



Australian Government

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



Road Vehicle Standards

Importing a vehicle as personal effects – Overview

What you need to know and do to bring your vehicle into Australia as personal effects

Why do I need an approval?

The department regulates the importation of road vehicles into Australia to ensure they meet safety, emissions and anti-theft requirements. It is an offence to import a road vehicle without an approval and if you want to register and drive it on a public road in Australia, it must be added to the [Register of Approved Vehicles](#) (RAV).

What approval do I need?

To import a vehicle as personal effects, you need to apply for a [concessional RAV entry approval](#).

You or your agent/representative must first have an account in [ROVER](#), our online applications and approvals portal. If you are using an agent, they must have an [authority to act](#) on your behalf in ROVER. Then you can start your application by selecting **Single Road Vehicle Approval**.

You will need to answer questions, provide certain information, and upload photos and supporting documents. If the approval is granted, the approval holder is taken to be the holder of an import approval for that vehicle.

Motor vehicles being imported into Australia may be subject to customs duty, taxes and other charges under customs and tax legislation. For more information, please refer to the Australian Border Force [Importing a motor vehicle](#) webpage.

Note: Before you arrange to ship a vehicle, please be aware of all associated costs, requirements and regulations. Please read the [8 steps to importing a vehicle](#).

Do I meet the eligibility criteria?

To be granted a concessional RAV entry approval for a personal effects vehicle, you must satisfy the decision-maker that you meet all the following eligibility criteria:

- you own the vehicle at the time you submit the application, **and**
- you became the owner of the vehicle while living overseas, **and**
- you owned the vehicle continuously for a period of **at least 12 months** immediately before you first arrived in Australia with the intention to remain indefinitely, **and**
- you have not previously been granted a personal effects import approval, or it has been more than **5 years** since you were granted a personal effects import approval, **and**

- the application is submitted within 6 months of your first arrival in Australia, **and**
- you are of an age that entitles you to hold a licence or permit to operate the vehicle in Australia or the country where the vehicle was available to be used by you.

How do I demonstrate continuous ownership?

To meet the requirement that you have owned the vehicle for a continuous period of at least 12 months, you must demonstrate:

- the vehicle was available to you for use on a public road in the overseas country where you were residing on a permanent basis, **and**
- was regularly used by you, **or**
- was in regular use on a public road and a substantial part of that use was by you, **and**
- the remaining use was by a person you authorised.



Upload and submit all relevant photos and documents with your application to ensure proof of your claims. Otherwise, you will be sent a request for further information, delaying the processing of your application.

Example 1: If you purchased the car and kept it garaged, or the odometer shows minimal use, you would not meet the requirement.

Example 2: If you have vehicle servicing receipts and odometer evidence that the vehicle has been used since it was first purchased by you, you meet the requirement.

Note: If the vehicle was purchased and registered in Australia, and you took it with you while residing overseas, you may meet the eligibility criteria of a [reimportation import approval](#).

How do I show my intention to stay in Australia?

You must demonstrate that you are entitled to remain in Australia indefinitely as:

- you are an Australian citizen, **or**
- you are applying to become a permanent resident, **or**
- you have, or are applying for, a visa that allows you to remain in Australia indefinitely, **or**
- you hold a visa that will allow you to apply to become a permanent resident.

What do I need to submit with the application?

You must have the following vehicle details:

- type of vehicle (passenger, van, motorcycle)
- make and model
- year of manufacture
- Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) or chassis number
- seating capacity.

You must provide the following photos of the vehicle with your application:

- front view of the vehicle
- rear view of the vehicle
- side view (left and right) of the vehicle
- view of the VIN and compliance/manufacture's plate
- odometer
- engine.

The following supporting documents, if held, may be submitted with your application:

- drivers licence
- passport identity page
- visa documentation
- travel documents
- vehicle purchase receipt and insurance
- vehicle servicing receipts/reports
- vehicle registration record/s
- Australian letter of employment, Australian utilities accounts or receipts
- Australian housing rental agreement or purchase
- Medicare details, or application
- Australian bank account details
- sale of house/property or cancellation of home rental agreement in overseas country
- resignation letter or employment contract completion with overseas employment.

IMPORTANT: Please do not provide your tax file number as supporting information in your application.

Are there any fees?

The application fee is \$50. The RAV levy charge, paid at the same time, depends on the type of vehicle, for example, a passenger vehicle charge is \$7.20. See the full list of [fees and charges](#).

More information

For further information, please visit [the department's website](#) or [contact us](#).