

Importing Vehicles into Australia – A Process Guide

1. Before you ship your vehicle

Vehicle Import Approval (VIA)

An Import Approval must be obtained for a vehicle to gain customs clearance at its point of entry to Australia. Vehicles that arrive in Australia without an Import Approval generally incur significant storage costs until an Import Approval is issued.

Vehicles built before 1/1/1989 may be imported without restriction. Vehicles built after that date are limited to those on the SEVS register, and the rules of the Registered Automotive Workshop Scheme.

No vehicle that is or has been supplied in Australia in Full Volume is eligible to be imported (unless the manufacturer surrendered the approval in Australia and kept supplying the vehicles into other markets for more than 12 months after the approval was surrendered here). So you will not find Porsche, Bentley, BMW, Jaguar, Rolls Royce, Audi etc on the SEVS Register. These and any other Full Volume vehicle may be imported under the Personal Import Scheme if you have owned the vehicle in your name overseas for a period of at least 12 months. Refer to the DOTARS website and in particular document VSB10 for more information.

(http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/vehicle_regulation/bulletin/importing_vehicles/general/personal_imports.aspx)

Any vehicle that exists on the SEVS Register (www.raws.com.au/sevsreg.asp) can be imported into Australia.

However, being able to import it does not mean that it can be complied.

There are many reasons why a model may not be able to be complied.

The vehicles that exist on the Eligible Cars list (www.raws.com.au/sevsregc.asp) can be imported and complied, as these vehicles exist on the schedule for at least one RAW. [You can find all the RAWs that can comply a vehicle by clicking on the Ruling Number.](#)

If a vehicle is not on the Register it cannot be imported under SEVS.

To find which vehicles you may import and have complied, go to the Eligible Cars tab (www.raws.com.au/sevsregc.asp).

The import process is usually as simple as buying the vehicle and having the vehicle delivered to the wharf for shipment.

Contact a workshop here that can comply the vehicle for you, determine which of the workshops you wish to use, and we would always suggest a written compliance agreement to ensure that you know what you have included and what constitute extra charges. When you have that in place, provide your chassis number and pay a deposit to hold compliance.

The workshop applies for the import approval.

Brm Global Logistics can act on your behalf, . The workshop will forward a copy of the import approval to us or to yourself.

Cleaning for quarantine purposes

All vehicles must be thoroughly cleaned, both internally and externally before arrival in Australia. It is the importer's responsibility to ensure each consignment is clean and free of all quarantine risk material (QRM), including live insects, seeds, soil, mud, clay, animal faeces, animal material, plant material such as straw, twigs, leaves, roots, bark, food refuse and other debris prior to arrival in Australia. An Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) officer will inspect all areas of the vehicle. If the vehicle is found to be contaminated, AQIS will direct it for cleaning at the importer's expense. The vehicle will then be re-inspected by AQIS. If the vehicle is found to be heavily contaminated it may be exported from Australia at the importer's expense.

2. Documentation

BRMGL offer 'pre clearance', meaning we will endeavour to have the vehicle released from Australian Customs prior to the vessel arriving. We will see that all necessary documentation is provided to the Australian Customs Service (ACS) and Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) prior to the shipments arrival to guarantee that it is free to be delivered in the shortest time possible. In order to do this we will need to have all supporting documentation where available. Watercraft Mix will be able to assist you in getting these documents together.

- Copy of Ocean Bill Of Lading & House Bill of Lading (HBL)
- Packing Declaration Form (mandatory for all containers - example attached)
- Bill of Sale (or evidence of sale)
- If the vehicle being exported is of US origin then the corresponding documentation would be useful to expedite our clearance. Please see attached AUSFTA Declaration Form.

3. Once your vehicle has arrived in Australia

We understand that you will want to take possession of your vehicle in the quickest possible time, but the vehicle will need both customs and quarantine clearance before it is available. As discussed above BRMGL offer 'pre clearance', meaning we will endeavour to have the vehicle released from Australian Customs prior to the vessel arriving, but the vehicle will still need unpacking and quarantine clearance and this will take several days.

Here is a breakdown of the overall process:-

- Vessel arrives at the destination port in Australia.
- Containers are made available for collection 2-3 days after the vessel arrives.
- Container is picked up from the wharf by the nominated carrier and taken to their approved quarantine warehouse, often referred to as a 'Bonded Warehouse'.
- The vehicle will be unpacked by the nominated carrier and held at the approved warehouse awaiting quarantine clearance.
- A quarantine officer will inspect the vehicle to ensure that they are clean and free of any debris.
- Providing that the vehicle is free from anything deemed as contamination the quarantine officer will then approve the vehicle as clear of quarantine.
- The vehicle is then free to be delivered to the customer by the nominated carrier or picked up by the customer.

The time frame for the warehouse and quarantine clearance process may vary depending on the warehouse used, however you should allow 5 days for this process.

****In summary, from the time the vehicle arrives in Australia to the time your customer can take possession of his vehicle will be between 7-10 days.****