



IMPORTING YOUR NON **SPANISH VEHICLE**

By

Michael E Briant

The least expensive and easy way to make your non Spanish
vehicle legal, easy to insure and get it's MOT..

IMPORTING YOUR NON SPANISH VEHICLE.

- Chapter one – Your ID requirements and how to get them
- Chapter two – Certificate of Conformity
- Chapter three – Log book & Bill of sale
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- Chapter six - Obtaining number plates and getting insurance
- Chapter seven – Changing your driving license to Spanish
- Chapter eight – Working out 12% matriculation tax

OVERVIEW

There are various reasons for wanting to legally import your non Spanish car, van, motorcycle. The most common is that the MOT has run out and it's an expensive business to take the vehicle home get a new MOT then bring it back to Spain. Your UK insurance is not valid unless the vehicle has a current MOT.

Another reason is you have taken Spanish residency and the law states that as a Spanish resident you are not allowed to drive a 'foreign' (non Spanish) registered vehicle. Or you are moving permanently to Spain and you want everything to be legal and correct.

Firstly you have to be registered in Spain with a Spanish address and in possession of Spanish ID.

The process is simple and straightforward but somewhat time consuming. You have to obtain several original documents and whether you follow the simple steps in this book or employ a 'specialists' to do it for you, there is no other way of getting some of the documents except by doing it yourself.

Having access to a printer is useful as most documents need a photo copy.

The costs involved are unavoidable as they are the payments to the Spanish authority's tax departments.

Matriculation tax is probably going to be the biggest. This tax is nominally 12% of the value of the vehicle. The big question is what is the vehicle worth? This tax is a combination of the emissions, engine size and 'book value' The good news is that the Spanish value 2nd hand vehicles at a low level. Find the UK trade price of your vehicle, then deduct 20% then work out 12% of that and that's probably what you will pay. Later in the book is a link to a more sophisticated and accurate system but to give you a quick ball park number of euro you will pay.

The next unavoidable cost is getting the car prepped for its Spanish importation and MOT. Changing the UK to European headlamps on my Audi was frighteningly expensive but there is no way around changing them.

You must either go to the local dealer of your car type and ask them to change them for you or DIY via Google or via Ebay. Either way it is probably worth asking the professional local garage if they will check over the car and to make sure it will pass the Spanish MOT. The steering wheel on the 'wrong' side is not a problem.

Surprisingly expensive is the **Certificate of Conformity** which is a document issued by the manufacturer of your car to state that your car, not just the type and model but your particular vehicle complies with EU regulations and depending on the manufacturer it will cost between 50 and 150€

After that unless you are for example a UK Citizen who has moved to Spain from any other country than the UK, there is only the **Gestoria** to pay.

Gestoria are companies who are officially licensed to do paper work for you. For a modest fee they will take all your paperwork for changing your vehicles UK or other registration to Spanish and put it through the system for you and in the end hand you Spanish Registration Papers and even number plates for your car.

The special Spanish **MOT = ITV** is going to cost about 115€ and is a check that the vehicle conforms to EU regulations as well as a 'normal' MOT/ITV. All the garages that do this work are specialist government owned establishments and have to be paid in cash.

Chapter one

Your ID.

First you need an NIE registration and card. This is obtained from the Police National (as opposed to the Police Local)

The NIE number is the legal number assigned by the **Spanish National Police** to foreign people who don't have Spanish citizenship, so that you can carry out legal activities in Spain, such as importing a motor vehicle.

The actual format of the NIE number certificate is an A4 white sheet which contains your name, surname, date of birth, city and country of birth, and the unique NIE number, of course. It is also issued in the form of credit card sized card. You are not supposed to laminate this but as you will need it on a daily basis it is worth making a photocopy and having that laminated. In order to obtain your NIE you need:

Original passport (current and not expired) and one photocopy

Two small photos

You need some proof of address. Rental agreement, property purchase agreement

Government fee (€9.45 in 2016), which you pay at a bank using a 790 NIE form when completed by Police official.

