

CAR RE-REGISTRATION IN SPAIN: HOW IT WORKS!

We will explain you how works the re-registration in Spain, which administrative procedures have to be completed and which documents you need. You will also find out how you can deregister your old plate from your home country and what you need to consider when changing your registration.

When do I have to register my car in Spain?

By law, you have to register and tax car where you habitually reside. If you live in Spain for more than 6 months (185 days) at a time, you have to re-register the car you brought with you at the responsible registration office.

Non-residents who stay in Spain for less than 183 days a year and still have their residence in another EU- country generally do not have to re-register their car. Despite this, cases are now known where spanish police offers asked non-residents with foreign licence plates during traffic checks to re-register their cars as quickly as possible. Otherwise you risk a hefty fine. Therefore we recommend to register your car after just 3 months of staying in Spain if you do not want to risk high penalties.

What do I need to re-register my car in Spain?

The following documents/steps are necessary to re-register your vehicle with the responsible traffic registration office in Spain:



✓ A current proof of the spanish emissions and general inspection of the car to be re-registered by the spanish MoT (ITV). The ITV issues the so-called Ficha Técnica, which roughly corresponds to the english V5 Logbook.

- ✓ Original V5C Logbook
- ✓ Original Certificate of Conformity CE (COC)
- ✓ Due to the process of separation of the UK from the EU, type approvals no longer have mutual recognition with effect from January 1, 2021. So, any vehicle that has been registered in the UK before that date will have a valid European approval. Vehicles after that date not and so they will be considered as imported from a third country. In this case an individual homologation process will have to be carried out- a more expensive and slower process.
- ✓ Passport
- ✓ TIE, NIE or green residency card
- ✓ Register with the spanish tax office if you are not registered there
- ✓ Current registration certificate (certificado de empadronamiento) from the town hall or green residency card
- ✓ Completed admission application (Solicitud de matriculación)
- ✓ Payment of the spanish vehicle tax (impuesto de vehículos de tracción mecánica IVTM) of the car to be re-registered with SUMA. The vehicle tax varies from place to place and depends basically on the type of vehicle and the „potencia fiscal“ mentioned in the documents.
- ✓ Payment of the registration tax (impuestos de matriculación) tax model 576. This is based on the current value of the vehicle specified by the tax office and the CO2 emissions value. The following overview shows which tax rate applies to your vehicle: 0 – 120 = 0%; 121 – 159 = 4,75%; 160 – 199 = 9,75%; >200 = 16%. If the car has been driven less than 6000 kilometers and is not older than 6 months, you have to submit a sales tax return (21%).

✓ Copies of the original car documents may have been stamped at your spanish traffic office in order to be able to deregister your car from your home registration authority after the successful re-registration in Spain. Your original vehicle documents will be retained by the spanish traffic office.

After the presentation of the above mentioned documents and proof of payment of taxes, the traffic office will issue you with the spanish registration (permiso de circulación).

New license plates

Now that you have received your new registration certificate (permiso de circulación) from the spanish traffic office, you can order to stamp new license plates by an authorized service. Usually you will find the relevant shops close to the registration office

In Spain, licence plates of your own choice (desired licence plates) are not possible, as in many other countries. Since 2001, all car license plates in Spain have been issued according to a uniform national system. These consist of 4 numbers followed by 3 letters. Due to this nationwide allocation system, it is no longer possible to identify the province based on the license plate. Another special feature of license plates in Spain is that they remain on the vehicle forever, even if they change owners.

What else do you need to consider?

After you have successfully registered your car in Spain, you also have to deregister it in your home country so as not to continue paying unnecessary vehicle taxes and insurances. The deregistering of your car is usually not automatic. You have to contact the relevant consulate with the stamped copies of the vehicle documents and the old plates. There you will receive a deregistration certificate for a fee. The consulate in Spain will take care of deregistering your car.

Important note: Before you can finally drive on public roads with the new license plates, of course you need a car insurance from an insurance company that is based in Spain.



Conclusion: Re-registering a car in Spain is not that easy and, above all, not cheap. Anyone who has little language and computer skills, or who finds filling out forms, dealing with the authorities and the miserable waits in offices too annoying, should seek professional help.

We take care of the entire car re-registration process in Spain for you.



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