

Shipping a car to Australia

What makes us unique

At Taurus Logistics we're really proud of the fact we're not another vanilla flavoured, soul-less, corporate freight forwarder. We have a real passion for what we do and a drive to solve any problem you might have, we go the distance to get the job done.

1. Response within 24 hours

We understand time's important to you so we guarantee to personally respond to all enquiries within 24hours, Monday to Friday New Zealand time. In some cases we may not be able to respond with a full quote, but we'll always acknowledge your request.

If you are unsure of exactly what you need or you've never shipped before then we're happy to answer all questions about any aspect you may be uncertain about.

2. No hidden costs

There's nothing worse than getting a price and doing your budget only to find out what you were quoted didn't include a raft of other fees and charges. Not only does it bring our industry into disrepute, it has almost become standard practise for many freight forwarders, making it extremely difficult to compare quotes between companies.

When you ask Taurus Logistics for a quote including all charges that's exactly what you get, we'll include all charges to get the job done for you including quarantine, customs clearance, port charges, inland transportation, whatever is needed.

When something is excluded like government taxes or duties we clearly state this on our cover page, no smoke and mirrors or small print.

3. We take care of everything

Once you're booked with Taurus Logistics we'll take care of all the details for you, if a problem crops up(for example you purchase a dump truck at auction and because of a bad oil leak it can't be shipped) then we'll solve the problem (getting the truck fixed).

We don't shy away from problems or push responsibility back, if we can take care of the problem then we'll offer a solution.

4. Experienced Professionals

Because of a tight market with the slimmest of margins, many freight forwarders only employ juniors. At Taurus Logistics we don't believe in that, our team is made up of professionals with years of experience in the shipping industry with many shipments under their belt.

Being privately owned means the agents we work with throughout the world are just like us, we chose each other because we share the same skills and ethos and we actually like them! They're our close friends and colleagues, only a phone call away.

Give us a call and let us help your business succeed!

Vehicle Pre-Purchase Shipping Guide for Australia

Will I be able to drive my vehicle on the road?

First you will need to obtain a Vehicle Import Approval (VIA) from the Vehicle Safety Standards Branch of the [Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government](#). Without an import permit you can NOT import a car to Australia. The only exception is if you are importing under a temporary basis on a Carnet.

Will I have to pay any tax?

It depends on your criteria: for example, is this vehicle returning to Australia?

If the vehicle is returning to Australia then you need to provide proof of previous Australian Registration to exempt you from paying GST/Duties, otherwise GST/Duties are payable on all imports.

The rate payable to the Australian Customs Service at the Australian entry port are as follows:

- Vehicles up to 30 years old including forward control vehicles: 5% Duty + 10% GST
- 4WD "Off Road" vehicles and commercial vehicles: 5% Duty + 10% GST
- Vehicles over 30 years old and motorcycles: 0% Duty + 10% GST

Duties are levied on the 'Customs Value' only whereas GST is levied on the 'Customs Value' + the Duty + the total cost of shipment to Australia figure.

Luxury car tax (LCT) is an additional tax levied at a rate of 33% on all vehicles except motorcycles and some commercial vehicles that have a value in excess of \$57,180AU. LCT is only payable on the amount in excess of the GST inclusive 'break point', the amount of the cars' value over \$43,000AU.

Shipping a car to Australia

Whether your car is a 1920s Model T Ford, a new Porsche or a 30' motorhome, Taurus Logistics ship your vehicle with the utmost care and responsibility.

Taurus Logistics specialise in shipping, offering a stress-free solution to ship your car to Australia from anywhere in the world.

Is it worth shipping my car to Australia?

We ship cars to all main Australian ports including Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney and Fremantle. From these ports we can ship your car on a truck or car carrier right to your home. Taurus Logistics make it easy, offering a wide range of services including steam cleaning, pick up & delivery while looking after Customs, AQIS, and port authorities.

If you're planning to import your car to Australia it should be worth over \$7,000 NZD or have special value to the owner. Otherwise its not really worthwhile.

Given the research we've done, many people choose to export their car given the expense to purchase a car in Australia, others prefer to export their vehicles to Australia because of the sentimental attachment.

Information on importing your car into Australia

When importing a vehicle, motorhome or motorcycle into Australia, the first requirement is that you're an Australian permanent resident or plan to be. For example if you're in New Zealand and moving to Australia, they will not give you final import approval until you're in Australia and have the immigration stamp in your passport.

