



We Ship Your Car - Wherever You Are
 Professional International Car Shipping
 By Secured Container and Regular RoRo



Your guide to shipping a vehicle in to South Africa



This guide covers

- Things To Do Before You Go
- Letter Of Authority
- Import Permit
- Arranging Shipment
- Arriving In South Africa
- Port & Shipping Line Charges
- Duty & Tax
- Registration

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO. The information provided here is for guidance only and may be subject to change at any time. Always check the relevant customs authorities websites for the latest rules and regulations before arrange to ship out your vehicle. Our company cannot be held responsible for any changes to overseas customs procedures.

Autoshippers are part of the 1st Move International group of companies. We have been shipping cars for private individuals for over 20 years and we are members of the British International Freight Association (BIFA) and the British Association of Removers.



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South Africa Vehicle Shipping and Import Guide

To help you understand customs requirements and so that you are aware of documentation that you may be required to obtain or provide we have compiled this quick import guide. We hope this will provide you with everything you need however, if you would like to speak to one of our experienced team about South African regulations or any of our services please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Before you go

There are a number of regulations surrounding the importation of privately owned motor vehicles that anyone planning to take their car to South Africa should be aware of. To import a vehicle on arrival in South Africa an import permit and a letter of authority must be obtained from the South African authorities. While you are not required to provide a copy of either an import permit or letter of authority to ship your vehicle from the UK, we strongly advise that shipment is not arranged until they have been successfully applied for and have been received to avoid additional costs in the event that import approval is declined prior to the vehicle arriving in South Africa.

Letter of Authority

A Letter of Authority is required to import the following types of vehicles:

- Passenger vehicles - Including: cars, 4x4s, motorcycles and busses.
- Goods Vehicles - Including vans and trucks.
- Trailers.
- Specialist vehicles - Such as agricultural vehicles, mobile cranes etc....

To obtain for a Letter of Authority you will need to apply to the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) using an LA01 form available below :

<http://www.nrsc.org.za/siteimgs/LOA%201.pdf>

A non-refundable fee is payable to NRCS when applying for a letter of authority and while this fee can vary dependent on both vehicle type and age; for passenger vehicles and motorcycles manufactured and registered outside of South Africa the application fee will be between ZAR300 - ZAR1800.

Import Permit

In addition to a Letter of Authority you will also need an Import Permit for your vehicle. Import permits are available on application to the International Trade Administration Commission of South Africa (ITAC) provided that you meet certain criteria using application form IE462, available below :

http://www.itac.org.za/docs_page.asp?dID=723&cID=1&scID=2

While completion of form IE462 is required in all instances, regulations and supporting documentation required varies dependent on the status of the person who owns and is importing the vehicle:

Immigrants applying for an import permit must present the following documentation to ITAC along with a completed form IE462:

- Copy South African permanent residency certificate.
- Copy foreign passport.
- A copy of the vehicle licence document (V5).

Returning South African Residents wishing to import a vehicle must provide the following documents along with their completed form IE462 to ITAC:

- Copy identity document or passport.
- An employers letter confirming permanent employment reflective of the period of employment.
- A certified copy of the official vehicle registration document.

This is a basic list of requirements and documentation that will be needed however, additional supporting documentation may also be requested. Further information, contact details and application forms can be found on the ITAC website:

To successfully apply for an import permit both returning South African residents and immigrants are required to have permanent residency in South Africa. While it is against ITCA policy for them to post import permits to an address outside of South Africa, in the event that you are not physically in South Africa at time of applying for your import permit we can provide you with contact address details for our trusted agents in South Africa to whom your import permit can be posted. They will in turn be happy to forward your import permit by registered courier to you at your UK address. On successful application, import permits are normally issued with approximately four to five days.

While there is no fee payable to ITAC when applying for an import permit, if you wish to list our South African agents as the address for ITAC to send your import permit to, there will be a courier charge of approximately ZAR450 to forward your permit to you specified UK address.

Arranging Shipment

Arranging shipment of your vehicle to South Africa couldn't be easier. To declare your vehicle to UK customs for shipment all we will need from you is:

- A copy of the vehicles licence document (V5) - we will not need the original.
- A clear copy of the photo page of your Passport.

