



Vehicle Import to Kenya Checklist

Updated April 2026 | Complete Step-by-Step Guide

Important Reminders:

- Only Right-Hand Drive (RHD) vehicles are allowed
- Maximum age: 8 years from year of manufacture
- QISJ inspection certificate is mandatory
- Kenya Tradex handles the entire process for you

STEP-BY-STEP TIMELINE

- Week 1-2: Purchase & Inspection**
Purchase vehicle, arrange QISJ pre-shipment inspection
- Week 2-3: Shipping Arrangement**
Book shipping (RoRo or container), prepare documentation
- Week 3-8: Transit Time**
Japan: 20-30 days | UAE: 7-12 days | UK: 20-30 days | South Africa: 7-14 days
- Week 8-9: Customs Clearance**
Mombasa port clearance: 3-7 days with complete documentation
- Week 9-10: Delivery & Registration**
NTSA registration, delivery to your location

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

- ☐ **Original Bill of Lading (B/L)**
Issued by shipping line
- ☐ **Commercial Invoice**
Vehicle value, make, model, specifications
- ☐ **Packing List**
Vehicle details and any accessories
- ☐ **Original Logbook/Title**
Vehicle ownership from country of origin
- ☐ **QISJ Inspection Certificate**
Mandatory pre-shipment inspection

☐ **KRA Import Declaration Form (IDF)**

Kenya Tradex arranges this

☐ **Your KRA PIN Number**

Required for IDF application

☐ **Passport/ID Copy**

For identity verification

Note: Export certificate of origin is NOT required for Kenya imports.

IMPORT DUTY CALCULATION TEMPLATE

Charge	Rate	Example (USD 5,000)
Vehicle CIF Value	-	USD 5,000
Import Duty	35%	USD 1,750
Excise Duty (example)	25%	USD 1,687.50
IDF Fee	2.25%	USD 112.50
VAT	16%	USD 1,368
TOTAL DUTIES & TAXES	-	USD 4,918

POPULAR IMPORT MARKETS

Country	Transit Time	Popular Vehicles
Japan	20-30 days	Toyota, Nissan, Honda
UAE	7-12 days	Land Cruiser, Patrol, Lexus
UK	20-30 days	Luxury cars, Range Rover
South Africa	7-14 days	Bakkies, SUVs

Cost-Saving Tip: Always obtain QISJ inspection before shipping. Without it, KEBS charges a 5% local inspection surcharge that can add thousands to your import costs.

SHIPPING METHODS

Roll-on/Roll-off (RoRo)

Cost: USD 1,500 - 3,500

Best for: Standard vehicles

Pros: Most economical

Cons: Vehicle exposed during voyage

Container Shipping

Cost: USD 2,500 - 5,500

Best for: High-value vehicles

Pros: Better protection

Cons: More expensive

NTSA REGISTRATION CHECKLIST

☐ Vehicle inspection at NTSA center

☐ Submit customs release documents

☐ Pay NTSA registration fees

☐ Obtain registration certificate

☐ Apply for number plates (2-4 weeks)

☐ Obtain new logbook

Returning Residents: If you've lived abroad for 12+ months, you may qualify for duty-free import. Requirements: owned vehicle abroad 12+ months, returned to Kenya within 3 months, and spent less than 90 days in Kenya during the 12-month abroad period.