

A photograph of a yellow Mini Cooper parked on a street in front of a stone building. A large, leafy tree is on the left side of the frame. The building has a dark door with a gold handle and a small sign above it. The car is parked in a marked space. The overall scene is a typical urban street setting.

TAKA

A COMPLETE GUIDE
TO REGISTER

YOUR NON-EU VEHICLE IN FRANCE

GUIDE

Prepared by Taka | Your relocation expert in SouthWest France

OVERVIEW

Registering a vehicle from outside the European Union in France involves two main steps: customs clearance and official registration. This process typically takes several months and requires careful preparation.

This guide will walk you through everything you need to know, do, and prepare.

CUSTOM CLEARANCE:

- You submit a file to French customs
- Customs calculate the taxes you owe (VAT, regional tax, CO2 tax)
- You're summoned to an appointment in your nearest custom office to pay the taxes
- After payment, customs issue a "Certificat de Dédouanement" (**certificate 846a**)

What you need to do:

- Bring your vehicle to the nearest customs office for the customs appointment
- Pay all required taxes at the appointment
- Receive your customs certificate (846a)

REGISTRATION (IMMATRICULATION):

- You upload all the necessary documents on the ANTS website
- You pay for the carte grise (registration certificate)
- Your French registration certificate is sent by post

What you need to do:

- Provide all required documents (see checklist in annex)
- Get a **french** MOT (contrôle technique) if you haven't already
- Ensure your vehicle is insured in France
- Pay for the carte grise when requested

02

CRITICAL REQUIREMENT: EUROPEAN CERTIFICATE OF CONFORMITY

Your vehicle **MUST** have a European Certificate of Conformity (Certificat de Conformité Européen) to be registered in France.

What is it?

This certificate, issued by the vehicle manufacturer, confirms that your vehicle meets European safety and environmental standards.

Do you have it?

- If yes: Perfect! Keep it safe — you'll need it later.
- If no: You'll need to request it from the manufacturer or an authorised agent.

How to obtain it:

- Contact the manufacturer's European office with your vehicle's VIN (chassis number)
- *You will find many websites that promise to send you the certificate, sometimes more quickly and at a lower cost than the manufacturer. Be careful of scams! Only a few sites are genuinely trustworthy.*
- Request a "Certificat de Conformité Européen" (or "EU Certificate of Conformity")
- Pay the fee (typically €150-300)
- Wait 2-6 weeks for delivery

What if your vehicle **CANNOT** obtain this certificate?

If the manufacturer cannot issue a Certificate of Conformity, it means your vehicle does not meet European standards.

In this case, you will need to:

- Modify the vehicle to meet EU requirements (lighting, emissions, safety features, etc.)
- Have modifications inspected and certified by DREAL (Direction Régionale de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement)
- Obtain a "Certificat de Conformité DREAL" after successful inspection

This process is:

- Time-consuming (3-6+ months)
- Expensive (€1,000-5,000+ for modifications + inspection)
- Complex (requires technical expertise)

We hope your vehicle qualifies for a standard certificate! If not, we can guide you through the DREAL process, but be prepared for additional time and costs.

03

COSTS TO ANTICIPATE

Before beginning the process, be aware of the following fees:

Fee	Amount	Notes
VAT (TVA)	20% of vehicle value	Only if not already paid in country of origin
Custom duties	0€	No additional customs duties for most vehicles
Regional tax	Varies	Depends on vehicle's power rating (CV) and department
CO ₂ tax (malus écologique)	Varies	Only if your vehicle has high CO ₂ emissions

Additional costs:

Fee	Amount	Notes
European Certificat of Conformity (COC)	150–300€	Only if you need to request it
MOT (Contrôle technique)	70–90€	
Vehicle modification	Varies	If required (if your car doesn't comply to European standard)
DREAL inspection	Varies	If modifications are required

TAKA TIPS

Make sure you begin the process as soon as your vehicle has arrived in France: the customs declaration must be submitted as quickly as possible to avoid fines.

Make sure you have all the required documents for your application: any incomplete request will not be processed.

Allow an extra 10–15% in your budget for unexpected expenses.

Set aside enough time

CHECKLIST

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- NECESSARY DOCUMENTS FOR STEP 1: CUSTOM CLEARANCE

Copy of your passport and visa (if applicable)	
Copy of the registration certificate from the country of origin (V5)	
Proof of address (utility bill less than 3 months old)	
Vehicle purchase invoice	
Signed POA if you would like Taka to handle the procedures on your behalf (see annex)	
Proof of entry of the vehicle in France (ferry ticket...)	
Other informations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current mileage - Current value - Position of the steering wheel (right of left) - Type of transmission (manual or automatic) - Fuel type (petrol, diesel, hybrid) - Number of doors - Air conditioning (yes or no, automatic or manual) - Colour of the car 	

TAKA TIPS

All documents must be scanned, the scans should be of good quality, and include both front and back.

