



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts



# ➤ Guide to reimportation import approvals

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# Contents

<b>Reimportation import approval</b>	<b>4</b>
What are the eligibility requirements?	4
<b>How do I apply?</b>	<b>5</b>
Can I change details in my application?	5
What information do I need to include?	6
Vehicle modifications	7
What if I am asked to supply more information?	8
<b>Deciding your application</b>	<b>9</b>
When will I find out the result of my application?	9
What are the possible outcomes of my application?	9
Conditions on my approval	9
Complying with your responsibilities	10
<b>How do I make changes to my approval?</b>	<b>11</b>
Varying an approval	11
Suspend or revoke an approval	11
<b>Further information</b>	<b>12</b>
Quick links	12

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# Reimportation import approval

A reimportation import approval allows the approval holder to import a vehicle they previously exported from Australia.

If you plan to import a vehicle you previously exported, back into Australia, under the *Road Vehicle Standards Act 2018* (RVSA) you need to apply to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (the department) for an approval.

It is an offence to import a vehicle into Australia without an approval and penalties may apply.

**Note:** You must obtain an approval from the department **before** you import the vehicle.

## What are the eligibility requirements?

The eligibility requirements for a reimportation import approval are:

- The applicant must own the vehicle at the time the application is submitted.
- The vehicle must be outside Australia.
- The vehicle must either:
  - be on the [Register of Approved Vehicles](#) (RAV) and, in all relevant respects, be consistent with the information on the RAV about the vehicle, or
  - have a *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989* (MVSA) identification plate and, in all relevant respects, be consistent with the details set out on the identification plate in relation to the vehicle, or
  - have a MVSA used import plate and, in all relevant respects, be consistent with the details set out on the used import plate in relation to the vehicle.

**What is the Register of Approved Vehicles (RAV)?** The RAV is a publicly searchable database of vehicles that have met the requirements of the RVS legislation and been approved for provision to the Australian market.

Once entered on the RAV, a vehicle is available for registration by a state or territory registration authority (pending the regulatory requirements of the particular state or territory).

## How do I apply?

An application can be made through the department's [ROVER](#) portal.

As the vehicle owner, you can apply for a reimportation import approval. Someone else may submit an application on your behalf but they will need to have an [authority to act](#) to do so. As the applicant and vehicle owner, you are responsible for ensuring that the details in the application are correct when somebody applies on your behalf.

To apply, you must first [create an account in ROVER](#) and supply identification details which need to be checked by the department before you start your application.

When you are ready to begin your application, click on the 'Single road vehicle approvals' icon in ROVER.



You will need to complete a series of questions and upload documents to support your application, including proof of ownership.

At the end of the application, you must sign a declaration about the information you have provided.

You must pay the [application fee](#) when you submit your application. It cannot be assessed and decided until the fee is paid.

**Important:** Allow enough time for your application to be assessed before your planned importation date. It may take up to 30 business days for an import approval application to be assessed and a decision made.<sup>1</sup>

## Can I change details in my application?

When you start an application, ROVER allows you to save it, exit and return to your saved work in ROVER at any time before you submit it. If you need to amend your application after it has been submitted, but before you have paid the fee, you can withdraw, amend and resubmit it, or delete it.

You can also [withdraw an application](#) and then amend and resubmit or delete it after you have submitted it and paid the fee if its status in ROVER is 'Paid—Awaiting Assessment' or 'Assessment in progress'.

The process for withdrawing, amending and resubmitting, or deleting an application after the fee has been paid is explained in the [ROVER guide: How to withdraw, amend and resubmit or delete an application](#).

As you progress through the application creation, submission, payment and decision process in ROVER, you can view the [status of your application](#) at various stages.

<sup>1</sup> The definition of a business day under section 5 of the Rules means a day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or a public holiday in the Australian Capital Territory.

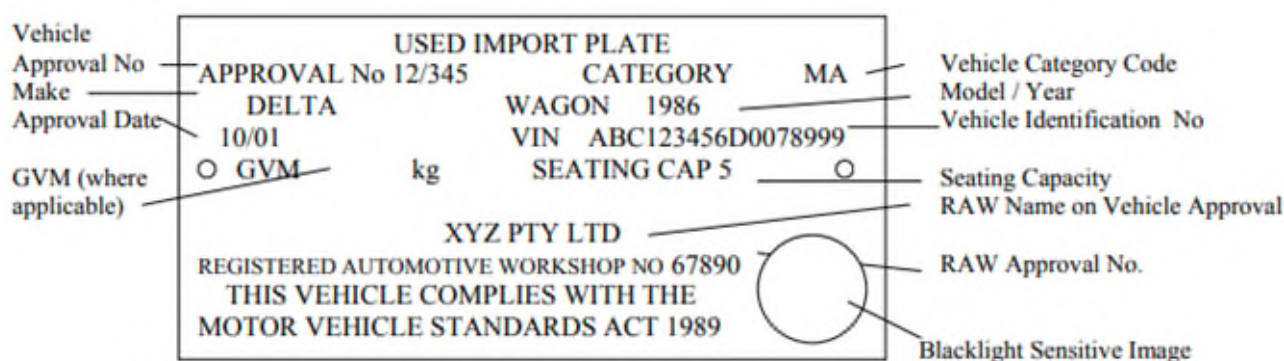
## What information do I need to include?

