

Vehicle Import Checklist

Documents and steps for importing a vehicle into Zimbabwe

Check every item before you buy or ship. Some requirements depend on the vehicle's age and on your status as an importer, so confirm the rules for your case first.

Core documents

Done	Document / item	Notes
☐	Purchase invoice or bill of sale	In the buyer's name, showing price, make, model, year and VIN / chassis number.
☐	Proof of payment	Supports the declared price.
☐	Transport document	Bill of Lading, or road consignment note if driven or trucked in.
☐	Export / de-registration papers	From the country of origin, showing the vehicle was legally exported.
☐	Certificate of Conformity (CBCA)	Used vehicles are covered by the CBCA programme and need a Certificate of Conformity. Get it before shipping.
☐	Importer ID and ZIMRA registration	Passport or national ID and BP number. Returning residents bring proof of time abroad.
☐	Insurance and freight charges	Cost of getting the vehicle to Zimbabwe forms part of the value for duty.
☐	Agent's letter of authority	Appoints your clearing agent.

Age and eligibility

- Zimbabwe restricts imports of used vehicles to those under 10 years old, counted at completion of clearance, with limited exceptions. Do not buy a vehicle close to the limit without confirming first.
- Exceptions exist for certain categories such as returning residents, diplomats and qualifying classic vehicles. These carry their own conditions and permits.
- Duty, surtax and VAT depend on the vehicle's age, engine and type. See our **Importing a Vehicle into Zimbabwe, 2026 Guide** for how it is calculated.

VIN inspection

- The vehicle's VIN / chassis and engine numbers must match the documents exactly.
- A police vehicle inspection is part of registration. A mismatch, tampering or missing plate can stop registration.
- Photograph the VIN plate and engine number before shipping and keep copies.

Border and registration steps

Done	Step	What happens
☐	1. Pre-clearance	Documents sent to your clearing agent and the declaration prepared before arrival.
☐	2. Arrival and declaration	Vehicle presented at the border post with documents; declaration lodged and assessed.
☐	3. Payment and release	Duty and taxes paid to ZIMRA; vehicle released.
☐	4. VIN inspection	Police inspection of the vehicle.
☐	5. Registration	Registration and licensing, including ZINARA vehicle licence.

Need help with this consignment? Speak to your George Steward clearing agent before the goods ship. Getting the paperwork right at the start avoids delays and storage charges at the border.

General guidance only, not legal or tax advice. Requirements, permits and rates are set by ZIMRA and other regulators and change from time to time. Confirm the requirements for your specific shipment with your George Steward clearing agent before you ship. Last reviewed: October 2026.