Below is a link to a Government form 790 which you can fill in electronically: It is the same as the paper form.

http://extranjeros.empleo.gob.es/es/ModelosSolicitudes/Mod_solicitudes2/15-Formulario_NIE_y_certificados.pdf

Some police stations may request the traditional paper NIE form, which you can collect or fill out at any national police station dealing with foreign documentation.

It works like this:

With your passport and a photocopy, 2 ID photographs you walk into a Police National Station and say you want an NIE. You will almost certainly be dealt with by a civilian.

You either fill out or hand them your 790, passport and 2 pictures which they then process. You are then handed a portion of the 790 and you exit the police station and find the nearest bank. (Almost all government payments are made via commercial banks in Spain) In the bank you hand over the form and the payment of around 10€ and your paper is signed and stamped as 'paid'.

Leave the bank and return to the National Police Station, hand over the receipted paper and you should receive in return your NIE in both paper and card form.. This can vary from county to county in Spain. A modern NIE looks like this:



I would make a photocopy of the card front and back and laminate it as you will be using it on almost a daily basis.

The next item of personal ID you need is a

PADRON.

Padron - 'Certificado de Empadronamiento'. Proof of residence in your town in Spain. This document is the town or village's registration of you as a resident living in that place.

It enables the town to receive monies from central government. It enables you to enjoy reduced taxes on your property if you own it - it will be taxed as a permanent home rather than a holiday home and you get certain travel

opportunities at a reduced rate and access to the excellent social security system.

You need to visit the local town hall or 'Ayuntamiento' with the following documents and photocopies of all:-

Passport (+ photocopy)

NIE certificate (original and photocopy)

Rental contract, or a Contract to Purchase a property document, or deeds of the property.(+ photocopy)

A utility bill showing your name & address

Typically town halls are only open on weekdays between 0.830 and 14.00. You ask in the town hall / Ayuntamiento, for a **Padron** or 'certificado de Empadronamiento'... Probably Padron is easiest.

Again the exact procedure can vary from town to town but normally it is all done on the computer in front of you. Sometimes because various checks have to be made you come back the next day to collect it.

A typical **Padron** looks like this:



EXCMO. AYUNTAMIENTO RONDA

Volante Colectivo de Empadronamiento

En el Padrón Municipal de este municipio aparecen, en el día de la fecha y en la hoja que se indica, las inscripciones cuyos datos se recogen en este volante.

DATOS DEL PADRÓN MUNICIPAL										HOJA: 1/1		
Distrito 04		Sección 04				Hoja de Inscripción 00000001						
DATOS DE LA VIVIENDA												
Tipo de Via CALLE		Nombre de Via										
Número 0001		Letra		Km.		Bloque		Portal		Escalaera	Piso	Puerta
DATOS DE INSCRIPCIONES												
Nº Orden	Nombre y Apellidos	Fecha Alta	Sexo	1.DNI 2.Pasap. 3.Tarj.Extr.								
001	JUAN ANTONIO SUANZ	25/02/72	M	2.Pasap. 3.Tarj.Extr.								
Fecha de Nacimiento		Lugar de Nacimiento		País de Nacionalidad		Número y Letra						
25/02/72		REINO UNIDO		125		1. 00000001						
Nº Orden	Nombre y Apellidos	Fecha Alta	Sexo	1.DNI 2.Pasap. 3.Tarj.Extr.								
Fecha de Nacimiento		Lugar de Nacimiento		País de Nacionalidad		Número y Letra						
Nº Orden	Nombre y Apellidos	Fecha Alta	Sexo	1.DNI 2.Pasap. 3.Tarj.Extr.								
Fecha de Nacimiento		Lugar de Nacimiento		País de Nacionalidad		Número y Letra						
Nº Orden	Nombre y Apellidos	Fecha Alta	Sexo	1.DNI 2.Pasap. 3.Tarj.Extr.								
Fecha de Nacimiento		Lugar de Nacimiento		País de Nacionalidad		Número y Letra						
Nº Orden	Nombre y Apellidos	Fecha Alta	Sexo	1.DNI 2.Pasap. 3.Tarj.Extr.								
Fecha de Nacimiento		Lugar de Nacimiento		País de Nacionalidad		Número y Letra						
Nº Orden	Nombre y Apellidos	Fecha Alta	Sexo	1.DNI 2.Pasap. 3.Tarj.Extr.								
Fecha de Nacimiento		Lugar de Nacimiento		País de Nacionalidad		Número y Letra						
OBSERVACIONES												
EFECTO PARA EL QUE SE EXPIDE												
En RONDA, a 25 de mayo de 2018												
 <p>NÚMERO DE PERSONAS QUE COMPRENDE ESTE DOCUMENTO</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 2px 10px;">001</div>												

