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*Getting settled in Andalucía guides*

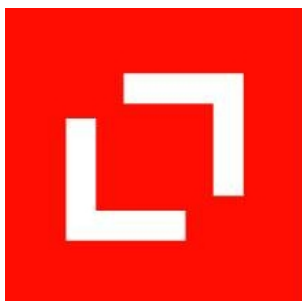
## Replating a vehicle in Spain.

**For a free consultation replating your vehicle, contact us for a no obligation chat**

The information contained within this guide is for informative purposes only and does not constitute individual or group legal advice. You are advised to take personalised legal advice before taking any decisions.



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## Who should read this guide

This guide is aimed at EU nationals who want to bring a EU plated vehicle into Spain, and put it onto Spanish plates (replating).

If a vehicle is destined for the use of people who are resident (or tax resident) in Spain, then it must be matriculated onto Spanish plates, in accordance with Article 62 of Law 6/2014 on Traffic, vehicle movements and road safety (Ley 6/2014 el 7 de abril sobre Tráfico, Circulación de Vehículos a Motor y Seguridad Vial).

This means that if you are **resident in Spain**, you cannot drive a vehicle registered in your name on foreign plates, unless you can prove you are in the process of matriculating the vehicle in Spain.

## New resident exemption from tax

New residents of Spain are **exempt from paying matriculation tax** on their habitual vehicle.

In general, this means that you have a sixty day period from the date of issuance of your residency and padrón (registration with the municipality you live in) to replate your vehicle.

After the sixty day grace period, you will have to pay the standard rate of matriculation tax on the vehicle.



*Newly arrived in Spain? Don't hang around, get your plates quick!*



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## Quick guide

The process of importing your vehicle can be a slow and onerous one.

Bear in mind that a qualified asesor such as Cervantes Alarcón will **save you time and money** by using official channels that are **not available to you**, and also by their knowledge of the tax laws surrounding the process of importing vehicles. In general, the process consists of:

- ✓ Prepare all the documentation of your vehicle. You'll need the **bill of sale** (or private sale contract if second hand, including the identification of the previous owner), the **technical paperwork** of the vehicle and the **certificate of conformity** proving the vehicle complies with all EU regulations.
- ✓ If the vehicle was purchased from a company, you'll need to present the bill of sale proving the **EU VAT number** of the seller.
- ✓ If the paperwork is not in an official language of Spain, you will have to provide a **certified translation** of the same.
- ✓ Any **modifications to the car** will need to be carried out to make it road legal in Spain. For example, left hand drive cars will need new headlights (or reorientation). If your model of vehicle is not sold in Spain, it may require further modification (such as removal of optional exterior extras like a towbar) to make it conform to Spanish regulations. A **technical report** may need to be compiled on the vehicle.
- ✓ Once this is done, you'll need an **ITV (MOT)**. This can be done in any region of Spain.
- ✓ You'll need an asesor to fill out **tax form 576** which can be paid at your local bank. This is the *Impuesto Especial de Determinados Medios de Transporte* for your region.
- ✓ You'll need to pay the **Impuesto de Circulación** (road tax) in the town where you reside (the amount varies upon council rates).
- ✓ Once the paperwork has been accepted, you will be issued an appointment in the DGT (dirección general de tráfico) offices to be issued a voucher for your new **numberplates**.
- ✓ Remember that you can't drive the vehicle on the road until you have a valid **insurance** policy issued.

**Cervantes Alarcón Consulting** can arrange the whole process for you – just bring the original paperwork into us and we'll guide you through the process. You'll be given an ITV (MOT) appointment to take your car to, and any modifications will be carried out at this point. We'll then submit the rest of the paperwork, and prepare your new number-plates for you!

Contact us for a free no obligation consultation!



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## Potential costs

Each case is unique and bear in mind that the government will calculate tax rates for used cars not from the declared purchase price but from the real value as published by the tax office annually.

The value of second hand cars is calculated from a formula based upon depreciation rates, while the value of new cars is based upon market rates as published by manufacturers.

- ➔ **Low emission** vehicles may benefit from lower matriculation taxes. Vehicles with CO2 emissions under 120gr/km are exempt.
  - Vehicles with emissions of between 120 and 160 gr/km pay 4.75%.
  - Vehicles with emissions of between 160 and 200 gr/km pay 9.75%.
  - Vehicles with emissions of over 200 gr/km pay 14.75%.
  - The above are generalised numbers – the exact amount to pay will depend upon more factors such as the first matriculation date of the vehicle.
- ➔ **Electric vehicles** are exempt from matriculation taxes.
- ➔ **Mopeds** under 125cc are exempt from matriculation taxes.
- ➔ Any vehicle with an EU **certificate of conformity** can be replated in Spain.
- ➔ All vehicles **higher than 180cm** are exempt from matriculation taxes.

Further costs to bear in mind:

- ➔ The DGT tax was €95.80 in January 2017.
- ➔ The road tax is levied by your local council and is paid annually.
- ➔ A standard gasoline car ITV will cost €42.92, diesel €43.58 in Andalucía (January 2017).
- ➔ UK left hand drive cars may need new headlights or similar.
- ➔ Depending on the make, model and usage of the vehicle, a technical report may be necessary.

The process usually takes between two and five weeks to complete.

Don't forget to get your driving licence exchanged for a Spanish one at the same time! We will also arrange this for upon request.

**Cervantes Alarcón Consulting** can arrange all paperwork for you. Contact us for a free no obligation consultation on how to get up and running!



## About the author of this document

**Maria Luisa Cervantes** is an economist and licensed accountant who specialises in non-resident and tourism matters.

Cervantes Alarcón Consulting offers a full range of services including but not limited to:

### Personal services

- NIE, residency permits and work permits
- Vehicle imports and re-plating
- Income tax for residents and non-residents
- Inheritance and wills
- Self employment book-keeping and taxation

### Company services

- Company incorporation including advice on the best route to take
- Company accountancy and wage services
- Tourism based ventures

Get your **first consultation free** when you come for advice on how to start your new venture!

