

Left-hand drive vehicles

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Left-hand drive vehicles

6-1 Left-hand drive categories

Table 6-1 describes the only categories under which a left-hand drive vehicle may be registered.

Table 6-1. Left-hand drive vehicle categories

Category	Description
A	A motor car or goods service vehicle with a gross vehicle mass (GVM) of less than 3501 kgs, imported for the personal use of the importer, that was originally manufactured in a country other than New Zealand less than 20 years before the date of import into New Zealand. The importer must provide evidence that he/she has owned and operated (Note 2) the vehicle, registered in the vehicle importer's name, in another country for no less than 90 consecutive days immediately prior to the date of shipment of the vehicle to New Zealand. A person is permitted to register no more than one such vehicle in any five-year period. The importer must be resident within New Zealand at the time the vehicle is registered. The exemption ceases to be valid if the original importer ceases to be the registered owner within five years of its first registration in New Zealand or before the vehicle is more than 20 years old, whichever is the earlier.
B	A motor car or goods service vehicle with a gross vehicle mass (GVM) of less than 3501 kg imported for the personal use of the importer, which was manufactured 20 or more years before the date it was imported. No more than one such vehicle per person may be registered in any 12 month period. The importer must be resident in New Zealand at the time of registration.
C	Specialist vehicles. There are three sub-groups in this category: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Dual-control vehicles that must have the main controls on the right-hand side. They can only be driven from the left while they are engaged in activities requiring left-hand drive (LHD) controls for operational or safety purposes, and must not be capable of exceeding a speed of 30 km/h while being operated from the LHD position. The following specific vehicle types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> power cranes vehicles equipped as hearses vehicles operating wholly or partly on self-laying tracks earthmoving machinery agricultural tractors self-propelled harvesting machinery. Other specialist vehicles that the NZTA agrees (in writing) have special characteristics or are equipped for special operational purposes, which make it impractical to convert them to right-hand drive.
D	A vehicle operated by a diplomat or a staff member of Operation Deep Freeze.
E	Any vehicle registered before the new system came into effect on 1 April 1998 and which was previously exempt.
F	Vehicles transiting New Zealand and operated under a Carnet de Passage.

Left-hand drive vehicles

6-2 Document requirements

Table 6-2 details the documentation requirements for each left-hand drive category. The documentation must be sighted by the TSD agent processing the left-hand drive vehicle.

Table 6-2. Documentation requirements for left-hand drive vehicles

Category	Required documentation
A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overseas registration papers (pink slip or certificate of title) in the importer's name. They must be dated for a minimum of 90 consecutive days prior to shipping the vehicle, or prior to the importer leaving the country of the vehicle's registration, whichever is earlier, and 2. evidence of vehicle ownership (eg a purchase receipt, bill of sale, or similar in the importer's name), and 3. evidence that the person applying to register the vehicle is the vehicle importer. This may be either a bill of lading, or shipping or insurance documents in the importer's name, or vehicle import entry documentation from a customs agent in the importer's name – an electronic printout is acceptable (Note 5), and 4. evidence the importer lived in the vehicle's country of origin for a minimum of 90 consecutive days prior to shipment of the vehicle, for the duration of the vehicle's registration overseas (eg passport with entry/exit stamps, immigration visas, plane tickets), and 5. evidence the importer is a New Zealand citizen (eg passport with appropriate stamps or New Zealand residence permit), and 6. a declaration (Note 3) signed by the importer, stating that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the vehicle is for their own personal use, and • they will retain ownership of the vehicle for at least five years after its registration, or until it is 20 years old, whichever is earlier, and • they have not registered a left-hand drive vehicle under 20 years old in the last five years.
B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overseas registration papers (pink slip or certificate of title), and 2. evidence of vehicle ownership (eg a purchase receipt, bill of sale, or similar in the importer's name), and 3. evidence that the person applying to register the vehicle is the vehicle importer. This may be either a bill of lading, or shipping or insurance documents in the importer's name, or vehicle import entry documentation from a customs agent in the importer's name – an electronic printout is acceptable (Note 5), and 4. evidence the importer is a New Zealand citizen/resident (eg passport with appropriate stamps or New Zealand residence permit), and 5. a declaration (Note 4) signed by the importer, stating that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the vehicle is for their own personal use, and • they will retain ownership of the vehicle for at least six months after its registration, and • they have not registered another vehicle in that category in the past 12 months.
C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overseas registration papers (pink slip or certificate of title) or a manufacturer's completion certificate, and 2. evidence of vehicle ownership (eg a purchase receipt, bill of sale, or similar in the importer's name), and 3. written agreement from the NZTA that the vehicle has special characteristics, or is equipped for special operational purposes that would make conversion to right-hand drive impractical if the vehicle is not dual control or a specified specialist vehicle.
D	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overseas registration papers (pink slip or certificate of title), and 2. a recent letter of accreditation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade or Operation Deep Freeze stating that the importer has been posted to New Zealand.
E	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidence of previous New Zealand registration, or NZTA import consent if the vehicle was imported prior to 1 April 1998.
F	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carnet de Passage, and 2. either <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) tryptique, or b) New Zealand Customs import declaration form.

