

COUNTRY OF REGISTRATION

Spain



Competent authority:

Dirección General de Tráfico

What documents do I need to present to register a car?

- A [notification form](#) for the transmission or sale of a vehicle;
- Proof of transfer of ownership (contract, invoice if legal persons are involved, receipt, etc.) and personal identification;
- Your Spanish tax identification number or Foreigner Identification Number.
- COC or equivalent¹

To register the car, do I have to show that a technical inspection has been performed?

Yes, if the car is older than 4 years of age. **Foreign inspections are not recognised in Spain.**

A first periodic inspection has to take place 4 years after the car is first registered. The next three take place at 2-year intervals until the car is 10 years old. Subsequent inspections must be performed every year (4-2-2-2-1-1... rule).

Prices are set by the autonomous communities and depend on the technical service, vehicle and test types, etc.. Average costs range from about EUR 25 to EUR 50.

Is it mandatory to show proof of insurance to the registration service?

Every driver and car must be covered by insurance allowing them to use public roads, but the registration service will not ask for proof.

To whom should VAT be paid?

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. For intra-EU transactions, **new cars are VAT exempt**. Thus, the supplier should not charge VAT. Instead, if you have bought a new car in another EU Member State with the intention of importing it to and registering it in your country of residence, you must pay VAT in your own Member State at that country's rate.

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 if the supplier is a taxable person for VAT purposes. You don't have to pay VAT in your country of residence.

VAT should be paid to the local tax agency [Agencia Tributaria](#).

Documents to be presented:

For new cars: Registration tax ("Impuesto de matriculación") form ("Mod. 576").

For second hand cars: Patrimonial transfer tax ("Impuesto de transmisiones patrimoniales") form ("[Mod. 620](#)"). This tax is about 4 % of the car's value.

¹ When a vehicle passes the Spanish border, the TARJETA ITV (technical inspection certificate) is required and to get the ITV fact sheet, the COC is needed. If the ITV fact sheet can't be provided, a REDUCED technical inspection certificate could be accepted instead of the COC (as an authorisation document for an imported vehicle). The inspection centre will have a list of professionals capable of generating this reduced certificate.)

This document is intended to present the information consumers might need for a successful car purchase abroad and the registration in various European countries at the moment of publication and in the most user-friendly manner possible. It has no legal value however and the working group will not be held liable for any loss or cost incurred by reason of any person using or relying on the information in this publication.

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You can contact the [SOLVIT Centre Spain](#) for help with any difficulties.

If you have a question linked to your consumer rights when purchasing a car cross-border, contact your local ECC: www.cec.consumo-inc.es

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