



MOVING & RE-REGISTERING CARS ABROAD

This section is designed to assist those planning to take their UK registered vehicle abroad mainly to another EU member state on a permanent basis and have it re-registered there.

Q What documents are required before taking the car out of the UK?

Ensure that you have sufficient insurance cover whilst using the vehicle abroad and that you vehicle is still licensed (VED / road tax). Obtain an international "Green Card" insurance certificate from your insurer to cover the period you are going abroad. You will normally be provided with the minimum legal cover applicable to each individual EU member state as a general rule without requesting Green Card cover. Some insurance companies may refuse cover if you inform them that the vehicle is being permanently taken abroad.

Obtain a V14 Road Tax Refund / Surrender from with you available from most UK Post Offices or the DVLA or from their website:

Take the V5C UK Registration Certificate, the EU Certificate of Conformity (CoC) and any original documents supplied with the vehicle such as the original invoice, the MoT Certificate (if over 3 years of age) and VAT 413 receipt form if the vehicle was originally supplied as new one (NMT). Take a copy of the front and second page of the V5C and keep that with you when using the car abroad (in case you are stopped the police to show you own the car).

Q What about keeping the car licensed (VED / road tax)?

Under EU rules, a vehicle can be used temporarily in another EU member state for up to six months providing the vehicle is insured and licensed in its registered home country. Therefore is advisable to keep the vehicle UK licensed (VED / road tax) continually. If the tax disc expires and one does not receive the DVLA reminder form, one is able to renew it via the internet on

<http://www.vehiclelicence.gov.uk/EvlPortalApp/index.jsp>

The tax disc then may be sent to your UK registered address and you will need to make arrangements to forward it to your address abroad.

Q What needs doing if I do not wish to bother about keeping the car licensed whilst abroad, although I know technically this is not strictly legal?

If you decide to allow the licence (tax disc) to expire without renewing it or wish to surrender it using the V14 and still wish to use the UK registration whilst abroad, then you will need to complete a SORN (Statutory Off Road Notification) which may be done over the internet or on the bottom of the V14 form. You could put your address abroad instead of the UK address.

Failure to act on this could result in automatic (£80) penalty being sent to your UK registered address, plus more to follow if you fail to react.

Bear in mind that cross checks may be made and that your UK insurance cover may become invalidated if the vehicle is continually used on the road unlicensed and/or is without a valid MoT test certificate (i.e. is considered technically unroadworthy – check with your policy documents and/or insurers).

Q What should be done if my car will reach its third anniversary before I plan to re-register my car abroad or the current MoT Test Certificate will expire beforehand?

If the vehicle is expected to reach its third anniversary within then next year prior to re-registering the car abroad, you may wish to consider having an MoT carried out prior to leaving the UK even though it is not due until its third anniversary. This will facilitate being able to re-licence (VED/ road tax) the car's MoT certificate number will be requested if the car is over three years of age at the time of re-licensing.

Q What if I wish to return to the UK and the car is unlicensed (without a valid tax disc)?

If the car is under three years of age, you could re-licence (tax) it via the internet. Failing this, you will need to go to the nearest post office or DVLA office at the port of landing, or if closed then one on the first day of opening.

If the car is over three years of age, then you will need to pre-book a test appointment anywhere in the UK (near your home address) for a soon after you plan to land in the UK. Take with you the reference details and contact number in case you are stopped en route. You are currently legally allowed to drive an unlicensed car directly to the MoT test centre to obtain an MoT test certificate and then back home. Once passed you will need to apply for the car to be licensed (tax disc).

Q What documents are generally required when re-registering a car abroad in another EU member state?

On re-registering your car in another EU member state, you will normally be required to produce the V5C UK Registration Certificate, the EU or EC Certificate of Conformity (CoC), possibly the original invoice and usually local vehicle insurance cover (UK policy is not normally acceptable) and maybe a local test certificate (like MoT in UK). Ensure you tear out and retain the purple V5C/4 (Section 11) half way down page 3 of the V5C UK Registration Certificate. Obtain a copy of newly issued (overseas) registration certificate showing registration mark assigned, the VIN / chassis number and your name and address abroad.

Q What is needed to be done about informing the DVLA following re-registration abroad?

Most EU member states have arrangements concerning informing other EU member states' central vehicle registration offices on re-registration, although this may take some months to filter through. It would be advisable to inform the DVLA yourself.

Complete the purple V5C/4 (Section 11) slip and sign it. As the 'Date of Export', one should use the date of re-registration, although one could also use the actual date the vehicle left the UK. It would be advisable to attach a copy of the newly issued (overseas) registration certificate as proof. Take a copy of the completed slip V5C/4 before posting.

Example

It would also be advisable to remove the tax disc from the windscreen and stick it onto the V14 Surrender Form. Complete the form and add a special note that the vehicle has been re-registered on (date) at your new address abroad and has been issued with the new registration mark (_ _ _ _ _). The DVLA should then send you a cheque for the balance of unused full calendar months (e.g. tax disc sent on 15th September valid until 31st January would result in four months of the annual rate applicable to your vehicle as being refunded). The refund cheque will normally be sent to your former UK address, (you may have arrangements for mail at your former UK address to be forwarded) or you could put a special note for it to be sent to your address abroad, which the DVLA may do.

The V14 and V5C/4 can be posted to the DVLA Swansea at the same time. It would be advisable to obtain a proof of posting of recorded delivery slip.

A SORN declaration can be carried out over the internet via http://www.taxdisc.direct.gov.uk/EvlPortalApp/application?origin=vnav_bar.jsp&event=bea.portal.framework.internal.refresh&pageid=Declare+SORN

The V14 is also downloadable via <http://www.dvla.gov.uk/media/pdf/forms/V14.pdf>

Q What is needed to be done about cancelling my UK insurance?

One should return the UK original insurance certificate (and Green Card) back to the insurance company or broker in the UK explaining that it has been re-registered overseas since the date of re-registration, attaching a copy of the overseas registration certificate as proof. You could be entitled to a premium refund depending upon to their cancellation policy. You could request for the insurers to pay it directly by BACS into your UK bank account quoting account name, number and bank sort code, or request them to send the refund cheque directly to your address abroad if you have no re-direction facility in the UK at your former address. It would be advisable to obtain a proof of posting of recorded delivery slip.

It would be useful to request them to send you a proof of no claims discount or accident free which they may have in a multi-lingual format for insurance companies abroad.

Q What is needed to be done technically once abroad?

One should ensure that the headlights, if set to dip to the left for UK traffic, are adjusted or changed to dip to the right for continental traffic. The rear left fog light needs to be active and in some cases such as in Finland, the rear right fog light needs to be de-activated.

Q How accurate is the advice provided?

The details above are advisory only and based on our experience with feedback from others to the best of our knowledge. If in doubt one should consult the DVLA, a solicitor or legal representative.

Q What if I have specific questions not covered in the details above or am unsure about some of the details?

Please free to contact us with your question(s) and we shall assist where possible.

Updated: 13th July 20108