



Import for a light vehicle

General information

The border



In order to help you in your approach, you will find different information on customs expenses in the tab «Information for private individuals» of the federal customs administration website:

[Importation into Switzerland \(admin.ch\)](https://www.admin.ch)

Vehicles in leasing



In this case, the leasing company shall deliver us an autorisation to register the vehicle in Switzerland by supplying all the original documents.

Maintenance obligation of the antipollution system



All cars registered in Switzerland for the first time since 1st January 1976, are subject to a compulsory antipollution system maintenance.

Simplifications have been introduced since 1st January 2013.

To know if your vehicle is concerned, you will find useful information on the internet website of the Office fédéral des routes (OFROU):

<https://www.news.admin.ch/message/index.html?lang=fr&msg-id=46944>

Import status



The import status is determined by the customs authority. Once decided, the status cannot be changed.

There are four different import status (*see the following pages*):

- A** - Direct import without special status
- B** - Direct import as “household effect”, “wedding trousseau” or “inherited property”
- C** - Temporary import
- D** - Diplomatic import

Vehicle inspection



- As a rule, while registering, the current prescriptions apply. The import date of the vehicle is valid.
- If it is proved by means of official documents that the vehicle was already in circulation abroad, it must just be in compliance with the Swiss prescriptions that were effective during it's first entry into service.
- The respect for the Swiss prescriptions must be proved by the display of original documents. Only the complete files will be accepted and handled. They can be personally deposited or sent by post.
- In the case of vehicles having undergone technical modifications (for example, the exchange of wheel rims, suspension, a modification of power, etc...), it is necessary to present guarantees, builder's statements and the corresponding trial reports for the file.

Import status



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A

Direct import without special status

You live in Switzerland and you want to import your car from abroad in order to register a Swiss (Vaud) number plate.

The vehicle must immediately be announced at the border to the customs office.

After passing the customs office, the vehicle must be registered in Switzerland, as soon as possible.

Passenger cars, light commercial vehicles and light semi-tractors units registered abroad for the 1st time less than 6 months old (regardless the mileage), as well as vehicles that are 6 to 12 months old, but with less than 5,000 km on the odometer before customs declaration, must pay the CO2 tax to the Swiss Federal Office of Energy (OFEN).

[CO2 emission regulations for new cars and light commercial vehicles \(admin.ch\)](#)

It is recommended to quickly give your documents to the SAN, as the procedure may take some time.

The vehicle can be transferred in Switzerland with plates of foreign registration. It must be covered by a third-party insurance (RC).

The following documents are necessary for the registration:

- **The registration form.** ([3 1 F 211 P Demande immatriculation cession plaques \(etat-de-vaud.ch\)](#)) duly completed and signed.
- **An electronic certificate of liability (attestation RC)** established by a Swiss insurance company. It is valid only 30 days.
- **The original foreign documents** of the vehicle.
- **Form. 13.20A**, issued by the customs office
- **The proof of clearance** delivered by the customs office.
- *Vehicles younger than 24 months must be registered under the name of the person named on the VAT taxation decision.*
- **The European certificate of conformity (COC)**
- **The form.** [3 1 F 1737e Necessary information registration vehicle not officially approved.pdf \(etat-de-vaud.ch\)](#) duly completed and signed.
- **An air pollution maintenance document** (if necessary)
- **Identity proval** (for the swiss citizens)
- **Residence permit** (for foreigners)

To get an inspection appointment, a complete file with the original documents can either be:

- **Sent by post at the following address:**

Service des automobiles et de la navigation
Bureau technique
Avenue du Grey 110
1014 Lausanne
- **Brought in person** at our ticket office "D", at the inspection office in Lausanne.
- **Only complete files** with original documents will be treated
- **An inspection appointment** will be sent by post.
- **Foreign number plates** will have to be unsettled from the vehicle on the inspection day

After the inspection, and provided that the vehicle meets the standards, the SAN will deliver you your Swiss (Vaudois) registration plates as well as the circulation permit for the vehicle.