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6-2 Document requirements (cont.)

Note 1 It has been determined that motorcycles with a side-car fitted on the right-hand side of the vehicle do not have steering columns and, therefore, are not required to comply with left-hand drive exemption requirements.

Note 2 Under the Left-hand drive (exemption from equipment requirements) amendment notice 2005 (*New Zealand Gazette* notice au 6428), 'operated' means actual and personal use of the vehicle by the original importer in the country from which the vehicle is imported.

Note 3 See Reference material 51 for a copy of the Category A declaration form.

Note 4 See Reference material 52 for a copy of the Category B declaration form.

Note 5 If the shipper/consignee on the bill of lading is not the importer's name (eg it is in the name of the freight forwarding company), one of the other listed documents, or a suitable alternative, should be used as evidence that the importer is the person applying to register the vehicle.

All documents supplied in support of an application to register a left-hand drive vehicle must be original.

If the importer is unable to supply the required documents, the vehicle must not be certified.

TSD agents must retain copies of all documentation in their original form for a minimum of two years. If the vehicle owner requests that original documents be returned to them, verified copies must be retained in the vehicle file. The recipient's name and the reason for return must be recorded in the LANDATA notes.

Left-hand drive vehicles

6-3 Completing the left-hand drive process

A left-hand drive vehicle must be recorded as the appropriate type in the 'special permit types' field in the 'VIN authority allocation/confirmation' screen. **Table 6-3** lists valid permit type codes.

Table 6-3. Special permit type codes

Code	Description
LA	Left-hand drive - Category A (Note 5)
LB	Left-hand drive - Category B
LC	Left-hand drive - Category C
LD	Left-hand drive - Category D
LE	Left-hand drive - Category E
LG	Left-hand drive motorsport vehicle
DS	Dual-steer vehicle

Note 5 Where code LA is entered, a note stating the following must be added to the vehicle notes:
'Vehicle ceases to qualify for left-hand drive exemption if the registered owner changes from [name of importer] before [DDMMYYYYY]'.
The date specified must be either five years after first registration in New Zealand or when the vehicle reaches 20 years of age, whichever is earlier.

Once all the required documentation has been checked and the declaration (if applicable) is signed by the importer, the TSD agent prints an MR2A form and fills in the **importer's name** before handing it to the owner (a person presenting a left-hand drive vehicle for certification must not be given an incomplete MR2A form). The vehicle is then registered and the declaration is completed with registration plate number and registration date. Category A vehicles must have NOTES entered in LANDATA showing the restrictions on change of ownership to complete the process.

