



Road Vehicle Standards

Importing road vehicles under Status of Forces Agreements and certain Customs Tariff Act by-laws

Supplementary information

Subsection 22(2) of the *Road Vehicle Standards Act 2018* (RVSA) and section 171 of the Road Vehicle Standards Rules 2019 (the Rules) provide that a person is permitted to import a road vehicle in accordance with certain by-laws under the *Customs Tariff Act 1995* regarding Status of Forces Agreements (SOFAs) or vehicles reimported by the Australian Defence Force (ADF). This document sets out the requirements relating to import of these vehicles.

Status of Forces Agreements

SOFAs allow for the importation of road vehicles by visiting military personnel that are members of a 'visiting force' subject to a SOFA. The agreement permits the importation of a road vehicle without obtaining further approval from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (the department).

To check if you are a member of a visiting force subject to a SOFA, visit the [Australian Defence Force website](#).

Vehicles imported under a SOFA agreement are required to have appropriate customs documents. Refer to the [Department of Home Affairs](#) for further information.

For foreign military road vehicles where no SOFA is in place, the person seeking to import the road vehicle must get an importation approval from the department:

- For foreign military vehicles not generally used on public roads, a person may apply for a non-Register of Approved Vehicles (RAV) entry import approval. Relevant eligibility criteria may include that the road vehicle is suitable for grant of the approval, or that the vehicle will be in Australia temporarily.
- For foreign military vehicles requiring state/territory registration and will be used regularly on public roads, a person may apply for a concessional RAV entry approval. Relevant eligibility criteria may include special purpose vehicles, or that the vehicle is suitable for entry on the RAV. A concessional RAV approval will be taken to be an import approval.
- The applicant should provide a letter from the Transport Officer of the military force detailing what the vehicle will be used for, and the vehicle's estimated import and export dates. The decision maker will consider the information provided when deciding whether to grant the approval.

The [Importing a road vehicle into Australia](#) web page provides more information.

Reimportation of certain ADF vehicles

Road vehicles owned by the Commonwealth and operated by the ADF previously exported from Australia in connection with an activity of the ADF may be re-imported back into Australia after use in such an activity without an approval from the department.