



# Buying or selling a vehicle

You're legally required to let us know immediately when you buy or sell a vehicle. It's free to let us know. For peace of mind, do it online at the time of sale.

## If you've bought a vehicle

You must let us know straight away by:

- putting the vehicle into your name online at [www.nzta.govt.nz/bought-a-vehicle](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/bought-a-vehicle), or
- going to an agent and completing the *Change of registered person – buyer* (MR13B) form.

You'll need identification (ID).

You'll get a *Certificate of registration* in the post within 10 days, or by email if we have your email address.

If you're a company, you can't do it online. You'll need to go to an agent and complete the MR13B.

## If you've sold a vehicle

You must let us know straight away by:

- taking the vehicle out of your name online at [www.nzta.govt.nz/sold-a-vehicle](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/sold-a-vehicle) (you'll need your ID).

If you can't do it online, you can call 0800 108 809, or get in touch at [www.nzta.govt.nz/contact-us](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/contact-us)

If you're a company, you can't do it online. You'll need to use one of the other options listed above instead.

## Advice for buyers

### Before you buy, do your homework

There are checks you could do to protect yourself before you buy a vehicle. This isn't a complete list, but it gives you an idea of what to think about when you're buying.

- Are you buying the safest vehicle you can afford?  
[www.rightcar.govt.nz](http://www.rightcar.govt.nz)
- Is the vehicle fuel efficient? Does it have low emissions?  
[www.nzta.govt.nz/fuel-efficiency](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/fuel-efficiency)
- Are you buying from the person responsible for the vehicle?  
[www.nzta.govt.nz/confirm-registered-person](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/confirm-registered-person)
- Does the vehicle have any known safety issues?  
[www.nzta.govt.nz/recalls-and-damaged-vehicles](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/recalls-and-damaged-vehicles)
- Is the vehicle stolen?  
[www.police.govt.nz/can-you-help-us/stolen-vehicles](http://www.police.govt.nz/can-you-help-us/stolen-vehicles)
- Does the vehicle have a current licence (rego), warrant of fitness (WoF) or certificate of fitness (CoF)?  
[www.nzta.govt.nz/check-expiry-dates](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/check-expiry-dates)
- Do road user charges (RUC) apply to the vehicle?  
[www.nzta.govt.nz/ruc](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/ruc)
- Does the vehicle identification number (VIN) and plate number match official records?  
Check the vehicle's *Certificate of registration*, call us, or search online – there are various organisations who do these checks.
- Is there a security interest (eg finance owing) on the vehicle?  
[www.ppsr.companiesoffice.govt.nz](http://www.ppsr.companiesoffice.govt.nz)

### Make sure you know your registered person responsibilities

When you let us know you've bought a vehicle, we'll record you as the registered person in the Motor Vehicle Register. That's the person responsible for the vehicle, but isn't the same thing as the legal owner. We don't deal with legal ownership.

[www.nzta.govt.nz/registered-person-responsibilities](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/registered-person-responsibilities)

If you're an unincorporated business, your business can't be recorded as the registered person. It needs to be you, the individual.

## Advice for sellers

### Avoid the buyer's fines

If you don't let us know you've sold the vehicle, you could end up with the buyer's bills or fines, like tolls or speeding tickets.

It's a good idea to ask the buyer to put the vehicle into their name before you hand over the keys.

You could ask them to show you their receipt from the agent or their online confirmation, or you could check online at [www.nzta.govt.nz/confirm-registered-person](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/confirm-registered-person)

## Personal details and identification required

If you're an **individual buying** a vehicle, you must provide your:

- full name
- date of birth
- New Zealand physical address
- New Zealand mailing address (if different to physical)
- identification that confirms your full name, date of birth and signature (eg your New Zealand driver licence).

If you're an **organisation buying** a vehicle, you must provide:

- the organisation's full name
- the organisation's New Zealand physical address
- the organisation's New Zealand mailing address (if different to physical)
- corporate identification (eg your New Zealand business number, company number or a *Certificate of incorporation*).

If you're **selling** a vehicle, you must provide:

- your full name (or organisation's name)
- your New Zealand address
- your New Zealand driver licence, if you're letting us know online
- the buyer's full name and New Zealand address.

## Where to find an agent

Agents are selected branches of the Automobile Association (AA), Vehicle Inspection New Zealand (VINZ), Vehicle Testing New Zealand (VTNZ), PostShops, and independent agents.