NOTA: Este documento tiene carácter informativo en relación con la residencia y el domicilio habitual en este Municipio, de acuerdo con lo establecido en el artículo 61 del R.D. 2672/1996, de 20 de diciembre por el que se modifica el Reglamento de Población y Demarcación Territorial de las Entidades Locales aprobado por R.D. 1690/1986, de 11 de junio.

The bad news is that a PADRON is only valid for 3 months after which you need a new one!

CHAPTER TWO

Certificate of conformity

Certificate of Conformity is a Statement by the manufacturer of your vehicle that it conforms exactly to EU regulations..

The **certificate of conformity** was created on January 1, 1993 by the Directive for intra-Community market in the European Union.

The objective of this European certificate of conformity, also called **COC**, "Certificate Of Conformity" is to allow the free movement of vehicles within Europe.

The EU goes to the harmonization of standards in the car industry by adopting a law to certify that a vehicle complies with the technical requirements and safety terms of the European market.

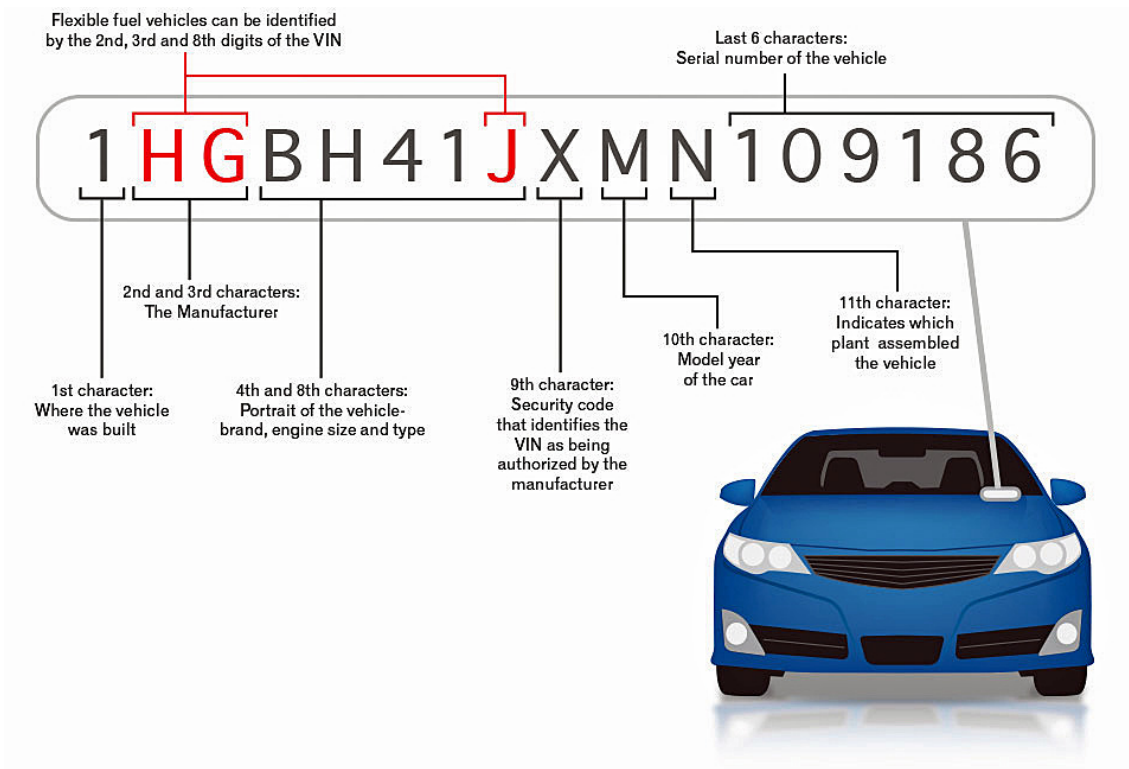
An EC type-approval that replaces the reception national title in all the countries in Europe, thereby creating the European Certificate of Conformity which then become mandatory on all the cars from manufactured for the European market in 1996.

