

Shipping a car to New Zealand

What makes us unique

At Taurus Logistics we're really proud of the fact we're not another vanilla flavoured, soul-less, corporate freight forwarder. We have a real passion for what we do and a drive to solve any problem you might have, we go the distance to get the job done.

1. Response within 24 hours

We understand time's important to you so we guarantee to personally respond to all enquiries within 24hours, Monday to Friday New Zealand time. In some cases we may not be able to respond with a full quote, but we'll always acknowledge your request.

If you are unsure of exactly what you need or you've never shipped before then we're happy to answer all questions about any aspect you may be uncertain about.

2. No hidden costs

There's nothing worse than getting a price and doing your budget only to find out what you were quoted didn't include a raft of other fees and charges. Not only does it bring our industry into disrepute, it has almost become standard practise for many freight forwarders, making it extremely difficult to compare quotes between companies.

When you ask Taurus Logistics for a quote including all charges that's exactly what you get, we'll include all charges to get the job done for you including quarantine, customs clearance, port charges, inland transportation, whatever is needed.

When something is excluded like government taxes or duties we clearly state this on our cover page, no smoke and mirrors or small print.

3. We take care of everything

Once you're booked with Taurus Logistics we'll take care of all the details for you, if a problem crops up(for example you purchase a dump truck at auction and because of a bad oil leak it can't be shipped) then we'll solve the problem (getting the truck fixed).

We don't shy away from problems or push responsibility back, if we can take care of the problem then we'll offer a solution.

4. Experienced Professionals

Because of a tight market with the slimmest of margins, many freight forwarders only employ juniors. At Taurus Logistics we don't believe in that, our team is made up of professionals with years of experience in the shipping industry with many shipments under their belt.

Being privately owned means the agents we work with throughout the world are just like us, we chose each other because we share the same skills and ethos and we actually like them! They're our close friends and colleagues, only a phone call away.

Give us a call and let us help your business succeed!

Vehicle Pre-Purchase Shipping Guide for New Zealand

Will I be able to drive my vehicle on the road?

First check the vehicle you wish to import was manufactured to meet approved safety and emissions standards. This depends on the class of vehicle, date of manufacture and the country from which the vehicle is being imported. To find out more information please visit the [New Zealand Transport Agency](#).

What if my car does not comply with the import standards?

In New Zealand you can import any car you wish without restriction, but it does not mean you will be able to drive it on New Zealand roads. For example you can import a classic car that is in no condition to drive, and just store, or have in your collection. If you wanted to drive that car on the road then you would need to go through the compliance process. Taurus takes no responsibility for cars that do not comply.

Do Taurus Logistics handle the car compliance and on road procedures?

No, this is outside of our scope of work. We will deliver your car through to an entry certifier, and this is included in our quotations, But the actual compliance, registration etc is not something Taurus can do for you.

Will I have to pay any tax?

It depends on your criteria: is this a new purchase or something you class as a personal effect?

New purchase: GST of 12.5% is payable on the landed value, which is the value of the vehicle plus freight and insurance, otherwise known as the CIF (Cost + Insurance + Freight) price.

Personal Effect: In some cases you may be exempt from paying GST, you will need to meet the following conditions:

- Be a first time immigrant or a returning New Zealand citizen
- If you're a returning citizen you must have been out of New Zealand for over 21 months
- You must be prepared to sign a deed where you agree not to sell the vehicle for at least 2 years
- The vehicle must have been owned and used for the last 12 months.

Shipping a car to New Zealand

Let Taurus Logistics take care of your car shipping, providing you stress-free auto importing to New Zealand.

We send vehicles to all major New Zealand Ports from anywhere in the world, if you want it shipped to a different port then we can also arrange that.

Is it worth shipping my car to New Zealand?

From our experience if you have sentimental attachment or your vehicle is worth over \$5000 NZD, it's worth looking into.

It pays to ensure your vehicle meets the NZ compliance standards; if not, then it's not worth importing your vehicle to New Zealand.

Information on sending your car to New Zealand

Check that your vehicle meets frontal impact and safety compliance standards for New Zealand, although most modern vehicles and motorhomes will comply with the New Zealand standards many cars from the 1980-1990's may not comply. You can view a list of approved vehicles at the [New Zealand Transport Agency](#), older 'classic cars' are exempt.

For entry the chassis will either require an approval chassis/vin plate or you'll require a manufacturers letter.

Paying GST on Imported Vehicles

GST is payable at 12.5% on the landed value which is the cost of the vehicle plus Insurance & Freight, otherwise known as the CIF price. You are exempt from paying GST if you meet the following conditions:

- Be a first time immigrant or returning New Zealand citizen that has been out of the country for over 21 months.
- Be prepared to sign a deed where you agree not to sell the vehicle for 2 years.
- The vehicle must have been used and owned for 12 months.

