



INFORMATION FOR CARNET HOLDERS

HOW THE CARNET WORKS

A carnet is an internationally recognised document for the temporary importation of goods, often referred to as a “passport for goods”. It allows for the temporary admission of goods without the payment of duties or taxes and without the requirement, in the case of vehicles, for a Vehicle Import Approval (VIA). Normal prohibitions and quarantine restrictions apply to carnet goods. Carnets are issued under Section 162A of the Customs Act 1901 and according to Annex A of the Istanbul Convention on Temporary Admission. Carnets are accepted in most World Customs Organization (WCO) member nations.

WHAT CARNETS ARE USED FOR?

Carnets can be used for a wide variety of goods, where the goods and the purpose comply with one of the international conventions to which Australia is a signatory. Some of these conventions are:

- Private road vehicles
- Goods for exhibitions, fairs, meetings or similar events,
- Commercial samples and advertising material,
- Professional equipment, and
- Scientific equipment.

ARRANGING IMPORT/EXPORT

The carnet holder or their representative must present the goods, the carnet and supporting documents to Customs at the port of importation in order to obtain clearance. If goods are to be hand carried by a passenger, Customs can examine the goods on arrival or departure and endorse the carnet. Otherwise you will need to contact Cargo Exams at the port of import/export and arrange for the goods to be examined (if Customs require it) and the carnet endorsed. Please allow several days for this to be arranged.

All goods imported with a vehicle, including all fittings and accessories imported, must be exported with that vehicle. Consumables may not be imported under carnet, with the exception of the fuel contained in the ordinary fuel tank of a vehicle.

If the carnet is not endorsed on export the carnet has not been acquitted by Customs. This may result in a claim being lodged for the duties and taxes payable.

VEHICLES ON CPD CARNETS

Vehicles must be registered overseas for the duration of their stay in Australia. On arrival CPD holders must obtain an unregistered vehicle permit from the local roads and traffic authority at the port

of import. Without this permit you will not be allowed to drive the vehicle on Australian roads. The fee for this permit includes CTP (Bodily) Insurance which covers injuries caused to others but does not cover injury to the driver or damage to either vehicle.

EXTENSIONS TO APPROVED PERIOD

A carnet is issued for up to twelve months. This approved period may be extended on application. To apply to extend the approved period of temporary importation approval must be obtained from:

- Australian Customs, and
- VECI (for ATA carnets) or AAA (for CPD carnets).

Contact VECI or AAA to obtain an application form (B257) which will be forwarded to Customs. **Approval must be obtained prior to expiry of the original carnet.**

Once a replacement carnet has been received from the issuing body the original and the replacement carnets need to be taken into a Customs House for endorsement. In the case of an extension to a CPD carnet, once the details of the extension have been completed by the guaranteeing body it then needs to be endorsed by Customs.

An extension or a replacement carnet is not valid until it has been endorsed by Customs. The original carnet has not been acquitted until both it and the replacement have been endorsed by Customs.

WHEN TO CONTACT CUSTOMS

Permission must be obtained from Customs before dealing with the goods under carnet in any way other than that already approved. This includes requests for the owner to return overseas and leave the goods in Australia for any purpose of any period of time as well as requests to sell the goods or otherwise keep goods in Australia. These should be made to Customs at your original port of importation. If goods have been lost, stolen, accidentally damaged or destroyed Customs should also be notified as soon as possible. In most cases an invoice will be issued for the duty and taxes that would have been payable on importation.

For further information regarding carnets or about other means of temporary import of goods please contact Customs. Contact details are provided on the back of this fact sheet.

CONTACT DETAILS

Australian Customs Service

Phone: 1300 363 263

Email: information@customs.gov.au

Website: www.customs.gov.au

Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI)

Phone: 03 8662 5333

Email: internationaltrade@vecci.org.au

Website: www.vecci.org.au

Australian Automobile Association (AAA)

Phone: 02 6247 7311

Email: aaa@aaa.asn.au

Website: www.aaa.asn.au

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (Infrastructure)

Vehicle Imports Enquires

Phone: 1800 815 272

Email: Vimports@infrastructure.gov.au

Website: www.infrastructure.gov.au