

FAQs on Type Approval for Cars

What does Type Approval mean? When a car is first manufactured it must pass all the necessary safety and quality standards before it can be sold or registered throughout Europe – this is known as European Type Approval. Since 29 October 2014 all newly manufactured cars must be type approved.

What is European Communities Whole Vehicle Type Approval (ECWVTA)? ECWVTA is certification that's issued to manufacturers of large quantities of the same type of car. Instead of having to obtain approval for each and every identical car, one model or prototype is used. If that one car is approved, then certification will be issued to all cars of the same model which means they can be sold/registered throughout Europe.

What is a Conformity of Production? For a car to be type approved and obtain its Certificate of Conformity (CoC) every vehicle must be identical to the car originally approved. This is known as Conformity of Production. There are no Conformity of Production requirements for Individual Vehicle Approval.

What is a Certificate of Conformity? An EC Certificate of Conformity (EC CoC) is a certificate that's issued to the manufacturer as proof that the car achieved type approval and can be sold and registered throughout European Member States.

What is National Small Series Type Approval (NSSTA)? NSSTA is type approval certification for small batches of cars (to a max of 250 cars) intended for Irish/National use. When NSSTA is granted, the manufacturer can issue a Certificate of Conformity for each vehicle of same type.

What is IVA? Individual Vehicle Approval relates to new cars imported or manufactured in very small numbers or as individual vehicles. Each car is checked and on passing inspection at an NSAI Appointed test Centre, an IVA Cert is issued to allow registration in Ireland.

Who is responsible for Type Approval in Ireland? The NSAI (National Standards Authority of Ireland) is the appointed Approval Authority in Ireland and is responsible for issuing all national approvals (IVA or NSSTA) for vehicles here. www.nsai.ie Tel. 01 8073800 or email info@nsai.ie

Where do I apply for an End of Series (EOS) Derogation? Please refer to our FAQs on End of Series derogation [EOS](#)

What is the difference between a complete, completed and incomplete vehicle?

Complete Vehicles	Built in a single stage by the manufacturer and requires no further work prior to registration e.g. mass produced vans/cars.
Completed / Multi-stage Vehicles	Built in multi stages involving more than one manufacturer e.g. a bodybuilder who imports a type approved chassis and assembles a body to complete the vehicle.
Incomplete Vehicle	Any vehicle which has yet to undergo one or more stages before it can be considered a complete vehicle e.g. chassis cab which has approval but does not have the body attached yet.

I imported a car and it has no Certificate of Conformity so I can't register it. What should I do? Please contact the original manufacturer who should be able to supply you with a CoC for your car.

I imported a new car from outside the EU and it doesn't have Type Approval/a CoC. Where can I get this? Please contact the National standards Authority of Ireland on 01 8073800 or email info@nsai.ie or visit www.nsai.ie

What is the role of The Revenue Commissioners in Type Approval? The Revenue Commissioners is Ireland's registration authority for motor vehicles. They will not register a new vehicle unless it has a certificate of conformity.

Is UK type approval recognised in Ireland and vice versa? Yes, there is a mutual recognition of Type Approval / Certificates issued between the UK and Ireland. If you require additional information on this please contact the NSAI.