A copy of the completed MR2A form, and the original category A or B declaration (if applicable) must be sent to:

*Administration Officer
Vehicle Certification
NZ Transport Agency
PO Box 5084
Wellington 6145*

Any queries about individual cases involving left-hand drive vehicles not covered by these procedures should be referred to the NZTA call centre, on 0800 699 000.

1. Reprinting MR2A forms

A replacement MR2A form for a left-hand drive vehicle can only be issued by the TSD agent holding the original left-hand drive compliance documents.

Please ensure that the person requesting the MR2A for a category A or B vehicle is the same person as listed as the vehicle owner on the original documentation.

Extract from *New Zealand Gazette* 19 March 1998. No 42 p. 978

Left Hand Drive (Exemption from Equipment Requirements) Notice 1998

Pursuant to regulation 90 (1) of the Traffic Regulations 1976 ('the regulations'), and pursuant to an authority delegated to me by the Director of Land Transport Safety ('the director'), I Simon Christopher Whitely, Manager Safer Vehicles, give the following notice:

Notice

1. This notice may be cited as the Left Hand Drive (Exemption from Equipment Requirements) Notice 1998 and shall come into force on the 1st day of April 1998.
2. This notice applies to those motor vehicles of the categories specified in the Schedule to this notice which have the steering column to the left of the longitudinal centre line of the body of the vehicle and which are, or have been, imported into New Zealand from any other country.
3. Subject to 4. below, I declare exempt from the requirements of regulation 70 (1) of the regulations those vehicles referred to in 2. above ('the exempted vehicles').
4. The exempted vehicles shall be subject to the conditions specified in relation to the appropriate categories in the Schedule to this notice.
5. This notice shall, from the date of its coming into force, replace any previous notices pursuant to regulation 90 (1) and exempt motor vehicles from the requirements of regulation 70 (1) of the regulations.

Schedule

Category A: Light Vehicle Less Than 20 Years Old

Any motor car or goods service vehicle with a gross vehicle mass (as specified by the manufacturer of the vehicle) of not more than 3500 kilograms that was originally manufactured in a country other than New Zealand less than 20 years before the date of importation into New Zealand.

Conditions

- (1) The person who imports the vehicle ('the original importer') must have owned and operated the vehicle, as a vehicle registered in that importer's name, in a country other than New Zealand for no less than 90 consecutive days immediately prior to the vehicle's date of shipping to New Zealand.
- (2) The vehicle must be imported solely for the personal use of the original importer.
- (3) The original importer must be resident in New Zealand and must be a citizen of New Zealand or hold a New Zealand residence permit at the time of registration of the vehicle.
- (4) The first registration of the vehicle in New Zealand (in accordance with the Transport (Vehicle and Driver Registration and Licensing) Act 1986) must be in the name of the original importer.
- (5) No vehicle of this category shall be an exempted vehicle where any such vehicle is registered in New Zealand in the name of the original importer 5 years or less from the date of first registration in New Zealand of any other such vehicle.
- (6) A vehicle of this category shall not be exempted while it is registered in New Zealand in the name of any person other than that of the original importer during a period of 5 years from the date or its first registration in New Zealand unless 20 years or more have elapsed since the date of the vehicle's original manufacture.

Category B: Light Vehicle More Than 20 Years Old

Any motor car or goods service vehicle with a gross vehicle mass (as specified by the manufacturer of the vehicle) of not more than 3500 kilograms and which was originally manufactured in a country other than New Zealand 20 years or more before its date of importation into New

Zealand.

Conditions

- (1) The vehicle must be imported solely for the personal use of the original importer.
- (2) The original importer must be resident in New Zealand and must be a citizen of New Zealand or hold a New Zealand residence permit at the time of registration of the vehicle.
- (3) The first registration of the vehicle in New Zealand (in accordance with the Transport (Vehicle and Driver Registration and Licensing) Act 1986) must be in the name of the original importer.
- (4) No vehicle of this category shall be an exempted vehicle where any such vehicle is registered in New Zealand in the name of the original importer 1 year or less from the date of first registration in New Zealand of any other such vehicle.