Before you apply for a reimportation import approval, we recommend you to have all the required information ready. Use this [checklist](#) to ensure you have everything you need to complete your application.

The information you need includes:

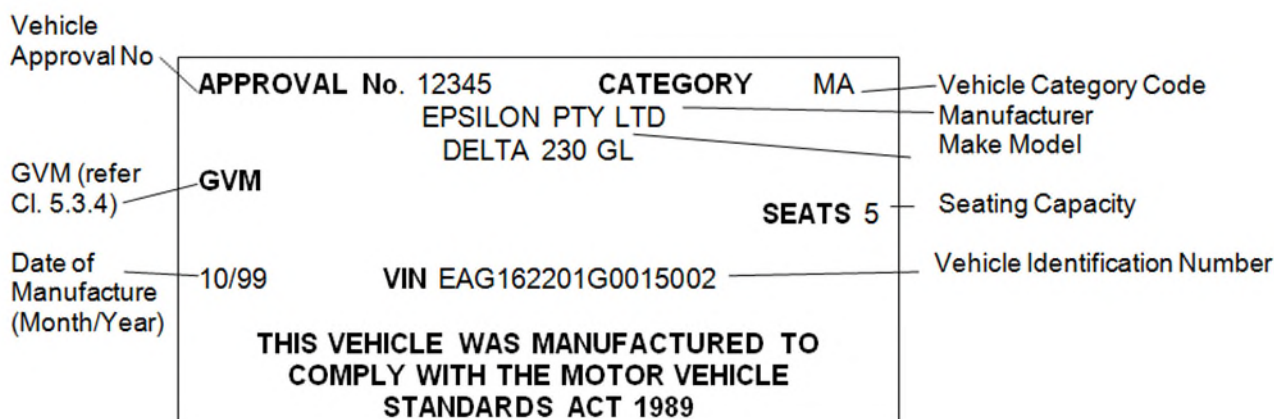
- Details of the vehicle you are applying to re-import, including the type of vehicle, (car, motorbike, truck, trailer, etc) make, model and year of manufacture.
- Proof of vehicle ownership – for example, a purchase invoice, receipt or registration documents.
- Information about where the vehicle is located. You will be asked where (which country) the vehicle is currently located. The vehicle must be outside Australia at the time you make the application.
- A clear photo of the Australian identification plate or used import plate (see diagram 1 and 2 below) or details of the [RAV](#) entry number.
- Photos identifying the vehicle taken in a clear and well-lit area. The vehicle must be consistent with the information supplied in the RAV or details set out in the identification (or used import) plate (see diagram 1 and 2 below).
- Details of any modifications made to the vehicle while overseas. The vehicle is required, in all relevant respects, to be the same as what was entered on the RAV, identification plate or used import plate. This means that any modifications must be minor and superficial only. For more information see [Vehicle modifications](#). If you are not sure whether or not the modifications are substantial then you should [contact us](#).
- Details of any contraventions of road vehicle legislation (or contraventions which *may* have been made) by the applicant, or if the applicant is a body corporate, by the key management personnel.<sup>2</sup>
- Declarations that the information supplied is true and correct and that, if you are granted a reimportation import approval, you will comply with the conditions.

**Diagram 1. MVSA used import plate**



<sup>2</sup> Key management personnel of a body corporate means those who have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the body corporate (whether directly or indirectly) and includes any director (whether executive or otherwise) of the body corporate.

Diagram 2. MVSA Australian identification plate



Dimensions: 100mm x 50mm (approx)  
 MATERIAL: adhesive label  
 COLOUR: other than red, green, blue or yellow  
 LETTERING: black - minimum height of 2.5mm

## Vehicle modifications

When applying for a reimportation import approval you must include details of all changes made to your vehicle so the department can assess your application and decide whether the vehicle is consistent with the information on the RAV or plate.

Examples of modifications that have changed the vehicle so it is **unlikely** to meet the details in the RAV or on the plate include:

- seating changes
- replacement engine that does not conform to original vehicle engine power
- lengthened or widened body work
- major accident damage where the vehicle has not been restored sufficiently to match the details on the RAV or plate

Examples of modifications that are **likely** to be minor and in all relevant respects the vehicle should still meet the details on the RAV or plate include:

- panel repairs or paint jobs
- minor repairs after motor vehicle accident.