A proper treatment will be given to the number plates and to the registration documents according to the country of origin. We will gladly do it for you in some cases.



A vehicle import without a European certificate of conformity (COC) is more complicated and more expensive. That is why we recommend you, before the purchase of the vehicle, to ask your seller if a COC is available. Should the oppsite occur, it is necessary to present us the technical characteristics as well as all the proofs of conformity of the vehicle to the Swiss legislation.

Import status

B



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B

**Direct import as
“household
effect”,
“wedding
trousseau” or
“inherited
property”**

**You change
home and you
move to
Switzerland
(Vaud) or you
benefit of a
wedding
trousseau or
inherit a
property**

The vehicle must immediately be announced at the border to the customs office. The customs office defines the import status. Once defined it cannot be changed.

After your personal entry (not that of your vehicle), you have one year to register your foreign vehicle in Switzerland. After that period, the foreign vehicle cannot be used in Switzerland anymore.

It is recommended to quickly give your documents to the SAN, as the procedure may take some time.

The vehicle must be covered by a third party insurance (RC) and have a valid registration plate until its registration in Switzerland.

The following documents are necessary for the registration:

- **The registration form** ([3 1 F 211 P Demande immatriculation cession plaques \(etat-de-vaud.ch\)](#)) duly completed and signed.
- **An electronic certificate of liability (attestation RC)** established by a Swiss insurance company. It is valid only 30 days..
- **The original foreign documents** of the vehicle.
- **Form. 13.20A**, issued by the customs offices
- **Form 18.44, 18.45 or 18.46** delivered by the customs office.
The vehicle must be registered under the name of the person subscribed in the form.
- **The European certificate of conformity (COC)**
- **The form.** [3 1 F 1737e Necessary information registration vehicle not officially approved.pdf \(etat-de-vaud.ch\)](#) duly completed and signed.
- **An air pollution maintenance document** (if necessary)
- **Identity proval** (for the swiss citizens)
- **Residence permit** (for foreigners)

To get an inspection appointment, a complete file with the original documents can either be:

- **Sent by post at the following address:**

Service des automobiles et de la navigation
Bureau technique
Avenue du Grey 110
1014 Lausanne
- **Brought in person** at our ticket office "D", at the inspection office in Lausanne.
- **Only complete files** with original documents will be treated
- **An inspection appointment** will be sent by post.
- **Foreign number plates** will have to be unsettled from the vehicle on the inspection day

After the inspection, and provided that the vehicle meets the standards, the SAN will deliver you Swiss (Vaudois) registration plates as well as the circulation permit for the vehicle.

A proper treatment will be given to the number plates and to the registration documents according to the country of origin. We will gladly do it for you in some cases.



How to get Swiss car plates in the Canton de Vaud?



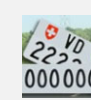
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Temporary import

If you wish to import a vehicle in Switzerland (Vaud) knowing that you will stay only a definite period of time.

The vehicle must immediately be announced at the border to the customs office. They define if the temporary status can be obtained.

After your personal entry (not that of your vehicle), you have one year to register your foreign vehicle in Switzerland . The time of use of the vehicle with temporary number plates (Z) will be defined by the customs border.

It is recommended to quickly give your documents to the SAN, as the procedure may take some time.

The vehicle must be covered by a third party insurance (RC) and have a valid registration plate until its' registration in Switzerland.

At the end of the time, the vehicle must return abroad or be clear through customs and registered definitely in Switzerland. It must be in compliance with the Swiss prescriptions (see form. 1354).

