

# WHAT TO DO if you are taking your car or van abroad



## Thinking of taking your company car or van abroad or hiring a car overseas?

Here are some dos and don'ts to ensure you have a safe and legal trip.



### Taking a leased vehicle abroad

To take a leased car out of the country, a Letter of Authority and a Vehicle on Hire certificate (VE103) should be applied for from the leasing company, and insurers should be contacted.

If the company owns the car or van, you'll still need a Letter of Authority and either the original V5C or VE103 certificate. The company's insurance cover may also need to be extended to cover foreign travel.



### Hiring a car abroad

Now that the paper counterpart of the UK driving license has been replaced with computerised records, motorists wanting to hire a car abroad may need to generate a licence check code on the DVLA website that allows access to online records of any motoring convictions.



### Before you travel

Make sure your vehicle is ready for travel. Carry out basic checks, put things like spare bulbs and a first aid kit in your car, and ensure your breakdown cover is sufficient. You'll also need to display either a GB sticker or a Euro Plate with a GB Euro symbol on it.

Don't forget about national motoring laws as it's compulsory to carry a reflective jacket in your vehicle when visiting some countries, and in France it's compulsory to carry an unused, certified breathalyser kit and to disable all speed camera warning devices.

Check the requirements for all countries you will be driving before you travel.

In France and Germany, environmental initiatives are in place that require vehicles entering certain cities to display a sticker that details their pollution level. You will need to buy your Crit' Air or Umweltplakette stickers in advance of travel.



### Medical cover

If you're going to a European Economic Area (EEA) country or Switzerland, make sure you've got a free European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) which entitles you to reduced-cost medical treatment. The cover isn't always comprehensive though, so make sure you have adequate travel insurance too.



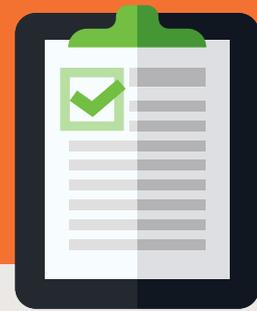
### Tips for driving abroad

- ✓ Take care when overtaking and setting off from locations when driving on the left-hand side of the road
- ✓ Front and rear seat belts are obligatory everywhere
- ✓ Speed limits are compulsory and radar traps are frequent, so watch your speed
- ✓ Always carry cash in case of on-the-spot speeding and traffic fines
- ✓ In many countries, diesel is called 'gasoil' or 'gazole,' not to be confused with gasoline or petrol
- ✓ Some countries require a 'vignette' or motorway tax disc to be displayed before using motorways, which can be bought at major border crossings and larger petrol stations

Under the Road Safety Act 2007, foreign authorities can obtain information from the DVLA to chase motorists who have committed speeding offences whilst abroad. If you get any convictions whilst away, they'll count against you on your UK licence.

Each country's motoring laws and regulations are subject to ongoing review, so make sure you're familiar with any updates by checking with [the AA](#) or [the RAC](#).

# Before you go



- VE103 (Vehicle on Hire Certificate) and Letter of Authority to take the vehicle abroad
- Familiarise yourself with the road rules for all countries in which you will be driving
- Check that your sat nav has maps for the countries you intend to visit
- Apply for an International Driving Permit if required for the countries you are visiting
- Check that you have adequate insurance cover and breakdown cover (added recovery/repatriation is advisable to avoid waiting for repairs to be completed at your own cost)
- Organise travel insurance
- If required, purchase a vignette, tax disc, Crit' Air or Umweltplakette for the countries you are driving in
- Carry a motoring kit containing all of the compulsory or recommended items for the countries you'll be driving in, such as:
  - warning triangle
  - reflective jacket
  - first aid kit
  - torch
  - headlight deflectors
  - spare headlight bulbs (along with a screwdriver so you can access the bulbs)
  - fire extinguisher
  - breathalyser kit (for France)
- Check that your vehicle is up to date with its servicing, and check tyre pressures and fluid levels

## Things to take

- Whilst not a legal requirement, a sat nav and/or a map will make your journey easier
- A valid Driving Licence and, if applicable, International Driving Permit
- VE103 and Letter of Authority
- Insurance certificate
- Breakdown cover details
- A GB sticker if you don't have a GB symbol in the vehicle's number plate
- Your motoring kit with all compulsory or recommended items for the countries you are travelling to
- Emergency contact numbers
- Carry cash for any road tolls or on the spot fines

## And remember...

- Always drive on the right
- Don't drink and drive
- Take extra care if driving a right-hand drive vehicle as your scope of vision will be different to what you're used to
- Do wear your seat belt

*Have a great trip!*