

**Disclaimer** - This information summarises certain legal requirements. **It is not legal advice and may be altered without notice.** Before acting on the information you are advised to refer directly to the appropriate legislation and/or take professional advice. Note that Land Transport New Zealand doesn't endorse or guarantee, or accept liability for reliance upon, any other organisations or individuals linked or referred to, or the accuracy of their information.



# Infosheet 1.67 Revision 14

**Date:** 1 February 2009

**Revision:** 14 This revision replaces the version of 17 December 2008. This revision links directly to the section for our website that includes the tools you will need if fuel consumption information must be provided for your vehicle. Please note that the Statement of compliance has been amended to include the requirement for fuel consumption information. The previous infosheet 2.15 has been removed.

**From:** Driver and Vehicle Certification Unit, Land Transport New Zealand

**No. of pages:** 3

## Importing motor vehicles into New Zealand

### Situation

If you want to import a motor vehicle privately or commercially into New Zealand it is your responsibility to prove that you are legally entitled to the vehicle and that it meets New Zealand safety and emissions requirements. The legal requirements depend on the type of vehicle, the date of manufacture, and the country from which it is being imported.

If you wish to import a motor vehicle to New Zealand, you may wish to check if it qualifies as an immigrant's vehicle (of Class MA, MB or MC) or a 'special interest vehicle', in which case you may find it does not have to meet a frontal impact or emissions standard. The Fuel Consumption Information Rule also does not apply to these vehicles. Details are provided in Factsheet 44a and Factsheet 44b.

This infosheet tells you where to find the requirements that apply to your vehicle.

- It provides links and background information about importing motor vehicles into New Zealand.
- It provides links to five separate infosheets (Infosheets 2.10, 2.11, 2.12, 2.13, 2.14) and you select the infosheet(s) relevant to you, depending on the country from which you wish to import the vehicle.

**Be aware** that your vehicle **must** meet the exhaust emissions requirements set out in [Infosheet 2.08](#). The exhaust emissions standards that vehicles must meet were changed on 3 January 2008..

- [Revision 6](#) is the current version of Infosheet 2.08. It sets out the requirements for vehicles that were entry certified for use on New Zealand roads on or after 3 January 2008.
- If your vehicle was border checked for entry into New Zealand before 1 February 2008, and it has not been entry-certified, it may be allowed to meet the requirements set out in the previous version of *Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Exhaust Emissions*. Contact an entry certifier (see below) if you need to find out more about this.

**Please note** that standards for heavy-vehicle brakes will be introduced through the Heavy-vehicle Brakes Rule, which came into force on 1 March 2007. These heavy-vehicle brakes requirements will apply to imported heavy vehicles that are first registered in New Zealand after 1 July 2008. Detail is provided in the infosheets to which this document links.

## Importing motor vehicles

New Zealand has legal requirements for both heavy and light motor vehicles. Vehicles are checked for compliance with these requirements by an Entry Certifier when they are first inspected before their approval for registration in New Zealand.

- A light motor vehicle is defined as one that has a gross vehicle mass (GVM) less than or equal to 3500 kg. Light motor vehicles include cars, vans, utes, minibuses, and motorcycles.
- A heavy motor vehicle is one that has a GVM greater than 3500 kg.

If you are considering importing a motor vehicle into New Zealand, follow the steps below.

Carefully read all the relevant information you are directed to. It will enable you to determine whether you can import the vehicle, and what the requirements and processes are.

### Step 1: Country of import

**Read the appropriate infosheet below for the country you want to import the motor vehicle from:**

The **flowcharts** in the infosheet will help you determine whether your chosen vehicle can be imported into New Zealand. Make sure you read any **notes** that accompany the flowcharts.

The infosheets cover motorcycles, cars, stationwagons, vans, SUVs, 4WDs, utes, minibuses and heavy vehicles. However they do **not** cover Classes TA and TB (light trailers) or Classes LA and LB (mopeds), because these vehicles do not undergo entry certification. (For more information about vehicles classes and the standards they must meet, see [Infosheet 1.10](#)).

I want to import a vehicle from:

- Japan: see [Infosheet 2.10](#)
- Australia: see [Infosheet 2.11](#)
- the United States of America: see [Infosheet 2.12](#)
- Europe: see [Infosheet 2.13](#)
- a country other than Japan, Australia, the USA or Europe: see [Infosheet 2.14](#)

### Step 2: Importing processes

**Read the relevant information on the importing process for your vehicle:**

- The importing process for **vehicles** (border check, certification, registration and licensing): see [Factsheet 44](#).
- **Factsheets 44a and 44b** - These set out information about immigrant's vehicles or special interest vehicles, that do not meet frontal impact or emissions standards. The Fuel Consumption Information Rule also does not apply to these vehicles.
- The restrictions on the import of **left-hand drive vehicles** (those with a steering wheel positioned on the left-hand side of the vehicle): see [Factsheet 12](#)
- **Required documentation** for importing vehicles (documentation to prove legal title and standards compliance): see [Infosheet 2.09](#).
- [Infosheet 2.08](#) explains how the **Emissions Rule** affects entry certification. See note above about versions of this infosheet

### Step 3: Vehicle information

#### Check if any other information is relevant:

- [Factsheet 35](#) describes the requirements for **importing a vehicle temporarily** (for a period of up to 12 months).
- For information on providing fuel consumption for a used vehicle at entry go to <http://importer.fuelsaver.govt.nz>
- [Infosheet 1.10](#) provides extensive information on **vehicle classes and the standards they have to meet** to comply with New Zealand law.
- [Factsheet 13](#) describes the **dimensions and mass requirements of vehicles**. This is particularly important for vehicles imported from the USA.
- [Infosheet 2.16](#) tells you how to check if the vehicle you wish to import is subject to a safety-related recall
- **Other information** on vehicle safety is given in [Factsheet 73](#): Vehicle lighting; [Factsheet 22](#): Bullbars; [Factsheet 39](#): Vehicle windows, wipers and mirrors and [Factsheet 43](#): Mopeds.

### Step 4: Other information

#### Check the requirements of New Zealand Customs and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

- [New Zealand Customs](http://www.customs.govt.nz/) <http://www.customs.govt.nz/>
- [Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry](http://www.maf.govt.nz/). <http://www.maf.govt.nz/>.

### Where you can find out more

- [Contact details for Land Transport NZ; entry certifiers; and Motor Industry Association representatives.](#)