See [www.nzta.govt.nz/vehicle-agents](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/vehicle-agents) to find an agent near you.

## If the vehicle is unlicensed

**Vehicle licensing** (rego) is paying a regular fee so that your vehicle is allowed to use the road. When you pay the fee, you get a **licence label** showing the licence expiry date.

### Buying an unlicensed vehicle

If you buy a vehicle with an expired licence, you're required to pay the licensing fees from the date you bought the vehicle.

[www.nzta.govt.nz/rego](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/rego)

If you're not going to use the vehicle on the road for at least three months, apply for an exemption instead (put it on hold). Do this after you've let us know you've bought the vehicle.

[www.nzta.govt.nz/exempt](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/exempt)

### Selling an unlicensed vehicle

If you sell an unlicensed vehicle, you're responsible for any outstanding licensing fees owing up until the date of change of registered person.

## If the vehicle is unregistered

**Vehicle registration** is paying a one-off fee to add a vehicle's details to the Motor Vehicle Register. When it's added to the register, we issue **number plates** for it.

The registered person can cancel the vehicle's registration at any time (but must take the vehicle off the road). You should only do this if you're sure you're not going to use the vehicle on the road anymore. Don't cancel the registration if you're selling the vehicle to someone else who's going to use it on the road.

Once you've cancelled the registration, there are many steps you need to take to get it registered again.

We'll cancel a vehicle's registration if it has been unlicensed for 12 months (for most vehicles) or 24 months (for tractors, trailers and a few other vehicle types).

See *Vehicle registration* (Factsheet 9) for more information.

### Selling an unregistered vehicle

You should make sure the buyer knows the vehicle is unregistered, before they buy it. They won't be able to put the vehicle into their name unless they register it first.

### Buying an unregistered vehicle

If you buy a vehicle with a cancelled registration and you want to use it on the road, you'll need to take several steps first.

This includes inspection, certification, registration, licensing, getting plates and getting labels.

See *Vehicle registration* (Factsheet 9) for more information.

## If the vehicle's RUC is overdue

If the vehicle's RUC is overdue at the time of sale, the seller is committing an offence under the Road User Charges Act 2012. The new registered person may become responsible for the outstanding fees.

We recommend you consider unpaid RUC when setting or negotiating the sale price. This is between the seller and the buyer – Waka Kotahi doesn't become involved.

If you have any questions about RUC:

- read *Road user charges and light diesel vehicles* (Factsheet 38)
- look online at [www.nzta.govt.nz/ruc](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/ruc)

## If the vehicle's WoF or CoF is more than one month old

Buyers can insist on a WoF or CoF being less than one month old. This helps protect them against faults that may have developed since the last inspection.

If the buyer doesn't insist, they should confirm in writing to the seller that they accept the WoF or CoF is more than one month old. This protects the seller.

## If the vehicle's WoF or CoF has expired

If you're selling a vehicle without a current WoF or CoF, you must:

- make sure the buyer knows the WoF or CoF isn't current
- ask the buyer to confirm in writing that they accept the WoF or CoF isn't current, and they won't use the vehicle on the road except to take it somewhere for repair or inspection.

If you're willing to buy a vehicle without a current WoF or CoF, you should confirm in writing to the seller that you won't use the vehicle on the road except to take it somewhere for repair or inspection.

## Selling a vehicle 'as is, where is'

Selling a vehicle 'as is, where is' doesn't remove the seller's legal requirements under consumer law and transport law.

For your consumer rights and responsibilities, see [www.consumerprotection.govt.nz/help-product-service/cars](http://www.consumerprotection.govt.nz/help-product-service/cars)

## There's more information online

- Are you buying or selling with a motor vehicle trader?
- Are you buying or selling personalised plates?
- Are you buying or selling a hybrid or electric vehicle?
- Do you have a transport service licence?
- Is your question not answered on this factsheet?

There's more information about these topics online at:

- [www.nzta.govt.nz/buying-a-vehicle](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/buying-a-vehicle)
- [www.nzta.govt.nz/selling-a-vehicle](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/selling-a-vehicle)



This factsheet is a general guide only. It doesn't replace legal advice, and your exact requirements will depend on current legislation.

Make sure you have the most up-to-date version of this factsheet by checking [www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets)

[www.nzta.govt.nz](http://www.nzta.govt.nz)

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