



Your guide to shipping your vehicle to Australia on the unique R-Rak shipping service from Autoshippers

As there are strict requirements regulating the importation of motor vehicles into Australia, we are pleased to provide this information to help guide you through what to do before you go and what to expect when your car arrives. We hope this provides everything you need, however if you would like any further assistance please give us a call and one of our experienced team will be happy to help.



Before you go: To import a vehicle into Australia there are strict regulations with which vehicles must comply. The age and origin of the vehicle (based on original manufacture) along with the status of the importer play an important role in whether a vehicle can be imported into Australia and what documentation may be required by.

While Australia has very strict safety and emissions standards and modification work that may be required to bring non-compliant vehicles in line with required standards can be expensive, conversion or modification work is not required for vehicles falling into any one of the below categories:

- Vehicle has been owned and used in the country of origin for a period of more than twelve months by the person importing the vehicle into Australia.
- The vehicle was originally manufactured or sold in Australia and carries the compliance plate fitted at the time of original manufacture.
- The vehicles date of manufacture is prior to January 1st 1989.
- The vehicle was newly purchased having been manufactured to comply with Australian safety and emission standards.

Vehicle Import Approval (VIA)

Applications normally take between 4-6 weeks to be processed and returned. Vehicles cannot be shipped from the UK until the import approval has been issued.

Import approval will only be granted to private individuals with a full residency visa or to Australian or New Zealand nationals eligible to drive a vehicle in Australia. If you are arriving into Australia before you arrange shipment of your vehicle, please be aware that you must apply for your VIA within 6 months of your arrival into Australia.

Applying for you're VIA: Vehicle Import Approval applications must be made to the Australian Department of Infrastructure and Transport. The quickest way of submitting your application is by using their online portal that can be found [here](#). When you make your application online you will need to make a payment of AU\$50 to cover the application fee and have scanned copies of required documentation to attach to and submit with your application.

Additional Addendum forms covering applications to import other types of vehicles (such as small road trailers or for vehicles manufactured before 1989) or for vehicles for a use other than domestic road use (such as non-road vehicles, special purpose vehicles or vehicles imported for exhibition) can be found on the Australian Department of Infrastructure and Transport website [here](#).

Temporary Import: If you are shipping your vehicle into Australia for a temporary period of time, a VIA is not required, however shipment of your vehicle must be covered by a Carnet de Passage. The RAC are the only issuer of the Carnet de Passage in the UK and full details of how to apply can be found on their website [here](#).

Preparation for Quarantine inspection: Before your vehicle is shipped you should make sure that it is well cleaned. On arrival in Australia all vehicles are inspected by the Australian Department for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) for 'cleanliness'. Typical areas that are frequently overlooked when cleaning a vehicle for shipment are:

- Wheels/tyres, Wheel arches and Mud guards
- Spare tyre, Spare wheel housing and Boot.

More detailed information about quarantine regulations along with contact details can be obtained from the DAFF web site [here](#).

Documentation we need

To ship your vehicle to Australia there are a few things that you will need to provide us with:

- A Copy of the V5 (Licence Document) for your vehicle – we do not need the original.
- A Copy of your Passport Photopage.
- A Copy of a valid MOT certificate will be required if you require collection of your vehicle using an insured driver.

We will also require a copy of your VIA to arrange shipment of your vehicle from the UK.



On arrival in Australia

Shortly after departure from the UK we will provide you with copy shipping documentation (the Bill of Lading) covering transport of your vehicle to Australia along with anticipated arrival date and contact details for our agents. Our agents will be in contact with you prior to your vehicle's arrival to make arrangements for completion of local import formalities.



Customs Clearance

When your vehicle arrives at destination there will be a charge payable for customs clearance to the local agent of AUD\$150.00.

Additional costs in relation to quarantine requirements (e.g. cleaning, fumigation and vacuuming) will be payable locally once your vehicle has been inspected.

Destination charges for R-Rack Service: We have negotiated preferential rates for discharge, and handling in Australia for customers using our R-Rak container services when these are prepaid in the UK as detailed in your quotation.

The destination charges covered are:

- Port handling charges
- Transport to warehouse and container unloading
- Preparation of your vehicle for inspection by Customs and AQIS

Excluded are customs clearance, quarantine intervention and duties, taxes and other charges payable to Australian Authorities.

Note: Some air conditioning systems contain prohibited gasses and may need to be degassed prior to shipment.

Duties and Taxes: The table below provides a summary of Duty and GST rates applied by Australian customs: Import Duty is calculated at the rates shown below based purely on the value placed on your vehicle following its valuation by Australian Authorities.

GST is calculated at the below rate and is based on the Value of the Taxable Importation (VoTI) and this is calculated as: Customs Value + Duty + Shipping and Insurance costs of transporting your vehicle to Australia.

	Duty	GST
Vehicles over 30 years old and motorcycles	0%	10%
Vehicles up to 30 years old including 4x4, off road vehicles and commercial vehicles	5%	10%

Luxury Car Tax (LCT): Australian customs may apply this additional charge for higher specification or valuation vehicles.

Registration: Once a vehicle has been customs cleared into Australia and customs duties and GST have been paid, it must be checked by the State department Motor Vehicle Registration service who will examine the vehicles (similar to an MOT) and issue a road worthiness certificate. This should be presented along with other vehicle documentation at the registration counter who on payment of registration and roadworthy examination fees provide the yearly registration label to be displayed in the vehicles windscreen (similar to a tax disc) and will also provide the Australian number plates assigned to the vehicle. When registering your vehicle, stamp duty fees are payable to the local state registration authorities.