

# Imported Vehicles Conditions for Registration in Victoria

# 3

For further information please write to the Manager – Vehicle Safety & Policy  
60 Denmark Street, Kew, 3101 or contact your local Customer Service Centre.

## Introduction

This information sheet supersedes all previous copies of VSI 3 and is intended to assist people who are considering importing a motor vehicle and wish to register it in Victoria.

Before importing a vehicle you should check with the Administrator Vehicle Standards, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (DITRDLG), that the vehicle is of a type that can be imported and registered in Australia.

### Note:

- The Low Volume Scheme for new vehicles is limited to vehicle make or models that are on the register of Specialist and Enthusiast Vehicles. Contact the Administrator Vehicle Standards DITRDLG or visit [www.dotars.gov.au](http://www.dotars.gov.au) for more information;
- The previous Low Volume Import Scheme for used vehicles has been replaced with the Registered Automotive Workshop Scheme (RAWS);
- Only a Registered Automotive Workshop (RAW) can import a used vehicle manufactured after 1988 which does not qualify as a personal import;
- Complete vehicles cannot be imported for wrecking or parts;
- Dismantled vehicles imported for parts cannot be reassembled and registered;
- Vehicles imported as evaluation vehicles may only be registered in the name of the person or company to whom the import approval has been granted. This is the name shown on the import approval documents. The registration will be conditional, for a specified period and cannot be transferred. In addition to any conditions applied by VicRoads the registration will be subject to any conditions specified in the import approval and in the guidelines issued by the Administrator Vehicle Standards, DITRDLG. Contact VicRoads for more information.

Regulations introduced in August 1989 by the Australian Government under the Motor Vehicle Standards Act require certain procedures and conditions to be satisfied

before a motor vehicle can be imported. A brief summary of these requirements is contained in this brochure. You should also obtain a copy of the DITRDLG publication titled *Importing Vehicles to Australia*, which also contains an application for approval to import a vehicle.

The application must be completed and returned to the Administrator Vehicle Standards, DITRDLG to obtain a Vehicle Import Approval. The approval will allow you to clear your vehicle at its point of entry to Australia and will be required for compliance and registration purposes.

It is essential that the vehicle import approval is obtained before the vehicle is imported. In addition the Australian Customs Services should be contacted for information on taxes, duties and quarantine requirements.

Addresses for the Administrator DITRDLG and the Australian Customs Service are shown in Part 4 of this information sheet.

For the purposes of this information sheet imported vehicles are classified as follows:

### Personal Import

A Personal Import is a vehicle, which was manufactured after 1988, and the person importing it:

- Is an Australian citizen or a person who has applied to become an Australian citizen or has been granted permanent resident status in Australia and;
- Has owned and used the vehicle overseas for a continuous period of at least 12 months before importing it to Australia and;
- Has not imported another vehicle under the personal import scheme in the previous 12 months.

### Used Vehicle Import

A Used Vehicle Import is a vehicle which was manufactured after 1988 and:

- Does not qualify as a Personal Import, and;
- Was imported and certified by a RAW.

Note:

- A used vehicle import can only be imported by a Registered Automotive Workshop (RAW).

### Imported vehicles manufactured before 1989

Vehicles manufactured before 1989 can be imported provided a Vehicle Import Approval has been issued for the vehicle by the DITRDLG.

## 2. Certification and Registration Requirements

The certification, construction and registration requirements for each import category are set out in this section. A summary of these requirements is shown in the table at the end of this information sheet.

### 2.1 Personal Imports

The requirements set out in this section apply to a personal import.

#### Import approval

A Vehicle Import Approval issued by the Administrator Vehicle Standards, DITRDLG is required. This approval comprises four copies, for the following purposes:

- To clear the vehicle from the point of entry;
- To obtain a personal import plate;
- For the registering authority and;
- For the owner's records.

#### Personal Import Plate and Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)

A Personal Import Plate must be attached to the vehicle.

To have a Personal Import Plate fitted to your vehicle you will need to contact a Vehicle Assessment Signatory Scheme (VASS) signatory who will inspect your vehicle and make arrangements for a plate to be supplied. This plate certifies that the vehicle complies with the applicable Standards for Registration.

The VIN on the plate must also be stamped on a substantial part of the body such as the firewall or the suspension tower before the vehicle can be registered.