This requires the chassis number of your car.

If you do not have the chassis number of your car on some paperwork then it will be on a plate normally found in the engine compartment or on the front windscreen in a little window. It's a pretty long number so taking a photo of it is useful.



This number identifies your particular car and without it you cannot get the certificate of conformity.



You can Google **Certificate of Conformity** for the make and model of your car.

Most manufacturers let you put the chassis number in and then charge between 40€ and 140€ to send you this document. Some will only do it by letter post request. Some then send by post, some as a pdf file.

There are several companies that offer to obtain the COC for you at a very slightly higher price than the manufacture; It may be easier to use one of these but either way its going to take one or two weeks for the certificate to arrive and at a cost of between 100€ and 200€ depending on the make and model of your vehicle.

A couple of companies that appear to be fairly efficient are:

<https://www.eurococ.eu/en/certificate-of-conformity>

<https://www.certificateconformity.co.uk>

I have no personal experience of either of them but both the web sites seems well organised. There are lots of others...

Below is an example of what a Certificate of Conformity looks like:

<p>47. Ggf. Steuerleistung oder nationale Codenummer(n)</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Belgien: 13</td> <td>Malta:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dänemark:</td> <td>Polen:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Griechenland: 17</td> <td>Slowenien:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Irland: 2496</td> <td>Schweden:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lettland:</td> <td>Tschechische Republik:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ungarn:</td> <td>Estland:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Osterreich:</td> <td>Frankreich:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rumänien:</td> <td>Zypern:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Finnland:</td> <td>Luxemburg: 2496</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bulgarien:</td> <td>Niederlande:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deutschland: 44</td> <td>Portugal: C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spanien: 17,88</td> <td>Slowakei:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Italien: 23 CV</td> <td>Vereinigtes Königreich: PLG</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Litauen:</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Belgien: 13	Malta:	Dänemark:	Polen:	Griechenland: 17	Slowenien:	Irland: 2496	Schweden:	Lettland:	Tschechische Republik:	Ungarn:	Estland:	Osterreich:	Frankreich:	Rumänien:	Zypern:	Finnland:	Luxemburg: 2496	Bulgarien:	Niederlande:	Deutschland: 44	Portugal: C	Spanien: 17,88	Slowakei:	Italien: 23 CV	Vereinigtes Königreich: PLG	Litauen:	
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Italien: 23 CV	Vereinigtes Königreich: PLG																												
Litauen:																													
<p>50. Anmerkungen No 42.1: wurde als 05 Sitzer ausgeliefert No 14.1: mit Anhänger; + 40 kg No 32 : 7x16 H2, E142,205/55 R16 911 M+S 6,5x16 H2, E140, 235/40 ZR18 98, 1x18 H2, E143 < Conti Sport Contact;</p>																													
<p>51. Ausnahmen</p>																													
<p>Vermerke des Herstellers</p> <p>DEU240 B R11 Fahrzeugbrief wurde erstellt</p> <p>WAUZZZ4B82N052671 HSN.0588 TSN.732 0278 Original</p> <p>ARC650 182 2001 00094 00000000</p>																													

