



## Competent authority:

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency ([DVLA](#))

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

You must show that your vehicle meets environmental and safety regulations or has an exemption.

You'll need:

- A European Certificate of Conformity (COC) if your vehicle is right-hand drive. You can get this from the manufacturer;
- A COC and a certificate of Mutual Recognition if your vehicle is left-hand drive;
- An Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA) certificate if your vehicle has no European approval.

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

The car will need to undergo a technical inspection by an approved MOT tester before it can be registered and insured.

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

It is not normally necessary to show proof of insurance for the registration itself, but it is not possible to pay road tax without valid insurance. A car is not allowed onto a public road without being insured and taxed.

However, you will need to provide an insurance certificate or cover note if you are registering the vehicle to an address in Northern Ireland.

## 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.

VAT should be paid to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

### Documents to be presented:

You need to complete the Notification of Vehicle Arrivals (NOVA) declaration form. According to the information received from HMRC, only the form needs to be presented.

**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.





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

You can usually use a vehicle with non-UK number plates without needing to tax or register it in the UK if all of the following apply:

- You're visiting and don't plan to live here;
- You only use the vehicle for up to 6 months in a 12-month period (one single visit, or several shorter visits adding up to a 6-month period);
- The vehicle is registered and taxed in its home country.
- If your car has non-UK number plates and you're stopped by police, you must show that you can use the vehicle in the UK without taxing and registering it there. You may have to show proof of the length of time you've been in the UK (e.g. a ferry ticket) or evidence that you and the vehicle are eligible for [customs relief](#).

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

You can contact the [SOLVIT Centre UK](#) 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.ukecc.net](http://www.ukecc.net)