Only one car per person is allowed which must have been owned and used by the person for 12 months, and not have been out of that country for more than 42 days in the year that you have owned it. Anyone can import a vehicle built before 1989.

You need to apply for an import permit before the car leaves the country at a cost of \$50 AUD.

- [Australian Car Shipping DOTARS Brochure](#)
- [Australian Car Import approval form](#)

If your auto is being exported from New Zealand by way of a RORO vessel it must have a current Warrant of Fitness (WOF), this ensures the safety of the ship and handling staff when cars are driven on and off the ship.

Do I have to pay an import tax or GST when importing cars to Australia?

The rates payable to the Australian Customs Service are:

- Vehicles up to 30 years old including forward control vehicles: 5% Duty + 10% GST
- Vehicles over 30 years old: 0% Duty + 10% GST
- 4wd 'off road' vehicles and commercial vehicles: 5% Duty + 10% GST
- Motorcycles: 0% Duty + 10% GST

The duty is levied on the 'Customs value' only, GST is levied on the 'Customs value' + the duty + the total cost of shipping your vehicle to Australia.

Are there conditions importing a new car to Australia?

Cars with CFC gas will have to be degassed and decommissioned with a certificate supplied. If not degassed/decommissioned the vehicle will be required to have this done prior to release from port in Australia.

- Vehicles manufactured after 1998 will be assumed to have HFC
- Vehicles manufactured earlier than 1998 will require evidence of the gas in use.

What is the luxury car tax for Australian car imports?

Luxury Car Tax (LCT) - is an additional tax levied at a rate of 33% on all vehicles (except motorcycles and some commercial vehicles) with a current GST inclusive value in excess of \$57,009 AUD. LCT is only payable on the amount in excess of the GST inclusive 'break point', cars with a Customs value over £18,000/AU\$43,000/NZ\$54,000.

What are the Australian design standards?

Converting a vehicle to full Australian Safety and Emission Control Standards is very difficult and too costly but is not required if one of the following conditions is met:

- The vehicle has been 'owned and used' for a minimum period of 12 months prior to shipment from the originating country
- The auto was manufactured prior to 1 January 1989
- The car was purchased new and manufactured to Australian specification/standards
- The vehicle was originally manufactured or sold in Australia and still has its Australian compliance plate fitted.

Comparing international shipping quotes

Comparing quotes for shipping is a bit like trying to compare quotes to build a house, is one house brick and the other straw, are you comparing apples to apples, does each quote contain all the services you require?

The shipping and freight forwarding industry don't make it easy for newcomers, many people fall into the trap of accepting the lower price only to find it was half a quote, so when their goods arrive they're hit with a massive invoice for all sorts of charges no-one told them about.

Some quotes will be port to port, some will be door to port, others will try to confuse you with terms like FOB,C&F, CIF or FAS, which is normally a smoke screen to confuse non-industry people and avoid liability foray additional charges.

We find the practice outrageous and underhand, which is why at Taurus Logistics we clearly state what's included with no hidden costs or surprises, just clear concise no-nonsense quotations.

International shipping quotes should have three parts

Origin charges (charges in the country it's currently located in):

- Export documentation
- Inland transport
- Pack charges
- Port charges
- Ocean Freight Charges

Actual ocean freight

- BAF
- CAF

Destination Charges:

- Port charges
- Customs clearances
- Quarantine fees
- Unloading/unpacking

If you have all three then you have a comprehensive quote, if you're unsure then feel free to call us, we won't be offended if you want to talk about a competitor's quote to make sure it's the real deal.

We're happy to explain the quote in plain English letting you know what the terms mean and whether you're getting a good deal on total cost.

Frequently-asked questions: shipping a car

We just love shipping cars. Whether you've found your dream car and need to ship her home, or you're relocating the family station wagon across the ditch, we would love to help. These are some of our most popular questions which we hope you find helpful.

Do you have a vehicle pick-up service?

Yes, we are able to provide a cost to pick up vehicles from almost anywhere, just supply an address with zip/post code.

How much would it cost to insure my vehicle?

The insurance is calculated on the value of the vehicle and the method used to ship. i.e. RORO or in a container. Please request a quotation.