A list of VASS signatories is available on the VicRoads web page or from any VicRoads Customer Service Centre.

#### Documentation and Evidence of Compliance

The following documentation must accompany the application for registration of the vehicle:

- The Vehicle Import Approval endorsed for the Registering Authority;
- The Personal Import Plate (yellow) must be fixed to the vehicle before it is presented for registration. (Note that the "plate" may be in the form of a self-voiding label).
- A Victorian Certificate of Roadworthiness issued not more than 30 days before the date of application for registration, and;
- Where a right hand drive conversion has been carried out, an Approval Certificate from a VASS signatory certifying the compliance and safety of the conversion.

### Construction and Safety Requirements

The Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 2009 grant a personally imported vehicle partial exemption from compliance with the ADRs. However, the vehicle must at least comply with the standards set out in Schedule 2 of the Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 2009 and the ADRs specified in part 23 of Schedule 2.

A personally imported vehicle may comply with a later standard or ADR to that specified in Schedule 2.

The vehicle must be in the right hand drive configuration.

### Emissions

It is an offence under the Environment Protection Act 1970 to drive a vehicle on a public highway in Victoria, which has had the emission controls tampered with or removed.

If the vehicle is powered by a petrol engine the idle carbon monoxide level must not exceed 4.5% (v/v).

The exhaust emission, except for water vapour, is not to be visible to the naked eye for a continuous period exceeding ten seconds when the vehicle is driven in any manner likely to occur in normal vehicle use.

### Unleaded Fuel

All personally imported passenger cars and passenger car derivatives equipped with petrol fuelled spark ignition internal combustion engines must be constructed so that:

- The fuel filler inlet will only allow an unleaded petrol dispensing nozzle to be inserted; i.e., the petrol filling pipe(s) of the vehicle must be so constructed that a petrol pump dispensing nozzle spout with an outside diameter of 23.6 millimetres cannot be inserted.
- Petrol must not spill from the filling pipe if the fuel tank is being filled at a rate of up to 45 litres per minute.
- The words "UNLEADED PETROL ONLY" or "UNLEADED FUEL ONLY" must be permanently affixed on a durable label or by some other durable means to the area immediately adjacent to the petrol filler inlet(s), on or within 150mm of the door to the filler inlet compartment, or on or within 150mm of the filler inlet cap, readily visible to any person intending to refuel the vehicle. The lettering must be legible and in capital letters at least 6mm high.

## 2.2 Used Vehicle Imports

### Compliance Plate and Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)

All Used Vehicle Imports must be fitted with a Used Import Plate as evidence that the vehicle complies with all the applicable Australian Design Rules.

The plate is magenta in colour and specifies details about the vehicle. The details identify the vehicle and the Registered Automotive Workshop that fitted the plate. Note that the "plate" can be in the form of a self-voiding label.

The VIN on the plate must also be stamped on a substantial part of the body such as the firewall or the suspension tower.

## Documentation

The following documentation must accompany the application for registration of a used vehicle import.

- A Victorian Certificate of Roadworthiness issued not more than 30 days before the date of application for registration;
- A fully completed Consumer Information Notice signed by a RAW engineer (Photocopies are not acceptable);
- Appropriate evidence of ownership.

## 2.3 Vehicles Manufactured Before 1989

These vehicles do not require a personal import plate or a used import plate, but they must still comply with applicable Standards for Registration. Vehicles subject to Australian Design Rules (i.e. Vehicles manufactured after 1968 (June 1975 for motorcycles)) must be certified by a VASS Signatory.

However a vehicle, which was manufactured before 1989, and imported by a person who:

- Is an Australian citizen or a migrant who has been granted permanent resident status in Australia and;
- Has owned and used the vehicle overseas for a continuous period of at least 12 months before importing it to Australia and;
- Has not imported another vehicle under the personal import concession scheme in the previous 12 months.

Need only comply with the requirements set out in part 2.1 for a Personal Import and be issued with an Approval Certificate instead of a Personal Import Plate.

The requirement for the vehicle to be in the right hand drive configuration does not apply if the vehicle is more than 30 years old and has a Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) of less than 4.5 tonnes. However, in addition to all other applicable standards, a vehicle that remains in left hand drive configuration must be fitted with direction turn indicators and headlamps that are designed for right hand drive (i.e. Dip to the left).

