



What to do when importing a foreign vehicle

After 12 months at the latest after import, vehicles must be provided with a Swiss vehicle registration certificate and Swiss number plates. Before licensing, the vehicle must be cleared by customs and be given a test of roadworthiness in Switzerland.

1. Customs clearance

Every vehicle to be imported has to have customs clearance. Please contact the customs office at the appropriate border crossing or the one in Lucerne: Zolldienststelle Luzern, Luzernerstrasse 88, 6014 Luzern, T 041 259 01 70 / F 041 259 01 77.

The customs office will provide you with the following documents:

- Inspection report 13.20 A (a light yellow document with customs stamp)
- Customs permit (e.g. 18.44 Personal effects)
- or Customs permit 15.30 or 15.40 (for use free of duty for a limited period)

2. Official vehicle test

The following documents are required by the road traffic licensing department (These can be sent by post or handed in personally at office "Auskunft Prüfungen"):

- A completed Vehicle Test Application form
- A copy of the Foreigner's ID card or extract from the Commercial Register
- Inspection report 13.20 A and/or customs permit (18.44, 18.45, 18.46, 15.30, 15.40)
- Certificate proving compliance with the vehicle's technical specifications (e.g. EU-compliance approval (COC). These are not needed in the case of customs permits 18.44, 18.45 or 18.46.
- Foreign registration documents (e.g. certificates of registration)
- Exhaust level certificate (the exhaust level test must be carried out by a Swiss garage)
- Additional documents in the case of special alterations to the vehicle such as wheel rims or chassis etc)

You will receive notice for the vehicle test within 10 days. The waiting period for vehicle tests can be up to 4 weeks.

3. Vehicle registration

The following documents are required by the road traffic licensing department:

- Certificate of insurance from a Swiss insurance company
(As the certificate of insurance is valid for 30 days only, we recommend you order this just one week before the official vehicle test. Your insurance company will send us the certificate of insurance electronically.)
- Copy of Foreigner's ID card or extract from the Commercial Register
- Inspection report 13.20 A and customs permit 18.44, 18.45, 18.46, 15.30 or 15.40 (see. point 1: Customs clearance)
- Vehicle test report (see point 2: Official vehicle test)
- Foreign registration documents (e.g. certificates of registration)
- Foreign number plates (insofar as these are valid)

The road traffic licensing authority will provide you with a Swiss vehicle registration certificate and Zug number plates at the counter. The foreign number plates and registration documents are then handed over and destroyed in accordance with Article 115 Paragraph 6 of the Road Traffic Registration Act. You will then be provided with written confirmation in duplicate so that you can then deregister your vehicle with the foreign road traffic licensing authority and with the foreign insurance company.

One exception in the case of Germany: the Zug road traffic licensing authority will send the registration document, along with confirmation of the change, directly to the appropriate German road traffic licensing authority.