Everything must be consistent: the proof of address must show the name and address you declare, any name changes must be explained, etc.

Do not request the MOT too early: it may expire before the second step.

Payment for the registration certificate is the final step of the registration process and must be made online by credit card.

The registration certificate will then be sent to you by post at the address provided in your application.

- NECESSARY DOCUMENTS FOR STEP 2: REGISTRATION

Contrôle technique report (MOT) > 6 months old	
The European Certificate of conformity	
Signed POA if Taka handles the procedure (see annex)	
Proof of insurance	
Copy of driving license	
Completed form (see annex)	
If your current surname is not your birth name, supporting documents: birth certificate, marriage certificate, divorce decree	

05

ANNEXES

- POA FOR CUSTOMS
- POA FOR ANTS
- FORM TO FILL

PROCURATION SIMPLIFIÉE AUPRÈS DE L'ADMINISTRATION DES DOUANES (1) (2)

Nous soussignés (3)

donnons pouvoir à (3)

pour réaliser en notre nom auprès de l'administration des douanes françaises (4)

la déclaration ou l'acte auquel la présente procuration est annexée.

Fait à, le.....

Le mandataire (5)

Le mandant (6)

RENVIS

(1) La procuration simplifiée peut être utilisée lorsque l'opération en cause est réalisée à titre occasionnel.

(2) Lorsqu'elle n'est pas établie en langue française, la procuration doit être accompagnée si nécessaire d'une traduction.

(3) Pour les personnes physiques : nom, prénoms, profession et adresse commerciale ; pour les sociétés : dénomination sociale, activité et adresse du siège social.

(4) Indiquer les services des douanes.

(5) La procuration en douane doit être établie pour un seul mandataire, lequel doit signer cet acte, la signature étant précédée de la formule : « *Bon pour acceptation de pouvoir* ».

(6) La signature manuscrite du mandant doit être précédée de la mention : « *X mots ou lignes rayé(e)s, nuls* », écrite de la main du signataire.

POUR EFFECTUER LES FORMALITÉS D'IMMATRICULATION AUPRÈS DU MINISTRE DE L'INTÉRIEUR

Je soussigné(e), _____
NOM, NOM D'USAGE le cas échéant et PRÉNOM ou RAISON SOCIALE N° SIRET, le cas échéant

domicilié(e) à : _____
N° de la voie Extension (bis, ter, ...) Type de voie (avenue, etc.) Nom de la voie

_____ Pays
Code postal Nom de la commune

donne mandat à : _____
NOM, NOM D'USAGE le cas échéant et PRÉNOM ou RAISON SOCIALE N° SIRET, le cas échéant

pour effectuer pour mon compte les formalités administratives liées à l'opération d'immatriculation suivante :

Véhicule concerné :

➤ Marque : _____

➤ Numéro VIN : _____

➤ Numéro d'immatriculation (le cas échéant) : _____

Je suis informé (e) que pour circuler avec ce véhicule je suis dans l'obligation de l'assurer préalablement (articles L. 324-1 et L. 324-2 du code de la route).

Important : Si vous circuliez avec un véhicule non assuré, en cas d'accident, vos dommages ne seraient pas couverts et, en cas d'éventuelles victimes, vous pourriez être amené (e) à rembourser des sommes considérables. De plus, vous vous exposeriez à des sanctions pénales.

Fait à _____, le _____
Jour Mois Année

Signature
Pour les sociétés, nom et qualité
du signataire et cachet

HOW TAKA HELPS

At Taka, we handle the entire process on your behalf, including:

- Preparing and submitting all paperwork to customs
- Liaising with customs on your behalf
- Scheduling your customs appointment
- Submitting your online registration application
- Tracking your file with ANTS
- Advising you on next steps throughout the process

You focus on:

- Gathering documents
- Attending the customs appointment
- Getting your MOT and insurance when we tell you to

We handle everything else.

READY TO GET STARTED?

Once you've gathered all the documents on this checklist, get in touch and we'll begin the process.

Contact us:

Email: contact@taka-conseil.fr

Website: www.taka-conseil.fr

We're here to make this as smooth and stress-free as possible.

This guide is provided for information purposes only and reflects the process as of January 2026. French administrative procedures can change. Contact us to make sure your specific case follows the most current requirements.

Taka – Your Relocation Experts in Southwest France