The following documents are necessary for the registration:

- **The registration form** (form [3 1 F 211 P Demande immatriculation cession plaques \(etat-de-vaud.ch\)](#) duly completed and signed.
- **An electronic certificate of liability (attestation RC)** established by a Swiss insurance company. It is valid only 30 days..
- **The original foreign documents** of the vehicle.
- **Form. 13.20A**, issued by the customs offices
- **Form 15.30 or 15.40** delivered by the customs office. *The vehicle must be registered under the name of the person subscribed in the form.*
- **The European certificate of conformity (COC)**
- **The form.** [3 1 F 1737e Necessary information registration vehicle not officially approved.pdf \(etat-de-vaud.ch\)](#) duly completed and signed.
- **An air pollution maintenance document** (if necessary)
- **Identity proval** (for the swiss citizens)
- **Residence permit** (for foreigners)

To get an inspection appointment, a complete file with the original documents can either be:

- **Sent by post at the following address:**

Service des automobiles et de la navigation
Bureau technique
Avenue du Grey 110
1014 Lausanne
- **Brought in person** at our ticket office "D", at the inspection office in Lausanne.
- **Only complete files** with original documents will be treated
- **An inspection appointment** will be sent by post.
- **Foreign number plates** will have to be unsettled from the vehicle on the inspection day

After the inspection, and provided that the vehicle meets the standards, the SAN will deliver you Swiss (Vaudois) registration plates as well as the circulation permit for the vehicle.

A proper treatment will be given to the number plates and to the registration documents according to the country of origin. We will gladly do it for you in some cases.



How to get Swiss car plates in the Canton de Vaud?



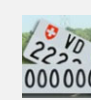
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Diplomatic import

You are a diplomat and you import your vehicle in Switzerland (Vaud) with the possibility to register it with the privileges due to you.

The vehicle must immediately be announced at the border to the customs office. They define if the diplomatic status can be obtained.

After your personal entry (not that of your vehicle), you have one year to register your foreign vehicle in Switzerland. It is not necessary that the vehicle be in compliance with the Swiss prescriptions.

It is recommended to quickly give your documents to the SAN, as the procedure may take some time.

The vehicle must be covered by a third party insurance (RC) and have a valid registration plate until its registration in Switzerland.

At the end of the time, the vehicle must return abroad or be clear through customs and registered definitely in Switzerland. It must then be in compliance with the Swiss prescriptions.

The following documents are necessary for the registration:

- **The registration form** (form [3 1 F 211 P Demande immatriculation cession plaques \(etat-de-vaud.ch\)](#)) duly completed and signed.
- **An electronic certificate of liability (attestation RC)** established by a Swiss insurance company. It is valid only 30 days..
- **The original foreign documents** of the vehicle.
- **Form. 13.20A**, issued by the customs offices
- **Form 15.52** delivered by the customs office.
The vehicle must be registered under the name of the person subscribed in the form.
- **The European certificate of conformity (COC)**
- **The legitimization card** delivered by the Federal Department of Foreign affairs (DFAE) with a color header, with or without a black line.
- **The form.** [3 1 F 1737e Necessary information registration vehicle not officially approved.pdf \(etat-de-vaud.ch\)](#) duly completed and signed.

To get an inspection appointment, a complete file with the original documents can either be:

- **Sent by post at the following address:**

Service des automobiles et de la navigation
Bureau technique
Avenue du Grey 110
1014 Lausanne
- **Brought in person** at our ticket office "D", at the inspection office in Lausanne.
- **Only complete files** with original documents will be treated
- **An inspection appointment** will be sent by post.
- **Foreign number plates** will have to be unsettled from the vehicle on the inspection day



Interpretation of «diplomat's» notion:

Are considered «Diplomats» members of staff of the diplomatic missions (embassies, permanent missions, special missions, international organizations) and the members of the consular posts, who can give evidence that they benefit from the immunity of jurisdiction, as far as they are foreign people and that they had their permanent residence abroad before taking office in Switzerland.

After the inspection, and provided that the vehicle meets the standards, the SAN will deliver you Swiss (Vaudois) registration plates as well as the circulation permit for the vehicle.

A proper treatment will be given to the number plates and to the registration documents according to the country of origin. We will gladly do it for you in some cases.