The VIN or chassis number must be stamped on a substantial part of the body. A compliance plate is not required.

## Documentation

- A Certificate of Roadworthiness not more than 30 days before the date of application for registration;
- A VASS Approval Certificate if:
  - (i) the vehicle has been converted from left hand to right hand drive, or;
  - (ii) the vehicle was manufactured after 1968 (June 1975 for motorcycles), or
  - (iii) the vehicle has unapproved modifications.
- Import approval and;
- Appropriate evidence of ownership.

## 3. Driving Vehicles Before Registration

In Victoria, vehicles may only be driven on roads if they are registered or covered by an unregistered vehicle permit. Unregistered vehicle permits are usually valid for not more than 28 days and are issued subject to the following conditions:

- The vehicle is driven on a highway only for the purposes of:
  - (i) moving the vehicle to a place where it will be garaged or stored;
  - (ii) obtaining registration e.g. converting the vehicle to right hand drive, obtaining a roadworthiness certificate etc. or;
  - (iii) driving the vehicle out of the State.
- If the vehicle is in the left hand drive configuration the words "LEFT HAND DRIVE" in lettering at least 75mm high and of proportionate width must be clearly and legibly displayed on the rear of the vehicle, and an adult person capable of observing approaching traffic must be seated in the right hand front seat.

Unregistered vehicle permits may be obtained by phone on 13 1171 from any VicRoads Customer Service Centre.

## 4. Additional Information

Information on Australian Customs requirements may be obtained from the:

Regional Director of Customs

GPO Box 2809AA

MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Telephone: (03) 9244 8000 or (03) 9244 8021

Fax (03) 9244 8010

Further information on importing a motor vehicle and obtaining a Compliance Plate, where applicable, may be obtained from the:

Administrator of Vehicle Standards

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

G P O Box 594

CANBERRA ACT 2602

Telephone: (02) 6274 7506

Fax (02) 6274 6013

or visit: [www.infrastructure.gov.au](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au)

Summary of Imported Vehicle Requirements				
Classification for Imported Vehicle	Import Approval Documentation	Vehicle Compliance Plates Requirements	Engineer's Certificate Requirements	Construction Requirements
Personal Import.	Four part Document 1- to clear vehicle at port of entry 2- to obtain a personal import plate 3- for the registering authority 4- for the owner's records	The Personal Import plate (or self voiding label) must be fitted to the vehicle. (Yellow colour) The VIN must be stamped on a substantial part of the body	A VASS approval certificate is only required if the vehicle has had a left to right hand drive conversion or has undergone other modifications requiring an approval certificate (See VSI 8 and VSI 18)	The vehicle must comply with the Standards for Registration and the ADRs applicable to a Personal Import as set out in Schedule 8 of the Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 2009.
Used Import.	Not required by VicRoads	The RAWs Used Import plate (or self voiding label) must be fitted to the vehicle. (Magenta colour) The VIN must be stamped on a substantial part of the body	The RAWs Consumer Information Notice is required.	The vehicle must comply with the Standards for Registration applicable at its date of manufacture and be in a roadworthy condition
Imported Vehicles manufactured after 1968 (June 1975 for motorcycles) and before 1989	Vehicle import approval required by VicRoads. (A customs clearance document is acceptable for vehicles in this category, which were imported before September 1989).	A compliance Plate is not required. The VIN or Chassis number must be stamped on a substantial part of the body.	A VASS approval certificate is required showing compliance with the applicable Standards for Registration and covering any other modifications including left to right-hand drive conversion.	The vehicle must comply with the Standards for Registration applicable at its date of manufacture and be in a roadworthy condition
Imported vehicles manufactured before 1969 (July 1975 for motor cycles)	Vehicle import approval required by VicRoads. (A customs clearance document is acceptable for vehicles in this category, which were imported before September 1989).	A compliance Plate is not required. The VIN or Chassis number must be stamped on a substantial part of the body.	A VASS Approval Certificate is only required if the vehicle has had a left to right hand drive conversion or has other modifications requiring an approval certificate	The vehicle must comply with the Standards for Registration applicable at its date of manufacture and be in a roadworthy condition