

A Guide for Taking Your Vehicle Overseas

Taking an Australian registered vehicle overseas on a temporary basis for a display, rally or touring is becoming more popular.

This information has been prepared to assist planning, preparation of the vehicle for transport to and from your destination and to give an insight into requirements. *Item numbers are for reference only.*

The paperwork.

1. International Driving Permit.

Used in association with your domestic driving licence and valid for 12 months.

More detail – www.racv.com.au - Travel – Driving Overseas.

2. Carnet. (Carnet de passage en douane – A notebook to drive across borders)

Required for temporary importation of vehicles into New Zealand, most African, Asian, Middle East and South American countries.

Not required for motor vehicles, campervans, and motor cycles entering the U.K., Europe or continental North America for touring purposes.

Specific countries should be checked for requirement.

Bonds and fees can be considerable but assist in entry and exit.

More detail – www.racv.com.au - Travel – Driving Overseas. (9 pages)

3. Green card.

Proof that minimum legal requirements for Third Party Insurance in Green Card valid countries are covered by the insured's own policy.

More detail – www.racv.com.au - Travel – Driving Overseas.

4. Camping Card International (CCI).

If camping in Europe a CCI card is required.

It covers Third Party Insurance claims which may be made against a member for compensation for bodily injury to third parties and/or damage to property resulting from an accident occurring while camping.

Essential in Europe, some campsites will not allow non card holders on site.

The CCI is \$A25 and also requires, for Victorian residents, membership of RACV.

More detail – www.racv.com.au - Travel – Driving Overseas.

5. Always prepare a document detailing the vehicle – make, model, chassis number/VIN, engine number, registration number – and the value of the vehicle. This will assist with Customs clearance in the destination country.

6. How do I ship my vehicle overseas?

Deal with reputable forwarding/freight agent.

When in contact with your chosen ask about the options available.

Options available include containerisation, roll on/roll off and LCL.

Where a number of vehicles are going to the same location a 40 foot container may be an option but decide (within the group) if this is required before speaking to the forwarder.

LCL (Less than container) cargo is not recommended, the risk of damage is considered high.

Make arrangements for Customs clearance of your vehicle in the destination country before you ship from Australia.

Ascertain the requirements and costs to prevent later shock.

7. How long does it take?

The vehicle must be prepared for shipping. Timing for this is dependant on requirements and individual assessment.

Once prepared the time to ship a vehicle will vary based on sailing dates.

Typical times are –

Melbourne to Southampton (U.K.) 69 to 89 days, normally 2 to 4 sailings per month.

Melbourne to New Zealand (Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Nelson) approx. 6 to 12 days, sailings fortnightly.

Melbourne to Port Kalang (Malaysia) approx. 17 to 27 days, 2 or 3 sailings a month.

More detail - info@everglobalinternational.com.au (typical)

8. Insurance while in transit.

It is advisable to effect Marine Transit Insurance cover on the shipment.

This protects the owner in the event of total loss (policy usually excludes mechanical or electrical damage, denting, scratching and bruising). It also protects the owner in the event of major damage to the vessel.

9. Customs duties.

A carnet allows visitors to temporarily import a motor vehicle or motorcycle overseas for a limited period of time (maximum 12 months) without the need for payment of Customs duties, sales taxes or other duties.

This can be extended if necessary but must be organised prior to the original document (time) expiring.

10. Is Third Party Liability Insurance required?

Yes. In Europe you require a Green Card. Forty European countries accept the Green Card.

More detail – www.racv.com.au - Travel – Driving Overseas.

11. Do I need Comprehensive Vehicle Insurance overseas?

Australian insurance companies will not insure vehicles going overseas so you will have to find a company to insure your vehicle while driving overseas.

More detail – Australian Automobile Association (www.aaa.asn.au) (typical)

Classic cars > Hagerty Insurance Agency LCC (www.hagerty.com) (typical)

12. Can I use Victorian number plates?

If driving overseas on a temporary basis you must keep your Victorian registration current.

While overseas you will need to display nationality plate (AUS sticker or plate)

These may be purchased from the RACV (but not at RACV shops) at a cost of \$11 for a vehicle sticker or \$22 for a motorcycle plate.

13. Can I use my RACV roadside membership overseas?

RACV members with current Emergency Roadside Assistance can receive reciprocal benefits from affiliated auto clubs when travelling overseas.

To obtain these services from affiliated clubs, members must present their current RACV membership card. This card has an AIT logo acknowledging your club membership.

Note that your membership must be valid/current for the entire journey.

Levels of service may vary country to country and club to club.

More detail (including list of clubs) – www.racv.com.au - Travel – driving overseas – affiliated clubs.

14. Will my vehicle be inspected on arrival at the destination?

In New Zealand vehicles will require a “Warrant of Fitness” inspection before it can be driven on New Zealand roads. Other countries may have similar requirements.

15. Movable Heritage and export from Australia.

Vehicles over 30 years old may be subject to the Commonwealth Movable Heritage Legislation. This requires an export permit before the vehicle can be shipped.

Details – www.arts.gov.au/moveableheritage .

16. Bringing the vehicle back into Australia.

Import Permit.

A Vehicle Import Approval will be required to return the vehicle to Australia.

Note that there has been a tightening of policy in this area so before you send the vehicle out of Australia ensure you have your Vehicle Import Approval in place.

Note also that if you have received a Vehicle Import Approval to import the vehicle that Approval cannot be used for a second time import of the same vehicle.

Before loading your vehicle for return to Australia ensure the vehicle is thoroughly cleaned – wash the tyres, wash underneath, the sill and wheel- arches, remove leaves from below the windscreen (plenum chamber) and drain the windscreen washer reservoir.

Clean and check the vehicle interior to ensure there is no uneaten fruit.

These checks and actions will help save money and damage if your vehicle

Is ordered in for an AQIS clean (a high pressure process).

Detail references and *typical* references are offered as a guide only. There may be alternative sources and services available. E&OE.

AOMC acknowledge with thanks the assistance of the RACV and Mr Rob Fawkes, (rfawkes@worldlinkperth.com) in the preparation of this guide.

Feb 2011