



Competent authority

[Rijksdienst voor Wegverkeer \(RDW\)](#)

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

- A European Certificate of Conformity – COC (As of 1 January 2016, cars in the Netherlands are registered on the basis of a digital COC in line with EU requirements) or equivalent. If the seller cannot provide a COC, you can contact the manufacturer or the importer in your country to obtain a duplicate but you will have to pay a fee. If the manufacturer cannot provide the COC, you can ask the RDW;
- The registration certificate of the previous owner;
- Proof of ownership;
- Proof that VAT has been paid;
- The foreign vehicle registration certificate;
- An identity card.

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

Yes. You need to prove that the required periodic vehicle inspection has been carried out.

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.

VAT should be paid to the Dutch tax authority (Belastingdienst).

Documents to be presented:

- A VAT declaration;
- A calculation of the VAT to be paid.

Both forms are available at the tax authority [website](#).

For new cars, an extra form concerning VAT is needed.

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 the Netherlands with temporary plates?

A driver needs Dutch transit plates if he/she has to drive through the Netherlands in order to get home. These plates are valid for 14 days.

The following documentation should be provided to obtain transit plates:

- An identity card;
- A vehicle registration certificate from the country of origin;
- A report stating the date of the previous vehicle inspection.

If the inspection certificate is no longer valid, the car must be inspected in the Netherlands.

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

National Ombudsman

Postbus 93122

2509 AC Den Haag

<https://www.nationaleombudsman.nl/>

If you have a question about your consumer rights when purchasing a car cross-border, contact your local ECC www.eccnederland.nl