



Competent authority

Registration office ("Zulassungsstelle") of the municipality in which your main residence ("Hauptwohnsitz") is situated.

The Austrian Insurance Association ("Versicherungsverband VVO") has a list of all registration offices on its website:

<http://www.vvo.at/vvo/vvo.nsf/sysPages/kfzzulassungsstellenauskunft.html>.

What documents do I need to present to register a car?

- An official identification document (passport, driving licence, etc.);
- Your residential registration form ("Meldezettel");
- The European Certificate of Conformity (COC). If the seller doesn't provide a COC, you can contact the general importer of the car brand and ask for an equivalent (approval in the general importer's database and an extract of this approval "Auszug aus der Genehmigungsdatenbank"). If no COC is available from the manufacturer, you should contact the governor of the federal state in which the car is registered. Testing centres ("technische Landesprüfstellen") are then responsible for registering the car in the COC database, see <http://versa.bmvit.gv.at/index.php?id=301&L=0> and <http://www.wien.gv.at/amtshelfer/verkehr/organisation/fahrzeugaenderung/einzelgenehmigung.html>;
- The contract of sale.

To register the car, do I have to show that a technical inspection has been performed?

Yes, you have to show the § 57a KFG confirmation which proves that the car is roadworthy.

If the car was sold with a valid foreign vehicle inspection certificate, is this recognised in Austria?

- If the car has a COC, the foreign certificate is recognised. If it is not in German or English, you have to provide a translation.
- If the car does not have a COC, a national inspection is obligatory in order to register it.
- In Austria, every registered car has to pass a vehicle inspection based on the so-called 3-2-1 rule (the first inspection has to be carried out 3 years after the vehicle is first registered, the next one 2 years later and the following one 1 year after that). Average cost: EUR 50-100, depending on the services needed.

Is it mandatory to show proof of insurance to the registration service?

Yes, you have to show confirmation of car insurance.

To whom should VAT be paid?

A car is considered new if no more than 6 months have passed since the date on which it was first registered or if its mileage does not exceed 6 000 km. For intra-EU transactions, **new cars are VAT exempt**. Thus, the supplier should not charge VAT. Instead, if you have bought a new car in another EU Member State with the intention of importing it to and registering it in your country of residence, you must pay VAT in your own Member State at that country's rate.

All other cars are considered second hand (more than 6 months since the date of first registration and mileage of more than 6 000 km). They are generally sold inclusive of VAT if the supplier is a taxable person for VAT purposes. You don't have to pay VAT in your country of residence.

In Austria VAT should be paid to the tax authorities of the municipality in which your main residence ("Hauptwohnsitz") is situated.

This document is intended to present the information consumers might need for a successful car purchase abroad and the registration in various European countries at the moment of publication and in the most user-friendly manner possible. It has no legal value however and the working group will not be held liable for any loss or cost incurred by reason of any person using or relying on the information in this publication.

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Documents to be presented:

- The invoice for the car purchase (showing the trader's VAT number);
- The COC or an extract of the approval from the general importer of the car brand;
- An identification document;
- Your residential registration form ("Meldezettel").

When registering a second-hand car, you do not need to obtain a specific form to show that no VAT is due in Austria. You have to pay the standard fuel consumption tax for second-hand cars bought in another EU Member State to the competent fiscal authority. In the application, you have to inform the fiscal authority that the car is second hand and that VAT was paid in the EU Member State where the car was bought. The fiscal authority verifies the information and does not demand payment of VAT.

Before final registration, can I drive in Austria with temporary plates?

Yes, transit plates from other EU Member States are valid in Austria for 4 weeks (with prolongation possible for a further 4 weeks). You can also travel through Austria with transit plates from other EU Member States.

In theory, an Austrian consumer buying a car in another EU Member State can request Austrian transit plates

before collecting the car in the trader's country. This is not recommended as German and Italian rules, for example, do not allow cars to be transported from Germany/Italy to Austria with Austrian transit plates. In order to avoid problems, the recommendation is to apply for transit plates from the country where the car is purchased.

Whom do I contact in the event of difficulties with the registration authority/administration?

You can contact the [SOLVIT Centre Austria](#) for help with any difficulties.

If you have a question linked to your consumer rights when purchasing a car cross-border, contact your local ECC: www.europakonsument.at