If the vehicle you want to re-import has been modified to an extent that it is no longer consistent with the information on the RAV, or the details on the identification plate or used import plate, the vehicle is unlikely to receive a reimportation import approval. Then, you may wish to consider [other import options](#), such as a concessional RAV entry approval.

**Important:** The examples above are indicative only.

## What if I am asked to supply more information?

Sometimes during an assessment, we may need further information to assess your application. For example, we may not be able to identify your vehicle if the photos supplied are too dark.

If this happens, you will receive a request for further information (RFI) notice via email, advising you that a RFI is waiting for a response in your ROVER account.

To respond to the RFI, sign in to ROVER and open the RFI notice. The additional information needed for your application to be assessed will be clearly described in the notice.

You will be given a period of time to respond to the RFI (usually 30 days). If you require more time, you should contact the department to request more time to respond.



## Deciding your application

This section covers the possible outcomes of your application for a reimportation import approval.

### When will I find out the result of my application?

A decision will be made on your application within 30 business days of the application being submitted.<sup>3</sup> If further information is needed to support the application, the 30 business-day timeframe is paused until the required information is supplied.

### What are the possible outcomes of my application?

The 3 possible outcomes for your application are:

- Your application is granted and you receive an import approval notice through ROVER.
- Your application is refused. In this case, you may be notified before this decision is made and allowed to submit more information to support your application or address any deficiencies.
- Your application is refused to be considered. This will only happen if you:
  - did not submit the application fee. (You will receive warnings if the payment has not been made.)
  - did not apply using the approved form in ROVER. (If you are having trouble using the online form [contact us.](#))
  - did not provide the required information in your application. (You will be contacted if you leave out information and given time to provide it.)

If your application is refused to be considered or refused, you may apply to the [Administrative Appeals Tribunal](#) (AAT) for a review of the decision.

### Conditions on my approval

All approvals have conditions. A reimportation import approval is subject to a range of conditions, including to:

- allow or arrange for the vehicle to be inspected if requested to do so. This inspection may be done online or by a physical inspection.
- provide any information or documents specified in a written request from the department that is reasonably required to assess whether the approval holder is complying with the Road Vehicle Standards legislation, including information about the vehicle covered by the approval.

Other conditions that may be applied to the approval, include requirements that:

- the approval holder exports or destroys the vehicle covered by the approval within a specified period and provides evidence this has been done within the specified period
- the vehicle, or any modifications, is verified by an [authorised vehicle verifier](#)
- the approval holder keeps specified records for a set period and provides them when requested by the department
- prohibit the approval holder from giving another person access to the vehicle covered by the approval
- specify how the vehicle covered by the approval may be used.

<sup>3</sup> The definition of a business day under section 5 of the Rules means a day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or a public holiday in the Australian Capital Territory.

The conditions that apply to your approval will be clearly outlined in your approval notice.

**Note:** In certain circumstances, the department has the authority to change conditions of an approval, for example, if you have breached a condition of your approval.

## Complying with your responsibilities

Offences and civil penalty provisions apply when a person (individual or company):

- breaches a condition of the approval
- provides a false or misleading declaration
- provides false or misleading information.

If [the department identifies non-compliance](#), its response will be proportionate to the risk being managed. This may include issuing infringement notices, applying for civil penalty orders or injunctions or entering into enforceable undertakings.

## How do I make changes to my approval?

You can request changes to your approval if your circumstances change. You can request to **vary**, **suspend**, or **revoke** your approval.

### Varying an approval

You may want to make a change to your approval or choose to update certain information held by us regarding your approval.

To do this, you need to [request a variation](#) to your approval. The application must be made via ROVER with the required information and documents.

A request for variation is assessed in a similar way to a new application. We may request further information and may refuse to consider the application if that information is not provided.

When deciding, we must be satisfied that you will meet the conditions of the varied approval.

### Suspend or revoke an approval

You can request to suspend or [revoke](#) your approval. This may occur, for example, if you decide that you do not want to re-import your vehicle or that the importation process has been delayed and you are unsure as to when you will be re-importing it to Australia.

Requests to suspend or revoke an approval are treated differently to variation requests. A request to suspend or revoke does not have to occur via an approved system form—you may submit it via ROVER, email, or mail.

Once we receive a request, we will suspend or revoke the approval as soon as practicable. Once the approval is suspended or revoked its status in ROVER will change to indicate this.

## Further information

For further information, please visit the [department's](#) website or submit an [online enquiry](#).

### Quick links

- [How to create a user account in ROVER](#)
- [Checklist for a reimportation import approval application](#)
- [Importing a road vehicle](#)
- [How is my personal and commercial information in ROVER managed?](#)
- [ROVER application statuses and notifications](#)
- [What are the RVS fees and charges?](#)
- [What are RVS decision-making timeframes?](#)