Category C1: Dual Steering Controls

Any motor vehicle with dual steering columns and controls.

Conditions

No person may operate the vehicle from the left hand drive position unless the vehicle is at that time engaged in activities which require left hand drive control for operational or safety purposes.

Category C2: Other Specialist Vehicles

- (1) Any vehicle of the following specified types and used solely or principally as such:
 - (a) a mobile crane;
 - (b) a vehicle equipped as a hearse;
 - (c) a vehicle which operates wholly or partly on self-laying tracks;
 - (d) an agricultural tractor or self-propelled agricultural harvesting machine;
 - (e) an earthmoving machine.
- (2) Any specialist vehicle where the director confirms in writing that the vehicle has special characteristics, or is equipped for special operational purposes, so that conversion to right hand drive is impractical.

Conditions—applicable only to Category C2 (2) vehicles

In respect of a category C2 (2) vehicle, the vehicle shall be an exempted vehicle only where the director agrees that the operation of the vehicle requires it to have its steering column to the left of the longitudinal centre line.

Category D: Operated by Diplomats and for 'Operation Deep Freeze'

Any vehicle that is operated by a person who is, for the time being, entitled to any immunity from jurisdiction by or under the Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act 1968 or the Consular Privileges and Immunities Act 1971 or by staff and employees engaged in Operation Deep Freeze.

Notice No. 1851

Extract from *New Zealand Gazette* 19 March 1998. No 42 p. 978

Category E: Previously Exempted

Any motor vehicle which was exempted from the requirements of regulation 70 (1) of the regulations or from any previous substantially corresponding provision prior to the coming into force of this notice. The conditions of that original exemption still apply.

Category F: Vehicles Exempt From Registration and Licensing

Any motor vehicle which is exempt in accordance with regulation 3 of the Transport (Vehicle Registration and Licensing) Regulations 1994 to the extent specified in Part 1.5. of the First Schedule of those regulations.

Signed at Wellington this 12th day of March 1998.

SIMON CHRISTOPHER WHITELEY, Manager Safer Vehicles, acting under the authority delegated to me by way of instrument of delegation dated 23 December 1996.

au1851

Extract from *New Zealand Gazette* 25 February 1999. No 23, p. 575

Amendment to Left Hand Drive (Exemption From Equipment Requirements) Notice 1998

Pursuant to regulation 90 (1) of the Traffic Regulations 1976, and in accordance with an authority delegated to me by the Director of Land Transport Safety by an instrument dated 23 December 1996, I, Simon Christopher Whiteley, Manager Safer Vehicles, give the following notice:

Notice

1. This notice ('the amendment notice') amends the Left Hand Drive (Exemption From Equipment Requirements) Notice 1998 ('the March 1998 Notice') published in the *New Zealand Gazette*, 19 March 1998, No. 42, page 978.
2. This amendment notice shall come into force on the 1st day of March 1999.
3. This amendment notice applies to those motor vehicles specified in Category E of the Schedule to the March 1998 Notice ('Category E vehicles').
4. The conditions applying to Category E vehicles shall be varied as specified in the Schedule to this notice.

Schedule

- (i) Those conditions requiring the retention and production of a letter from the Land Transport Safety Authority of New Zealand shall no longer apply.
- (ii) The condition requiring continuing registration of the vehicle in the name of the importer until it is 20 years old or until conversion to right hand drive shall be replaced by Condition (6) of Category A of the Schedule to the March 1998 Notice.

Signed at Wellington this 22nd day of February 1999.

SIMON CHRISTOPHER WHITELEY, Manager Safer Vehicles, acting under the authority delegated to me by way of instrument of delegation dated 23 December 1996.

au 1478

Notice No. 1478

Note 1 A motorcycle with a sidecar fitted to the right-hand side of the vehicle does not have a steering column, and therefore is not covered by regulation 70(1) of Transport Regulation 76. This means that it does not have to meet conditions of the above left-hand drive exemption *Gazette* notices.

