

FAQs on Buying an Imported Vehicle

RSA

What are the regulations on vehicle importation, VRT payment and registration?

When importing a vehicle an appointment should be made with Revenue to have the vehicle inspected within seven days of it entering the state in order to register it and pay VRT. The registration process must be completed within 30 days of entry into the state. For further information on importation, VRT and registration contact [Revenue](#)

How do I know if a roadworthiness cert is fake? See our [FAQ](#) on Buying a Used Car or Vehicle.

How do I check the validity of a roadworthiness cert on an imported vehicle? Click [here](#) and input the vehicle make and registration.

Can I import a vehicle without a valid roadworthiness cert? Yes. However once the vehicle is registered a valid roadworthiness test must be carried out.

Can I transfer insurance onto a vehicle without a valid roadworthiness cert? Contact your insurance provider or [Insurance Ireland](#).

What documentation is required when importing a vehicle? When importing a vehicle you will need to contact [Revenue](#).

If I import a vehicle from an EU member state with a valid roadworthiness cert can I use it on Irish roads?

Yes. Since 20 May 2018 you can now exchange a valid roadworthiness certificate from any EU member state. For further information on mutual recognition of roadworthiness certs for cars click NCT [link](#) and for commercial vehicles click this CVRT [here](#).

If I purchase a car in Northern Ireland or UK and transfer my insurance am I insured to drive it here?

Contact your insurance provider for details relating to your insurance policy.

I imported a car paid VRT, motor tax and NCT but insurance company will not insure as it is outside their normal insurance criteria. Can you advise?

You will need to contact [Insurance Ireland](#).

How do I check if an imported vehicle was written-off and category of write-off?

See our [FAQ](#) on Written off Vehicles.

Is there a timeframe for driving an imported car temporarily in Ireland?

Yes. A vehicle registered abroad may be granted temporary exemption from registration here in Ireland if the period does not exceed 12 months but this can be extended. For further information visit [Revenue](#).

Are insurance companies obliged to inform Revenue when a vehicle is imported into Ireland so that the it can be tested and VRT paid on entry into state?

For information on the legal obligations of insurance companies contact [Insurance Ireland](#). You will need to contact [Revenue](#) for queries relating to importation, VRT and registration.

I am importing a car from Japan which will be subject to new Nox tax introduced on 01 January 2020. Do RSA have NOx ratings?

- As taxing of vehicles does not fall under the remit of the RSA, you will need to contact your local motor tax office or email them at dtas@gmail.com
- As Nox falls under the remit of Revenue you will need to contact them regarding calculation of Nox rates [here](#).

Where do I locate an automotive engineer or assessor? You can contact [\(IAEA\)](#) the Institute of automotive engineer assessors who may be able to provide you with a list of automotive engineers in your area.