While we do not require copies of your letter of authority or import permit we strongly advise that shipment of your vehicle is not undertaken until you have received your letter of authority and import permit as in the event that your vehicle arrives before they are issued or if your application is declined your vehicle will be refused entry into South Africa.

Arriving in South Africa

Following departure of your vehicle from the UK we will provide you with a copy of the Bill of Lading covering shipment. Bills of lading are only issued after the ship carrying your vehicle has departed from the UK as this document is representative of evidence of export from the country. In addition to copy shipping documentation we will also re-confirm anticipated arrival details for your car in South Africa and contact details for our receiving agent at the port.

Our agents will be in contact with you in South Africa before the ship is due to arrive to begin making arrangements with you for completion of local arrival and customs clearance / import formalities.

Destination Port & Shipping Line Charges

Following arrival in South Africa there will be charges to pay to the shipping line / receiving agents in respect of unloading your vehicle from the ship and handling at the port. There are also standard charges in relation to our agents assisting clearing your vehicle through customs in South Africa.

Please see the below guide to indicative charges for these standard services that you should expect to pay when your car arrives in South Africa.

	Shipping by 20' container	Shipping by Ro Ro	Compulsory	Optional
Shipping line and Port fees	ZAR5040	ZAR5960	X	
Transport to warehouse and container unloading	ZAR4680	n/a	X	
Customs clearance and release fee	ZAR2580	ZAR2580	X	
Examination fee	ZAR600	ZAR600		X

Duty & Tax

Returning South African residents or immigrants changing their place of permanent residence to South Africa may import one motor vehicle free of Duty and are also granted exemption from VAT. On arrival South African customs will require you make a declaration to apply for exemption from Duty and VAT using form DA304A available below :

<http://www.sars.gov.za/AllDocs/OpsDocs/SARSForms/DA%20304A%20-%20Motor%20vehicle%20declaration%20on%20permanent%20change%20of%20residence%20-%20External%20Form.pdf>

To be eligible to import your personal motor vehicle into South Africa under exemption from duty and VAT you must:

- Be the registered owner of the vehicle for a period of no less than 12 months.
- Be changing your permanent residency to South Africa.
- On importation you must not sell, hire, exchange or otherwise dispose of the vehicle for a period of at least 2 years.

For vehicles or persons that do not qualify for exemption the rate of duty payable is calculated on the based value of the vehicle. For vehicles up to 20 years old may be applied at a rate of up to 36% with vehicles in excess of 20 years old being subject to a rate of 20%. An ad valorem duty rate may also be applied at a rate of between 0.75% and 20% of the vehicle dependent on the age and value of the vehicle.

VAT, if payable, is charged at a standard rate of 14%. The South African VAT act sets the value on which VAT is calculated as being the value of goods plus customs duty levied plus a further 10% of that value.

Further information on import duty and VAT in South Africa can be found on the South African Revenue Service (SARS) website below :

<http://www.sars.gov.za/Pages/default.aspx>

Registering Your Vehicle

Once your vehicle has been cleared through customs and any duty and tax levied have been paid to the South African Revenue Service you will be issued with a Customs Release Notification form. For your car to be registered for use on South African roads it must be registered at a vehicle licensing office and must pass a road worthiness test (similar to an MOT).

To register your vehicle you will be required to complete the application for motor vehicle licence form ALV (available below) and present it to a vehicle licensing office together with the Customs Release Notification form to register your car in South Africa.

http://www.westerncape.gov.za/other/2006/3/alv_app_licencing_of_motor_vehicle.pdf

A registered testing center will complete a road worthiness test and issue you with a road worthy certificate for around ZAR200. If your vehicle does fail you will typically be entitled to one free re-test provided that any work needed is completed and your vehicle can be re-tested within 14 days. Further details on road worthiness certificates is available on the South Africa Government Services website below :

http://www.services.gov.za/services/content/Home/ServicesForPeople/Driving/Testingvehicle/roadworthinesscertificate/en_ZA

We hope you have found this guide useful however, if you have any questions about shipping your car to South Africa or if you would like any further information about what happens when your car arrives; please do not hesitate to get in touch and one of our team will be only too happy to help. You can call us on UK Freephone 0800 389 0784 or International +44 (0) 117 982 8123