Is RORO the cheapest, or is there another transportation method? What if I have more than one car?

RORO is usually the cheapest method for a single car, but if you are considering multiple cars we can load and lash in a container.

How far in advance would you recommend I make the booking?

Anything more than a week before you want it to sail to guarantee that all the paperwork for export can be completed and that you are able to deliver the vehicle before the cut-off date.

Can a car that still has a loan on it be shipped?

That would be a question to ask your loan company.

Does it matter if my car is dirty?

Your vehicle must be thoroughly steam cleaned and vacuumed prior to shipment.

Can I leave personal effects in the car?

When shipping on a RORO vessel, personal items must not be left in the vehicle as the vehicle will not be accepted on board the vessel.

What is the first thing I need to do before considering importing vehicles to Australia?

You will need to obtain a Vehicle Import Approval (VIA) from the Vehicle Safety Standards Branch of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (Infrastructure). See [Application for Approval to Import a Vehicle](#).

Do I have to have owned my car for 12 months before importing into Australia?

Yes, you must have owned and used the vehicle for 12 months, and not have been out of that country for more than 42 days in the year that you have owned it. Anyone can import a vehicle built before 1989.

What are the restrictions on importing cars into Australia?

Check to see if your vehicle meets Australia's Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989 (OPSGGM Act). Further details can be obtained at <http://www.environment.gov.au/atmosphere/ozone/>

Will I have to pay an import tax and or GST on the value of my vehicle for importing to Australia?

The rates, payable to the Australian Customs Service, at the Australian entry port, are:

- Vehicles up to 30 years old including Forward Control Vehicles: 5% Duty + 10% GST
- 4wd 'Off Road' vehicles and commercial vehicles: 5% Duty + 10% GST
- Vehicles over 30 years old and motorcycles: 0% Duty + 10% GST
- The duty is levied on the 'customs value' only. The GST is levied on the 'customs value' + the duty + the total 'cost of shipment' to Australia figure.

Is there a way to get out of paying GST on imports into Australia?

Depreciation Allowances - only applies to originating country Purchase Price valuation method and if a
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5 Ivan Jamieson Place, Christchurch 8053, New Zealand • Online at www.tauruslogistics.co.nz

Phone +64 3 358-5154 • Fax +64 3 358-4895 • Skype taurussales • Email info@tauruslogistics.co.nz

vehicle was purchased before 2nd March 1998. The maximum allowance of 76% is for cars owned over 6 years.

Can you please tell me what luxury car tax is for imports into Australia?

Luxury Car Tax (LCT) - This is an additional tax and is levied at a rate of 33% on all vehicles, except motorcycles and some commercial vehicles, with a current GST inclusive value in excess of \$57,180 AUD (figure set annually by the Australian Taxation Office). LCT is only payable on the amount in excess of a GST inclusive 'break point' and will only be levied in very few instances as the 'break point' only relates to cars with a customs value over about £18,000/AU\$43,000/NZ\$54,000

I have read that my car has to be compliant to Australian Design Standards, what does this mean?

Compliance to or exemption from Australian design rules - converting a vehicle to full Australian Safety and Emission Control Standards is very difficult and too costly but is not required if one of the following conditions is met:

- The vehicle has been 'Owned and Used' for a minimum period of twelve calendar months prior to shipment from the originating country
- The vehicle was manufactured prior to 1 January 1989
- The vehicle to be imported was purchased new and was manufactured to the full Australian specification/standards
- The vehicle was originally manufactured or sold in Australia and still has its Australian compliance plate fitted.

Preparing a vehicle for international shipping

What do I have to do before shipping?

Clean your car

You should aim to have your car in the cleanest possible condition. Best practice is to have the car thoroughly steam cleaned and vacuumed prior to shipment. There is no need to get it "detailed" but the goal is to remove all dirt and contamination inside and out. We can offer this as an additional service in some locations.

Personal goods in cars

When shipping on a RORO vessel personal items must not be left in the vehicle, if they are, the vehicle will not be accepted on-board the vessel.

There is the option to load your car into a container which would allow you to also ship some personal belongings, but this is normally a more expensive option than RORO.

If you're taking out Insurance

If you're taking out marine insurance then a pre-shipment inspection report is required to be done by an independent party. If this is not done prior to shipping then any excess is doubled.