

FACT SHEET

Imported and Exported Vehicles Procedures

This fact sheet explains the procedures and documents necessary for titling imported vehicles (also known as foreign market vehicles or grey market vehicles) in Pennsylvania and for vehicles currently titled in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania being exported to another country. These procedures should be reviewed **prior** to importing or exporting a vehicle.

IMPORTED VEHICLE PROCEDURES

An imported vehicle is any vehicle brought into the United States (U.S.) from any foreign country (including Canada). These vehicles "may" or "may not" meet the requirements in the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act (and the policies and regulations adopted as a result of this Act) and EPA Emission Standards.

This procedure also includes U.S. manufactured vehicles that are produced for export and subsequently imported.

NOTE: Guam, American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico are all governed as U.S. territories and vehicles shipped from these U.S. territories do not need to follow the import procedures.

Motor vehicles manufactured not more than 25 model years ago are subject to the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) and emissions requirements in order to be imported permanently and **cannot** be titled and registered in Pennsylvania without proof of conformity with those requirements. Vehicles manufactured to meet the FMVSS will have a certification label affixed by the original vehicle manufacturer in the area of the driver-side door. To make importation easier, when purchasing a vehicle certified by a foreign country as meeting U.S. standards, the buyer should have the sales contract verify that a certification label has been attached to the vehicle and present this document at time of importation.

A vehicle without this certification label must be imported as a nonconforming vehicle. In this case, the importer must contract with a U.S. Department of Transportation Registered Importer.

PennDOT will issue a certificate of title and a registration for an imported vehicle when the applicant submits proof that the vehicle complies with FMVSS and emissions requirements. Vehicles conforming to those requirements which are subsequently brought into compliance will be issued a Pennsylvania certificate of title branded with a "F" ("F" – Out of Country but in compliance with FMVSS). Vehicles not conforming to FMVSS requirements will not be issued a Pennsylvania Certificate of Title. Foreign Military members that bring their personal vehicle to PA and plan to export it upon completion of their military orders will be branded with a "G" ("G" – Originally Mfd. For Non-U.S. Distribution not in compliance with FMVSS).

Motor vehicles manufactured more than 25 model years ago that meet the import exemption requirements are subject to an Enhanced Safety Inspection and must have [Form MV-426B, "Application for Reconstructed, Specially Constructed, Collectible, Modified, Flood, Recovered Theft Vehicles and Street Rods,"](#) completed by the enhanced safety inspection station. Upon passing the enhanced inspection, these vehicles will be given an "F" brand on the vehicle title, which shows that the vehicle was originally manufactured out of country but have been brought



into compliance with FMVSS and environmental protection standards. For a complete list of Enhanced Safety Inspection Stations, click [here](#).

Applicants must submit the following documentation:

- ❖ Completed Form MV-1, "Application for Certificate of Title," from an authorized agent. The authorized agent will complete the MV-1 application. A tracing or verification of the vehicle identification number (VIN) by a certified inspection mechanic or notary public employed by a full agent is required. (If the applicant is serving in the military and the vehicle is physically located out-of-state, a police officer, a mechanic employed by a dealer, or an armed forces installation provost marshal or motor transportation officer can verify the VIN.) **NOTE:** Notarization of the applicant's signature is required on Form MV-1.
- ❖ Original vehicle proof of ownership documents.
 1. English translations for all documents written exclusively in foreign language are required. (Note: Kilometers must be converted to U.S. miles.)
 2. The following U.S. Customs Entry Forms are acceptable proof in the U.S. for the purpose of titling and registration. Only one of these acceptable documents must be submitted with Form MV-1:
 - a. CBP7501, Entry Summary. **NOTE:** May or may not have a U.S. Customs Officer's signature.
 - b. CBP3461, Entry/Immediate Delivery. **NOTE:** May or may not have a U.S. Customs Officer's signature.
 - c. CBP3461ALT, Entry Immediate Delivery Alternate. **NOTE:** May or may not have a U.S. Customs Officer's signature.

NOTE: The above forms must have the Port of Entry Number OR U.S. Customs stamp/seal or both recorded on the document.

