

A GUIDE TO IMPORTING PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES INTO AUSTRALIA

ELIGIBILITY FOR VEHICLE IMPORTATION

- * You have owned and used the vehicle overseas for a period of not less than twelve continuous calendar months
- * You are of driving age
- * You are an Australian citizen
- * You are a migrant holding permanent residency in Australia
- * You are allowed to import any vehicle which is 15 or more years old on the date it lands in Australia
- * Cars are required to be right hand drive

IMPORT PERMIT Before your vehicle can be imported you must obtain a Vehicle Import Approval from the Federal Office of Road Safety in Canberra. **If your vehicle arrives at destination port without the appropriate import approval, the vehicle may be sent back to origin or destroyed.** Address enquiries to Administrator – Vehicle Safety Standards Branch, Dept of Transport and Regional Services, GPO Box 594, Canberra, ACT, 2601, Australia, Ph (02) 6274 7506 Fx (02) 62746013 Email Vimports@dotars.gov.au Alternatively, website is www.dotars.gov.au

AUSTRALIAN PORT CHARGES All vehicles arriving in Australia are subject to Australian Port Service charges and Australian Terminal Handling charges, which are considerably cheaper when prepaid. Please note our quotation **includes these charges**, approximately as follows:

Motor Cycle	AU\$ 50
Motor car by groupage container	AU\$ 150
Motor car by exclusive container	AU\$ 350

CUSTOMS CLEARANCE If so appointed our destination representative will lodge the customs entry on your behalf no later than 5 days prior to vessel arrival and will require copies of the following documents which will accompany the entry: Vehicle Import Approval, passport, Permanent Residence Visa, purchase documents and UK registration documents. Charges for customs clearance, associated haulage from port of entry to customs bonded facility and handout are payable locally to our representative (unless included in our quotation). Charges vary from port to port and are approximately as follows:

Motor cycle	AU\$ 500
Motor car by groupage container	AU\$600 to AU\$850
Motor car by exclusive container	AU\$800 to AU\$995

QUARANTINE INSPECTION/STEAM CLEANING

The Department Of Health (Quarantine) will inspect the vehicle on its arrival. The Quarantine inspection fee is AU\$250 depending on the port of entry. Please ensure your vehicle is thoroughly cleaned and vacuumed prior to shipment, paying particular attention to the wheel arches, the underside and engine compartment and interior, passenger and boot compartments. In the event that Quarantine fails the vehicle you will incur a charge of approximately AU\$ 475 (Motor cycle) or AU\$595 (Motor car) for steam cleaning and subsequent re-inspection.

REGISTRATION To register a vehicle in Australia it must be roadworthy, meet minimum safety standards and be right hand drive. If eligible, a Personal Import Approval will be issued and you may then apply for a Personal Import Plate; this is evidence that the vehicle is approved and may then be registered. Before applying for a Personal Import Plate the vehicle will have to be brought to acceptable standards. You should contact your State or Territory Registration Authority to have your vehicle inspected. Following registration there is no restriction preventing the subsequent sale of an imported vehicle.

CUSTOMS DUTY AND SALES TAX All motor vehicles imported into Australia after 1 July 2000 are subject to duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST), calculated on the Customs Value of the vehicle, determined as follows:

VEHICLES PURCHASED AFTER 2ND MARCH 1998

Purchase price in the foreign currency plus the cost of any modifications or improvements, converted to Australian dollars using the rate of exchange on the date of export.

Customs will consider applying the Alternative Method Of Obtaining the Customs Value based on the "landed cost" of the vehicle at the Australian wharf, less freight and insurance, where the purchaser cannot provide satisfactory evidence of the purchase price, or the vehicle has been purchased at only a token or nominal price, or its value has altered considerably due to improvements or significant damage occurring between the date of purchase and subsequent importation or where insufficient information is available to a collector.

VEHICLES PURCHASED PRIOR 2ND MARCH 1998

As above
Less depreciation at 5% for the first completed calendar month of ownership and use and 1% for each completed calendar month thereafter up to a maximum of 76% (i.e. six years ownership).

Customs will consider applying the Alternative Method Of Obtaining the Customs Value, determined as 40% of current Australian market value of the vehicle, in the same circumstances illustrated above for vehicles purchased after 2nd March 1998.

CUSTOMS VALUE Customs will require a valuation of the imported vehicle to determine the Customs Value. The valuation must be from a professional valuer acceptable to Customs. A fee of AU\$275-AU\$320 depending on the port of arrival is payable for this Service.

CALCULATION OF CUSTOMS DUTY & SALES TAX

The combined duty/sales tax rates effective from the 1st July 2000 are as follows: Duty applies to the Customs Value of the vehicle at a rate of 5%. GST applies to the Customs Value of the vehicle plus freight, insurance and duty, at a rate of 10%, unless the Customs Value (plus freight, insurance, duty) exceeds A\$59133 in which case the surplus attracts the luxury car tax (LCT) of 33%. Fuel efficient luxury cars with a luxury car value (VoTI plus GST) under the Fuel Efficient Vehicle (FEV) limit of A\$75,375 for the 2010-11 financial year are not subject to LCT. Further information can be found within Australian Customs Notice 2009/41. Motor Cycles are not subject to duty but are subject to GST, as calculated above.

Caravans and Trailers (non motorised) may be imported free of duty & sales tax (one per family) if you have come to Australia with the intention of taking up permanent residence and the goods have been personally owned and used overseas for the whole period of 12 months preceding your departure for Australia. If you do not qualify duty applies at 5% of the Customs Value and GST at 10% of the Customs Value plus freight, insurance and duty.

This information is not definitive and is intended as a guide only. Destination regulations can change without notice and for specific guidance we strongly recommend that you obtain direct rulings from the Motor Vehicle Standards Federal Office Of Road Safety GPO Box 594, Canberra, ACT 2601
Tel 0061 2 6274 7506 Fax 0061 2 6274 6013
e-mail: vimports@dotars.gov.au
Website: www.customs.gov.au/site/page4371.asp