the insurance company declaring the period of insurance for that specific car will be accepted.
- **A New Zealand utility bill or bank statement** dated shortly before shipping, and one at least 12 months older (showing the same name that the vehicle is registered to) at an address outside the EC. This is to prove residency outside the EC for at least 12 months.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU RETAIN THE **ORIGINAL NEW ZEALAND CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION TO REGISTER THE VEHICLE ON ARRIVAL IN THE UK.**

Do not ship any of these documents in the vehicle or within your personal effects. Take these with you.

Vehicles over 10 years of age and under 40 years of age

- Vehicles need a UK specification rear fog-light on the off-side. This needs to be retro fitted in the UK to ensure it meets the European compliance requirements.
- A speedometer reading MPH (Miles per Hour) is not an MOT test requirement, but it is a requirement for **construction & use regulations**, therefore it is your choice as to whether or not to replace the speedometer face. The lack of an MPH face may only cause a problem if there is an incident that requires the vehicle to be inspected by an insurance assessor or government official.
- Window Tint - Vehicles first used on 1 April 1985 or later: Front windscreens and front side windows have to be able to allow at least 70% of light through, although it's not tested for MOT and is at the tester's discretion whether it is acceptable.

Vehicles under 10 years of age

Vehicles require an IVA (Individual Vehicle Approval) test of compliance which is undertaken at a government test station. The most common modifications are:

- Vehicles need a UK specification rear fog-light on the off-side. This needs to be retro fitted in the UK to ensure it meets the European compliance requirements.
- Install a speedometer face or digital display indicating MPH – some cars have a switchable digital display from KMH to MPH. This is acceptable providing it is a permanent display (e.g. some Porsche and BMW).
- Only tow-bars with a European mark of approval ("E") are acceptable.
- Tyres need to have the "E" European marking or DOT reference. If not, they have to be replaced.
- Window Tint - Front windscreens and front side windows have to be able to allow at least 70% of light through, so no additional tint is allowed as glass has 25 to 30% tint incorporated by the manufacture.

These are the most common issues regarding vehicles into the UK. There may be other minor modification requirements depending on the vehicles age, manufacturer and model.

We have partnered with **Vehicle Registration Services Ltd** in the UK. They can give advice on your vehicle and quote on processing the IVA Compliance, MOT Test modifications and Registration:

Brian Cowland brian@vrsuk.co.uk www.vrsuk.co.uk

This information is provided as a guide only. You should make your own enquiries to be satisfied that your vehicle will meet British vehicle compliance.

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