There are no restrictions on NZ vehicle importing, anyone can import a vehicle for off-road use or in a car collection. If you want to use your vehicle on-road it is your responsibility to ensure you meet all requirements.

Comparing international shipping quotes

Comparing quotes for shipping is a bit like trying to compare quotes to build a house, is one house brick and the other straw, are you comparing apples to apples, does each quote contain all the services you require?

The shipping and freight forwarding industry don't make it easy for newcomers, many people fall into the trap of accepting the lower price only to find it was half a quote, so when their goods arrive they're hit with a massive invoice for all sorts of charges no-one told them about.

Some quotes will be port to port, some will be door to port, others will try to confuse you with terms like FOB,C&F, CIF or FAS, which is normally a smoke screen to confuse non-industry people and avoid liability foray additional charges.

We find the practice outrageous and underhand, which is why at Taurus Logistics we clearly state what's included with no hidden costs or surprises, just clear concise no-nonsense quotations.

International shipping quotes should have three parts

Origin charges (charges in the country it's currently located in):

- Export documentation
- Inland transport
- Pack charges
- Port charges
- Ocean Freight Charges

Actual ocean freight

- BAF
- CAF

Destination Charges:

- Port charges
- Customs clearances
- Quarantine fees
- Unloading/unpacking

If you have all three then you have a comprehensive quote, if you're unsure then feel free to call us, we won't be offended if you want to talk about a competitor's quote to make sure it's the real deal.

We're happy to explain the quote in plain English letting you know what the terms mean and whether you're getting a good deal on total cost.

Frequently-asked questions: shipping a car

We just love shipping cars. Whether you've found your dream car and need to ship her home, or you're relocating the family station wagon across the ditch, we would love to help. These are some of our most popular questions which we hope you find helpful.

Do you have a vehicle pick-up service?

Yes, we are able to provide a cost to pick up vehicles from almost anywhere, just supply an address with zip/post code.

How much would it cost to insure my vehicle?

The insurance is calculated on the value of the vehicle and the method used to ship. i.e. RORO or in a container. Please request a quotation.

Is RORO the cheapest, or is there another transportation method? What if I have more than one car?

RORO is usually the cheapest method for a single car, but if you are considering multiple cars we can load and lash in a container.

How far in advance would you recommend I make the booking?

Anything more than a week before you want it to sail to guarantee that all the paperwork for export can be completed and that you are able to deliver the vehicle before the cut-off date.

Can a car that still has a loan on it be shipped?

That would be a question to ask your loan company.

Does it matter if my car is dirty?

Your vehicle must be thoroughly steam cleaned and vacuumed prior to shipment.

Can I leave personal effects in the car?

When shipping on a RORO vessel, personal items must not be left in the vehicle as the vehicle will not be accepted on board the vessel.

How can I find out info on what the Duty/GST costs will be for importing into New Zealand?

GST is payable at 12.5% on the landed value, which is the value of the vehicle, plus freight, plus insurance. Otherwise known as the CIF (Cost + Insurance + Freight) price.

If you are to be exempt from paying GST you need to meet the following conditions:

- Be a first time immigrant or a returning New Zealand citizen.
- If a returning citizen, you must have been out of New Zealand for over 21 months.
- Be prepared to sign a deed where you agree not to sell the vehicle for at least 2 years.
- The vehicle must have been owned and used for the last 12 months.

Where can I find out information on New Zealand road compliance?

Visit the [New Zealand Transport Agency](#).

Are there any restrictions on the import of this particular vehicle?

Check to see if your vehicle meets [New Zealand's emissions requirements](#).

Does my car have to be warranted even though it is an export out of New Zealand?

Vehicles must have a current Warrant of Fitness (WOF) to leave New Zealand on a RORO (car carrier) vessel.

Preparing a vehicle for international shipping

What do I have to do before shipping?

Clean your car

You should aim to have your car in the cleanest possible condition. Best practice is to have the car thoroughly steam cleaned and vacuumed prior to shipment. There is no need to get it "detailed" but the goal is to remove all dirt and contamination inside and out. We can offer this as an additional service in some locations.

Personal goods in cars

When shipping on a RORO vessel personal items must not be left in the vehicle, if they are, the vehicle will not be accepted on-board the vessel.

There is the option to load your car into a container which would allow you to also ship some personal belongings, but this is normally a more expensive option than RORO.

If you're taking out Insurance

If you're taking out marine insurance then a pre-shipment inspection report is required to be done by an independent party. If this is not done prior to shipping then any excess is doubled.