



## Competent authority:

The Road Traffic Safety Directorate (CSDD)

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

- A note concerning verification of the numbered components of the vehicle;
- The foreign registration certificate of the vehicle (if it was previously registered abroad);
- A document proving the right of ownership of the vehicle issued abroad or in the customs zone, or, if the vehicle was bought in Latvia, an invoice, or the contract witnessed by a sworn notary or by another person in accordance with Article 1474 of the Civil Law;
- If applicable, proof that the vehicle was imported into the EU in accordance with the legal requirements (customs declaration);
- A personal identification document (passport, driving licence or permit issued in Latvia). The application can be submitted by the owner of the vehicle or his/her authorised representative;
- Proof of payment of vehicle use tax (if the tax is paid at CSDD, EUR 0.73 commission is charged);
- Proof of payment of natural resource tax (EUR 40) in the case of goods vehicles weighing up to 3 500 kg, cars, and motorised tricycles and quadricycles (if paid at CSDD, EUR 0.73 commission is charged);
- Proof of payment of car and motorcycle tax, if applicable (if paid at CSDD, EUR 0.73 commission is charged);
- Proof of payment for registration, a registration certificate and number plates (EUR 44.22 for cars and buses, EUR 31.02 for trailers, motorcycles and mopeds);
- A European Certificate of Conformity (COC). If no COC is available from the seller, you can contact the manufacturer in Latvia to obtain a duplicate for a fee. If the manufacturer cannot provide a COC, you can get further information from the Technical Control and Certification Inspection service of the CSDD.

## The COC is not needed for:

- Vehicles first registered before January 1 2001, or vehicles registered after January 1 2001 but with a year of manufacture or model year of 2000 or earlier, as indicated in the foreign registration certificate;
- Cars, motorcycles, and motorised tricycles and quadricycles first registered after January 1 2001 and buses, goods vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers first registered after April 29 2009 which have passed a type conformity assessment carried out in accordance with EU requirements as shown by a type-approval marking on the manufacturer's plate;
- Cars, mopeds, motorcycles, motorised tricycles and quadricycles, goods vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers first registered after January 1 2001 in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland or the United Kingdom which have not passed a conformity assessment carried out in accordance with EU requirements;
- Cars, mopeds, motorcycles, motorised tricycles and quadricycles, goods vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers first registered after December 31 2011 in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovenia or Slovakia which have not passed a conformity assessment carried out in accordance with EU requirements.

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

**No**, but for vehicles previously registered abroad, the first technical inspection has to be performed no later than five days after they are first registered in Latvia.



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

Every driver and car must be covered by insurance allowing them to use public roads, but the registration service will not ask for proof.

## 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 the State Revenue Service.

### Documents to be presented:

Within 20 days of the end of the month of purchase, you must pay VAT and submit a statement of VAT payment (using a specific form) to the State Revenue Service.

**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 Latvia with temporary plates?

**Yes.** You can drive the car to the registration service with foreign transit plates and after registration, regular number plates will be issued. You can also travel through Latvia with transit plates from other EU Member States.

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

To appeal against an administrative decision, you can contact the CSDD at the following address:

Miera Street 25  
Rīga, Latvia  
LV-1001.

In certain cases, you can also contact the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia.

Address: Gogola Street 3, Rīga, Latvia, LV-1743  
e-mail: [satiksmes.ministrija@sam.gov.lv](mailto:satiksmes.ministrija@sam.gov.lv)  
Tel: +371 67028205

If you have a question linked to your consumer rights when purchasing a car cross-border, contact your local ECC: [www.ecclatvia.lv](http://www.ecclatvia.lv)