



1 June 2023

Fact Sheet Part A for Ukrainian motorists

entering Germany for the first time with their vehicle

If you have brought your Ukraine registered vehicle to Germany for the first time, please take note of the following information on (1) how to prove the required third-party vehicle insurance and (2) how to register your vehicle, i.e. obtain German licence plates, within one year after entering the country. If you have used your vehicle in Germany for more than a year, please refer to Fact Sheet Part B.

1. Third-party vehicle insurance

Motorists travelling on German roads need a vehicle-specific third-party insurance policy. Driving without a valid insurance is not permitted in Germany; doing so on public roads anyway is an offence. In addition, motorists will be held liable for damage to third-parties that they caused with their vehicle. The uninsured vehicle can also be seized by the authorities.

There are various ways to obtain and prove the required insurance cover for vehicles registered in Ukraine:

- With a green card issued to the insurance holder by the Ukrainian third-party vehicle insurance provider. It is currently possible to request a digital green card from the Ukrainian insurer from Germany. For further information, please visit http://www.mtsbu.ua/ua/green_card/80365/. The green card guarantees third-party vehicle insurance cover for the countries indicated on the card.
- With a frontier insurance policy taken out at the EU border. This kind of insurance policy offers third-party vehicle insurance cover throughout the European Union and in any other country listed on the frontier insurance policy.
- With a frontier insurance policy taken out in Germany. This kind of insurance policy also offers third-party vehicle insurance cover throughout the European Union and in any other country listed on the frontier insurance policy.

Motorists must carry the green card or a confirmation of having taken out frontier insurance and show it or hand it over in case of a roadside check.

More information on taking out frontier insurance in Germany can be found here <https://www.dieversicherer.de/versicherer/auto-reise/news/kfz-versicherung-fluechtlinge-ukraine-84714>.

2. Vehicle registration

Motorists driving a car, which has not been registered in Germany, on German public roads have to register the vehicle in Germany within one year (at the latest). In addition, they can apply for an exemption that entitles them to continue driving the vehicle after expiry of the one-year period, by 31 March 2024 at latest. For this, please refer to Fact Sheet Part B. The one-year period starts on the day of entry into Germany.

In Germany, it is not permitted to drive a motor vehicle without a German registration or a corresponding exemption once the one-year period has expired. Driving a vehicle in Germany that is not registered here even though it would have to be (i.e. after expiry of one year at latest) is an administrative offence punishable with a fine.

A vehicle must be registered before the period of one year has expired if the holder declares that the regular base of the vehicle is in Germany.

A vehicle can be registered at the federal state vehicle registration authorities. The place of residence of the vehicle holder determines, which is the competent registration authority. To register a vehicle, the holder of the vehicle must fill out an application and submit various documents, including proof of third-party vehicle insurance and a personal identity document. In addition, you may need an expert opinion regarding your vehicle issued by an 'inspection organisation', i.e. an officially approved expert for motor vehicle traffic or a 'technical service' that meets certain requirements. For details about the required documents and the application process, please contact the competent registration authority. In addition to that, you need to pay a registration fee.

The vehicle will be registered once all documents have been submitted; the process comprises three steps:

- Assignment of a licence plate
- Affixing seal sticker on the licence plate
- Issuance of a registration certificate

For more information on registering your vehicle, please visit the websites of your competent local authorities.

3. Motor vehicle tax

Ukrainian passenger cars and their trailers entering Germany to stay temporarily are exempted from motor vehicle tax for the duration of up to one year. If the border is crossed again, the one-year period will start again upon return to Germany. The tax exemption does not apply if vehicles serve to carry passengers or goods on a commercial basis or if these vehicles are deemed to have their regular base in Germany under traffic law. If a Ukrainian passenger car and its trailer are registered in Germany, they are considered domestic vehicles and subject to tax. If a Ukrainian passenger car and its trailer are not registered in Germany, even though their regular base is deemed to be in Germany, they are liable to taxation due to unauthorized use.

If you have any further questions on motor vehicle tax, please contact the motor vehicle tax contact points of the customs authorities. Find the contact point in your area by entering your postal code (Postleitzahl) into the search field on the web page of the customs authorities under https://www.zoll.de/DE/Service/Dienststellensuche/Kfz-Steuer/Schritt_02/_function/Dienststellenfinder_Anliegen_KFZ_Formular.html. You can contact the central motor vehicle tax help desk of the customs authorities under the following phone number: +49 351 44834-550.