



### Can I pay for a car in cash?

**Yes**, there are no restrictions on this. If you travel within the EU, you don't need to declare money you take with you to customs. When entering or leaving the EU, you must declare any sum of money of or equivalent to EUR 10 000 and above to customs using a [specific form](#).

### What about payment of VAT?

Within an intra-EU transaction new cars should be sold without VAT. **A car is considered new if no more than 6 months have passed since the date on which it was first registered or if its mileage does not exceed 6 000 km.** In practice, some sellers may require payment of VAT as a deposit, to be refunded once the car is registered in the buyer's country. Check in advance with the seller how to claim the VAT refund. Generally, the seller requests a copy of the registration certificate and proof of payment of the VAT. Be aware that you have no direct claim against the fiscal authorities, only against the seller, so you should claim any refund quickly.

**All other cars are considered second hand (more than 6 months since the date of first registration and mileage of more than 6 000 km).** They are generally sold inclusive of VAT (20 %) if the supplier is a commercial seller (The supply is not liable to VAT if the supplier is a private person). You don't have to pay VAT in your country of residence.

### Is the seller obliged to provide a vehicle inspection?

**No.** Concerning the timeframe for vehicle inspections in Austria, the so-called 3-2-1 rule applies; the first inspection has to be carried out 3 years after the vehicle is first registered, the next one 2 years later and the following one 1 year after that. Average cost: EUR 50-100, depending on the services needed.

### Is the Austrian vehicle inspection recognised in my home country?

Some countries recognise it. Check in advance with your national authority to avoid unnecessary costs. For further information, see the [country fact sheets on registration](#).

### Can I have an expert carry out a check on the car at the seller's premises?

With the seller's agreement. In general, consumers are advised to have the car checked before buying (at an independent automobile club or by an independent expert), particularly for second-hand cars. You will usually have to cover the costs (EUR 60-70 on average).

### What should I look out for in the contract of sale?

Contracts do not have to be in writing. Read carefully through those that are and only sign contracts you understand. Some traders try to exclude legal guarantee rights by claiming that the contract is a business-to-business contract or that the car is sold "without warranties" (only in business-to-consumer contracts would such a clause be considered null and void).

### Can I cancel the signed contract?

If the contract is signed on the seller's premises, you have no legal right to withdraw. However, if the contract is dependent on a credit agreement and this is cancelled, the car purchase contract is also cancelled.

Additionally, the consumer can withdraw from the contract within one week under the following circumstances:

- if credit for the purchase is given by the trader selling the car;
- if the credit provider cooperates with the trader selling the car in preparing and concluding the credit agreement;
- if the credit provider and the trader selling the car conclude a contract in addition to the credit agreement with the consumer or if they work together on a regular basis (business cooperation).

### What documents should the seller provide?

- The contract of sale or an invoice;
- Both registration certificates ("Zulassungsbescheinigung Teil 1 and Teil 2").
- The European Certificate of Conformity (COC). If the seller doesn't provide a COC, you can contact the general importer of the car brand and ask for an equivalent (approval in the general importer's database and an extract of this approval "Auszug aus der Genehmigungsdatenbank"). If no COC is available from the manufacturer, you should contact the governor of the federal state in which the car is registered. Testing centres ("technische Landesprüfstellen") are then responsible for registering the car in the COC database, see <http://versa.bmvit.gv.at/> and [the specific form](#).

Check if other documents are needed in the country where you intend to [register](#) the car.



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