Hungary

Competent authority

Central Office for Administrative and Electronic Public Services and registration authorities

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

Documents to be presented:
- The contract relating to the transfer of ownership or a certified copy or, if it is not in Hungarian, a certified translation;
- A document issued by the traffic authority stating the technical details and condition of the vehicle;
- In certain cases, a document with the results of the vehicle origin/history check;
- The foreign vehicle registration certificate if it has been issued;
- The foreign registration plates of the car unless they have already been withdrawn by the foreign registration authority;
- Proof of insurance.

Good to know:
The COC is not mandatory but recommended for registering the car. If no COC is available and the car is being put into circulation for the first time in Hungary, designated bodies perform a check to verify the identity of the car. Such checks can be carried out at the service centres listed at: http://nyilvantarto.hu/hu/gepjarmu_eredetisegvizsgaloallomasok.

However, if the car is purchased in another EU Member State and the buyer has the car's previous registration certificate, this check is not done. When the check has to be performed, the registration authority checks that this has been done and the result of the check. The seller or the buyer is responsible for getting this done (it is not specified by law which party is responsible, generally it is the seller but the parties can agree otherwise). In this case, it is also mandatory to check the history/origin of the vehicle. This is done by the registration authority after the applicant has paid the fee for the procedure.

To register the car, do I have to show that a technical inspection has been performed?
The car should be checked by the national inspection service. For information, in Hungary, the first periodic inspection has to take place 4 years after the vehicle is first registered and then every 2 years. Average inspection costs: EUR 55 for M1 vehicles (passenger vehicles with no more than nine seats), EUR 80 for M2 vehicles (passenger vehicles with more than nine seats).

If the car was sold with a valid foreign vehicle inspection certificate, is this recognised in Hungary?
The foreign certificate is recognised in Hungary, but a technical survey is performed during which the Hungarian authorities record the details in the foreign documents. An inspection is only necessary if the buyer wants the validity of the foreign certificate to be extended. It should be noted that the length of this validity cannot exceed the timeframes for periodic inspections mentioned under the previous point.

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.

VAT should be paid to the National Tax and Customs Administration.

Documents to be presented:

As rules for both VAT and the registration tax are laid down by the National Tax and Customs Administration, the same documents are needed for payment of VAT as for registration of the vehicle.

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

Yes, the Hungarian rules recognise temporary plates issued in an EEA country and consider them as domestic plates for 30 days out of every 6 months.

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

You can contact the SOLVIT Centre Hungary 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: http://magyarefk.hu/