



Road Vehicle Standards

Importing a vehicle as personal effects – Overview

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

Why do I need an approval?

The Road Vehicle Standards (RVS) laws regulate the safety, anti-theft technology and environmental standards of all road vehicles.

Anyone who wants to bring a vehicle into Australia needs permission to do so. It is an offence to import a road vehicle into Australia without an approval. If you want to register the vehicle and drive it on a public road in Australia, it must be added to the Register of Approved Vehicles (RAV). To be added to the RAV, a vehicle must be approved under either a:

- concessional RAV entry approval, or
- vehicle type approval.

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 have an account in [ROVER](#), our online applications and approvals portal. If using an agent, the agent must have an [authority to act](#) on your behalf in ROVER. Access the application in ROVER by selecting the **Single Road Vehicle Approval** icon.

You will need to answer questions, provide certain information and upload photos and documents to ensure you have sufficient proof to support your claims. 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 start organising to ship the vehicle, please be aware of **all** costs, requirements and regulations associated with importing a vehicle. Please read the: [8 steps to importing a vehicle](#).

Do I meet the eligibility criteria?

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

- 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.

Important: Upload and submit **all relevant photos and documents** with your application to ensure proof of your claims. If not, the process will be paused and you will be sent a request for specific information or documents, delaying your approval.

Example 1: You would not be eligible if you purchased the car and kept it garaged or the odometer shows minimal use.

Example 2: You would be eligible if you have vehicle servicing receipts and odometer evidence that the vehicle has been used since it was first purchased by you.

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 be able to 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 have the following photos of the vehicle uploaded and submitted 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, must be uploaded and 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 school enrolment/s, Australian utilities accounts or receipts
- Australian housing rental agreement or purchase
- Medicare details, or application
- Australian bank account details
- Australian Tax File Number
- sale of house/property or cancellation of home rental agreement in overseas country
- resignation letter or employment contract completion with overseas employment.

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 submit an [online enquiry](#).