

# FAQs on Type Approval for all Cars

RSA

**What is type approval?** 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 April 2009 all newly manufactured vehicles must be type approved.

**Who is responsible for type approval in Ireland?** The national standards authority of Ireland ([NSAI](#)) is the appointed approval authority in Ireland responsible for issuing all national approvals for brand new unregistered vehicles only e.g. IVA or NSSTA.

**What is individual vehicle approval (IVA)?** This relates to new unregistered passenger 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.

**What is national small series type approval (NSSTA)?** This is certification for small batches of cars up to a maximum of 250 intended for Irish or national use. When NSSTA is granted the manufacturer can issue a CoC for each vehicle of same type.

**What is European community's whole vehicle type approval (ECWVTA)?** This is certification 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 or registered throughout Europe.

**Is UK type approval recognised in Ireland and vice versa?** Yes, currently there is a mutual recognition of type approval or certificates issued between the UK and Ireland. For further information on type approval see our RSA webpage [here](#).

**What is the role of Revenue in type approval?** [Revenue](#) will not register a new vehicle unless it has a valid certificate of conformity (CoC).

**What is a certificate of conformity (CoC)?** A CoC is issued to the manufacturer as proof that the car achieved type approval and can be sold and registered throughout European member states.

**What is a conformity of production (CoP)?** For a car to be type approved and obtain its CoC every vehicle must be identical to the car originally approved. This is known as CoP. There are no conformity of production requirements for individual vehicle approval.

**Who do I contact if I imported a new car and it does not have a CoC?** You will need to contact the original manufacturer.

**Where can I get a CoC on a new car imported from outside the EU that does not have type approval?** CoC can only be obtained from the vehicle manufacturer in the country where the vehicle was first registered. If this is not possible contact the national standards authority of Ireland (NSAI) who can advise you on how to obtain individual approval authority (IVA).

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

<b>Complete vehicles</b>	Built in a single stage by the manufacturer and requires no further work prior to registration e.g. mass produced vans or cars.
<b>Completed or multi-stage vehicles</b>	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.
<b>Incomplete vehicles</b>	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.