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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Cyprus

Competent authority


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

The vehicle registration process differs for vehicles purchased in the EU or first registered in the EU and for those imported from outside of the EU. Left-hand drive vehicles must meet additional requirements.

Anyone bringing a vehicle from another EU Member State to be registered in Cyprus must have paid all necessary taxes and followed the proper import procedures established by the Department of Customs and Excise.

The vehicle must pass a DoRT roadworthiness inspection at an authorised inspection station. The test will check emissions, brakes, suspension, steering, lights and tyres among other things. The test is computerised and generally takes less than an hour.

- List of DoRT inspection stations (PDF) from cyprusdriving.net

Documents to take to the DoRT inspection: All shipping documentation, all customs documentation, the invoice of sale and a CO2 emissions certificate.

Once the vehicle passes the inspection, all of the above documents plus the DoRT inspection certificate and insurance certificate should be taken to the DoRT Vehicle Examination Centre for registration. Taxes will be paid at the same time.

Note: If any of the documents are not in English or Greek, they will need to be accompanied with translations provided by the Republic of Cyprus Press and Information Office.

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

Yes. As stated under the previous point, once the vehicle passes the DoRT technical inspection, a number of documents plus the DoRT certificate should be taken to the DoRT Vehicle Examination Centre for registration. In Cyprus, the first periodic inspection has to take place 4 years after the vehicle is first registered and then every 2 years (approx. cost: EUR 35).

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

If the car has a valid EU Certificate of Conformity (COC), national authorities cannot request any additional technical documentation unless the car has been modified since leaving the factory, in which case they can order that it undergo a fresh approval procedure.

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.

In Cyprus VAT should be paid to the Tax Department (formerly VAT Services Department).

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.

Documents to be presented:

When selling a vehicle in Cyprus that was imported with an excise duty and VAT waiver, the seller (or buyer) must pay duty and VAT on the vehicle if it is sold within 10 years of import. The duty and VAT are calculated on the value of the vehicle when it was imported, minus yearly depreciation. This could make it difficult to sell the vehicle for a good price.

In order to transfer ownership of a vehicle after purchase, form TOM 9B must be completed and submitted to the DoRT.

The following documents (and at least one photocopy) will also be required:

- Identification (passport or Cypriot residence card) for both buyer and seller;
- DoRT test certificate;
- Proof of the buyer’s insurance coverage.

Both seller and buyer must sign form TOM 9B. It is available in English and can be processed at a Citizen Service Centre. If the buyer and seller go together with the necessary documents, the new registration document is issued immediately. If the application and supporting documents are sent to the DoRT, the buyer must return to the DoRT office (approximately one week later) to collect the new registration document.

When registering a second-hand car, you may need to present a specific form to show that no VAT is due in Cyprus. If you bring a new vehicle to Cyprus from another EU Member State for private use, you can provide a T2L or T2LF document which can be obtained from the customs service of the Member State from which the vehicle came, or through the vehicle supplier or shipper. These documents prove that the vehicle comes from an EU Member State. For used vehicles, the number plates and the vehicle registration document issued by the Member State in which the vehicle was previously registered may be used. In the event of failure to provide proof that the vehicle comes from the EU, it will be classified as having arrived from a third country and liable to import duty in addition to excise duty and VAT.

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

You can contact the SOLVIT Centre Cyprus 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.ecccyprus.org

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