

CARNET DE PASSAGES EN DOUANES

BACKGROUND

A Carnet de Passages en Douanes is an internationally recognised Customs document entitling the holder to TEMPORARILY import a vehicle duty-free into certain countries, which normally require a deposit against import charges for such vehicles (generally countries outside Europe). The Carnet is used within the framework of the UN Customs Conventions of 1954 & 1956.

The Carnet is issued under the auspices of two international touring organisations - the AIT and the FIA. Major automobile and touring clubs throughout the world are affiliated to one or both of these organisations and a number are authorised to issue Carnets within the AIT/FIA customs documents network. This includes RAC who are affiliated to the FIA. A Carnet is valid for a maximum of one year. A Carnet holder whose journey goes beyond one year may, in certain circumstances, obtain a second Carnet or, in some countries, an extension by contacting the local motoring organisation and seeking further advice from RAC.

DESCRIPTION

The Carnet is a booklet made up of either 5, 10 or 25 pages. A 5-page Carnet allows the holder to temporarily import into 5 countries or on 5 different occasions. A 10 or 25 page Carnet covers the temporary importation procedure up to 10 or 25 times. Each page is divided into three sections; the lower section is removed by Customs on entry into a country; the middle section is removed on exit; the top, counter-foil section, is stamped once on entry and once on exit. A country re-visited during the return journey will require a new page to be stamped. It is vital that the holder gets these endorsements as they prove that a vehicle has complied with the temporary import conditions and discharge responsibility for any possible future import charges. Countries not covered by a particular Carnet are noted in a list of exclusions on each page and back cover of the booklet.

ISSUING PROCEDURE

On issuing a Carnet, a motoring organisation becomes directly responsible for the payment of customs duties and taxes if the regulations concerning temporary import are infringed. In order to take on this responsibility, RAC requires the applicant to meet a number of conditions: they must be able to give a UK address and provide a legible copy of their passport, vehicle registration document/certificate and driving licence (paper form and photocard).

The applicant must also provide a security amount in the form of an insurance indemnity which is calculated on the vehicle value/countries of visit and included in the quote provided to you.

50% of the insurance indemnity premium and 100% of the deposit paid is refunded on return of the correctly discharged Carnet to the RAC.

SECURITY RATE TABLE

The amount of security required by the RAC depends on the rates of customs duty and taxes in the countries visited - but is always a multiple of the value of the vehicle. For example, £3,000 value x 250% = £7,500 (South Africa) X 10% = £750. The £750 forms part of the overall quote you are provided with.

SECURITY RATE TABLE	
The amount of security required depends on the risk of the countries visiting but is always a multiple of the value of the vehicle (chassis value). For example £3,000 value X 250% = £7,500(South Africa) X 10% = £750 Security to pay plus 6% Insurance Premium Tax	
Egypt	800%
Iran, Pakistan, India, Nepal	500%
Sri Lanka, Middle & Far East (eg	200%
Singapore/Malaysia)	
South America	150%
(Carnet is recommended only)	
Africa (excluding Egypt)	250%
Japan/New Zealand	150%
Australia	150% + £8,000 Vehicle Import Approval
	Supplement (cars only)

Generally, RAC requires a minimum of **one months notice** once the completed application form and all required documents are provided to allow for processing/issue of a Carnet. When the application has been processed a no obligation quotation will be provided detailing the total cost of the Carnet.

DISCHARGE OF THE CARNET

On completion of a journey the Carnet-holder must return the document by secure post to RAC Carnets, Great Park Road, Bradley Stoke, Bristol, BS34 8RY.

When returning the Carnet from overseas this should be via courier/secure post with advance notice by email of dispatch (carnets@rac.co.uk) so we can confirm safe receipt.

The Carnet will be checked to ensure it has been stamped correctly in and out of each country visited to ensure no further claims can be made by any Customs authority. After verification, any refunds applicable will be returned. The Carnet remains the property of RAC.

The last page of the Carnet ("Certificate of Location") must be completed and witnessed by an official authority (Customs, Police or Judiciary) either in the UK or the country of final import. Failure to do this may delay the release of the security to the Carnet holder who can still be held liable for customs duties. RAC can advise.

If a vehicle is stolen or written-off during the journey, a police report and Customs acknowledgement must be obtained as soon as possible. RAC should also be notified at this time. A Carnet does not cover the duties and taxes payable in the event of loss or theft of a vehicle.

A carnet must be returned to RAC as soon as the Carnet expires, or when the vehicle has returned to the UK (whichever is sooner), unless prior contact or arrangements have been made.

If the Carnet is not returned to RAC and the Carnet holder fails to comply with the temporary importation regulations and procedures, RAC reserves the right to refuse refunding of monies and the holder will be liable for any duties and taxes applicable.

CONDITIONS OF TEMPORARY IMPORT

The Carnet is a legal document allowing temporary importation only and, as such, penalties for its misuse are severe. Conditions of issue, including the general regulations regarding temporary importation, are shown on the inside back cover of the Carnet. The main conditions are:

- A temporarily imported vehicle cannot be sold, loaned, abandoned, hired, or otherwise disposed of without the prior agreement of the local Customs authority and the RAC.
- The Carnet can only be extended with the prior agreement of the local Customs authority and the RAC.
- The Carnet holder is responsible for ensuring the Carnet is properly endorsed at each border crossing.
- The Carnet cannot be used in any country where the holder is normally resident or in any country specifically excluded from that Carnet.

See full Terms and Conditions which can be found on the Carnet De Passage Application Form and T&C's.