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## HOW TO LEGALIZE A VEHICLE BOUGHT ABROAD?

If you purchase a vehicle in a foreign country, when it arrives in Portugal, it's considered to have been imported. In order for the car to circulate in national territory, it must be legalised, by following several steps, within the legal timeframe.

For the legalization process of the foreign vehicle, you must present the documents equivalent to the Single Automobile Document, usually the car registration and title of ownership, the purchase invoice (if you bought the vehicle from a dealer) or declaration of sale (if you bought the vehicle from a private individual), the certificate of conformity, obtained from the car manufacturer, proving that the vehicle complies with the European legislation and, finally, the transport document, provided by the carrier, if the car has been transported to Portugal in a lorry.

The first step in the process of legalization of the vehicle will be the homologation of the vehicle at the Institute of Mobility and Transport (IMT), within 20 days after the vehicle has been imported to Portugal. For that purpose, it is necessary to present the foreign Single Automobile Document or the registration certificate and fill in the model 9 form.

Once you have obtained the national registration number, you will be able to have the vehicle inspected for the assignment of a Portuguese license plate, at a Category B Technical Inspection Centre. This is a more exhaustive inspection, which consists of a comparison between the original documentation of the vehicle and the vehicle itself, ensuring that it's in conditions to circulate safely in Portugal. If the vehicle passes the inspection, an inspection certificate model 112 will be issued, necessary to apply for the Portuguese Single Automobile Document at the IMT.

Within 20 working days of the vehicle entering national territory, you must fill in the Vehicle Customs Declaration (DAV), in person at Customs, or online at the Customs Portal.

If you fill in the DAV at Customs, the Vehicle Tax payment slip will also be issued and you have 10 working days to pay the tax. If you do the process online, you will have to issue the Single Collection Document (DUC) on the Finance Portal for payment of the ISV.

In order to obtain a license plate you must consult a company specialized in the production of number plates to have it printed on a plate. With the assignment of the national license plate

and the Vehicle Customs Declaration (DAV), you are now able to circulate with the vehicle.

At this point, it is important to proceed with the initial registration of ownership of the car at a Public Register Office or online.

Finally, within 90 days of the date of issue of the registration number plate, all you have to do is pay the Single Circulation Tax (IUC). Payment can be made at a tax office or online through the Finance Portal.

Only vehicles purchased less than 6 months ago or with fewer than 6000 km, and vehicles imported from outside the EU are subject to VAT.

Although contracting a car insurance policy is not mandatory for the legalization of a foreign car, it's essential to take out a car insurance policy, as the car will not be allowed to circulate without it.

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