Generally, U.S. Customs maintains the original copies of the U.S. Customs Entry Forms listed above for their records. U.S. Customs provides the vehicle importer with a copy of the form and that copy must be included with the Pennsylvania application for title and registration. A notarized copy of the Customs document provided to the vehicle importer may be submitted with a notation indicating *"This is a true and accurate copy of the U.S. Customs document in the vehicle owner's possession."* **NOTE:** If multiple vehicles are listed on the U.S. Customs Entry Form and the customer is not titling all of the vehicles listed, a notarized copy of the Customs document provided to the vehicle importer may be submitted with the same notation listed above. The notarized copy must be included with the other documentation submitted with the application. When multiple vehicles are not listed individually on an acceptable U.S. Customs Entry Form, the form must contain a notation that the form covers multiple entry vehicles and reference an attached listing of said vehicles.

1. All additional importation shipping documents establishing vehicle ownership and indicating how the vehicle entered the U.S. (i.e., bill of lading, shipping invoice, etc.).
2. A properly completed U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Form HS-7, "Declaration (Importation of Motor Vehicles and Motor Vehicle Equipment Subject to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety, Bumper and Theft Prevention Standards)."
3. A copy of properly completed Form EPA 3520-1 that has been supplied to U.S. Customs at the Port of Entry. **NOTE:** Form EPA 3520-1 is not required for imported trailers or for vehicles over 25 years old.
4. A letter from the vehicle manufacturer that includes information regarding the vehicle's safety and EPA compliance.
5. If applicable, the original **"Bond Release Letter"** from the U.S. Department of Transportation, NHTSA. **NOTE:** If the customer is unable to provide the original copy of the Bond Release Letter,

the customer must contact the “registered importer.” The “registered importer” will need to request that NHTSA send another copy of the letter to the customer or send an electronic copy (e-mail) of the letter to the customer.

6. Pennsylvania sales tax is due on the purchase price of the vehicle. (No sales tax exemption is available for military personnel.)

NOTE: For Military Personnel Only:

If you owned the vehicle for more than six months prior to applying for a Pennsylvania Certificate of Title and your home of record was Pennsylvania at the time of purchase, sales tax will be based on 6% (7% for residents of Allegheny County and 8% for City of Philadelphia residents) of the vehicle’s purchase price or on fair market value at time of first entry into Pennsylvania, less credit for tax paid in a reciprocal state.

If you owned the vehicle less than six months prior to applying for Pennsylvania Certificate of Title and your home of record is Pennsylvania, sales tax will be based on 6% (7% for residents of Allegheny County and 8% for City of Philadelphia residents) of the vehicle’s purchase price at time of first entry into Pennsylvania, less credit for tax paid in a reciprocal state. You must attach a tax receipt from a reciprocal state to the application for title.

7. Proof of insurance is required, if registration is requested.
8. Check or money order must be made payable to the “Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.”
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) personnel are not exempt from the above requirements.

PENNSYLVANIA PORTS OF ENTRY – www.cbp.gov

ERIE U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

Erie International Airport/Tom Ridge Field
4459 W. 12th Street
Erie, PA 16505
(814)833-1355
Hours of operation: 8:00am – 9:30pm Monday-Friday

HARRISBURG/MECHANICSBURG U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

Custom Border Protection 1215 Manor Drive
Suite 301
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
(717) 691-7136
Hours of operation: 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday-Friday

PHILADELPHIA U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Room 102
Philadelphia, PA 19106 (215) 717-5952
Hours of operation: 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday-Friday

WILKES BARRE/SCRANTON U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

102 Hanger Road
Airport Aviation Bldg.
Room 201
Avoca, Pa 18641
(570) 457-8024

Hours of operation: 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday-Friday

LEHIGH VALLEY U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

997 Postal Road
Allentown, Pa 18109
(610) 266-1042

Hours of operation: 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday-Friday

PITTSBURGH U.S. CUSTOMS BORDER AND PROTECTION

700 Airside Drive
Cargo Bldg. A
Moon Township, PA 15108
(412) 472-0715

Hours of operation: 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday-Friday

EXPORT VEHICLE PROCEDURES

The vehicle owner exporting a vehicle from the U.S. must present to the U.S. Customs Office, at the Port of Exportation, the vehicle and the required documents describing the vehicle. The vehicle and documents must be submitted to the U.S. Customs Office at least 72 hours prior to export of the vehicle by air, vessel or land.

NOTE: The vehicle must be presented prior to the time of export for inspection by a U.S. Customs Officer. The following documents are required to be presented:

- ❖ The original certificate of title or a certified copy of the original certificate of title and two additional copies of the original certificate of title must be provided to the U.S. Customs Officer prior to export of the vehicle.