

A GUIDE TO IMPORTING PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES INTO NEW ZEALAND

MOTOR CARS AND MOTOR CYCLES ARE DUTY FREE AND MAY ALSO BE IMPORTED FREE OF GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST) WHERE THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA ARE MET:

- You have personally owned and used the vehicle for at least one year before the date of your departure for New Zealand, or the date on which the vehicle is surrendered for shipping, whichever is earlier; and
- The vehicle is being imported for your own personal use and not for sale, gift or disposal in any other way
- **You must be in New Zealand on arrival of the vehicle and hold one of the following prior to vessel arrival:**
 - A current New Zealand Passport
 - A current Australian Passport
 - A current New Zealand Residence visa or permit or a current New Zealand returning resident's visa or permit
 - A current permanent residence visa (including a resident return visa) issued by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia
 - A current New Zealand work visa or work permit that was issued for a minimum of 12 months
 - A current Long Term Business Visa of 9 months or more
 - A current New Zealand visitor's visa or permit that was issued for a minimum of three years

Where the above criteria are not met GST will apply. Campervans attract import duty and GST.

CALCULATION OF GST

The Customs value on which GST is calculated is determined as equal to the purchase price paid by the importer less:

- a) Any overseas duties or taxes included in the purchase price paid which have been rebated or refunded before the vehicle arrives in New Zealand
- b) An allowance for depreciation if the vehicle has been personally owned and used by the importer for not less than 3 months prior to the date the vehicle was handed in for shipment or the date the owner departed for New Zealand, whichever is the earlier

CUSTOMS CLEARANCE

Our destination representative will provide the necessary documents to be completed. You will be asked to provide the purchase receipt and the Certificate of Permanent Export (or copy of V5 Registration Document). You will be required to attend a Customs interview to sign a Deed of Undertaking, confirming that you will not sell or dispose of the vehicle within 2 years of importation, failing which GST will apply. The Charge for Customs clearance and handout of a motor cycle is approximately NZ\$350, NZ\$550 for a motor car shipped by groupage container and NZ\$880 shipped by exclusive container (inclusive of GST), payable to our local representative, unless prepaid or otherwise agreed in writing. Please note that if you import Personal effects in a vehicle the vehicle will require steam cleaning on arrival and the effects will be subject to additional customs clearance charges.

QUARANTINE CLEARANCE & STEAM CLEANING

All vehicles are subject to Quarantine inspection by the Ministry of Agriculture and will be devanned at our representative's bonded depot at 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. A Quarantine inspection fee of NZ\$165 will apply. If your vehicle fails the inspection, steam cleaning will cost NZ\$275 plus additional charges for transportation and re-inspection by Quarantine.

STRUCTURAL INSPECTION

With effect from 16/1/2012 a structural inspection of all imported motor vehicles (cars, motor cycles, motor homes etc) entering New Zealand for the first time is required, in accordance with NZ vehicle standards law. This is undertaken by a designated Border Inspection Organisation (BIO) on behalf of the New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA). The cost of inspection is approximately NZ\$200 per vehicle, payable to our New Zealand representatives.

MOTOR VEHICLE LEGISLATION

The NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) is responsible for the certification, registration and licensing of vehicles in New Zealand. When a vehicle is imported it must go through a process called entry certification. This process checks the vehicle is in a roadworthy condition, has not been crashed or water damaged, and is legally the importer's property. New Zealand seeks to limit the importation of older used vehicles from overseas, which are designed to meet lower safety and emissions standards than new vehicles. Used imported vehicles must therefore meet a number of international vehicle standards and this is determined during the entry certification process. The importer is responsible for supplying evidence of a vehicle's compliance with New Zealand legal requirements, in particular compliance of the vehicle with relevant approved standards. You are advised to contact the vehicle manufacturer to obtain a "Compliance Certificate". A vehicle that was registered overseas is therefore not automatically able to be registered in New Zealand. Determining whether a vehicle meets these standards can be a complex task. To assist vehicle importers with this, NZTA has appointed several agents to manage the process. These agents are:

- Automobile Association (**AA**), phone +64 9 966 8800
Email: aatech@aa.co.nz
- Vehicle Inspections NZ (**VINZ**), phone +64 9 580 3170
Email: info@vinz.co.nz
- Vehicle Testing NZ (**VTNZ**), phone +64 4 495 2500
Email: technical@vtnz.co.nz
- Safer Vehicle Testing Ltd (**SVT**), phone +64 9 296 1169
Email: kismatt@safervehicletesting.co.nz

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 New Zealand Customs Service
www.customs.govt.nz