SPECIMEN



AUDI

EG - Übereinstimmungsbescheinigung

Der Unterzeichner bestätigt hiermit, dass das Fahrzeug

0.1	Fabrikmarke:	AUDI
0.2	Typ:	4B
	Variante:	AAKEQ1
	Version:	QASVABR98R
0.2.1	Handelsname(n):	AUDI A6, S6
0.4	Fahrzeugklasse:	M1
0.5	Name und Anschrift des Herstellers:	AUDI AG D-85045 Ingolstadt
0.6	Anbringung des Fabriksschildes:	Folie geklebt, im Motorraum auf einem sichtbaren Teil der Karosserie links, ww. rechts, ww. sichtbar am Pfosten A, B
	Fahrzeug-Identifizierungsnummer:	
0.7	Anbringensstelle der Fahrzeug-Identifizierungsnummer auf dem Fahrgestell:	vorn rechts am Wasserkasten, Nummer geprägt * eingeschlagen * geritzt

mit dem in der EG-Typgenehmigungsnummer von e1*58/14*0051*18 20.07.2001

beschriebenen vollständigen Typ in jeder Hinsicht übereinstimmt.

Das Fahrzeug kann zur fortwährenden Teilnahme am Verkehr in Mitgliedstaaten mit Rechtsverkehr und in denen metrische Einheiten für das Geschwindigkeitsmeßgerät verwendet werden, ohne weitere Typgenehmigungen zugelassen werden, lassen werden.

Ingolstadt, den 11.11.2009

Dr. Franz-Josef Paetgen



Vorstandsvorsitzender

Not a lot for the money and effort!

Chapter three

Log book & Bill of sale

You will have a car log book and all that's necessary is to make sure it is in your name. It is not of course a book rather a sheet of paper and looks like this:

UK Registration Certificate Official use only

4. Vehicle details

A Registration number: **URT 155F** 2 (A-1) Validation character: **U** 3

B Date of first registration: **17 06 1968**

(B-1) Date of first registration in the UK: **17 06 1968**

D.1 Make: **ROLLS ROYCE**

D.2 Type:

Variant:

Version:

D.3 Model:

D.5 Body type: **SALOON**

D.6 Taxation class: **HISTORIC VEHICLE**

D.7 Gross weight:

D.8 Cylinder capacity (cc): **6750 CC**

D.9 CO₂ (g/km):

D.10 Type of fuel: **PETROL**

S.1 Number of seats, including driver:

S.2 Number of standing places (where appropriate):

D.4 Wheelplan: **2-AXLE-RIGID BODY**

J Vehicle category:

K Type approval number:

P.2 Max. net power (kW):

E VIN/Chassis/Frame No.:

P.5 Engine number: **25287**

F.1 Max. permissible mass (exc. m/c):

G Mass in service:

O Power/Weight ratio (kW/kg) (only for motorcycles):

R Colour: **WHITE**

O Technical permissible maximum towable mass of the trailer:

O.1 braked (kg)

O.2 unbraked (kg)

U Sound level:

U.1 stationary (dB(A))

U.2 engine speed (min-1)

U.3 drive-by (dB(A))

V Exhaust Emissions:

V.1 CO (g/km or g/kWh)

V.2 HC (g/km or g/kWh)

V.3 NOx (g/km or g/kWh)

V.4 HC+NOx (g/km)

V.5 particulates (g/km or g/kWh)

5. Registered keeper If any details are incorrect enter the correct details in section 6, sign section 8, and return to DVLA. C.4.0 - This document is not proof of ownership.

C.1.2 **NIKIYA**

C.1.1 **VOLGIN**

C.1.3

I ACQUIRED VEHICLE ON **17 06 2010**
Please write in black ink and CAPITAL LETTERS.

6. New keeper or new name/new address details Please see section 12.

M.1 M.2 M.3 Please tick (✓) the appropriate box **W** 4

This form is for example, Mr, Mrs and so on) or business name:

First names: _____ 5

Surname: _____ 6

For company use only DVLA/DVA Fleet number: _____ 7

Date of birth (not required by law): _____ Please help us to help you by giving your postcode. _____ 8

House No: _____ 9

Address: _____ 10

Post town: _____ 11

New keeper? K 12 Date of sale or transfer: **17 06 10** 13

If so tick this box: Driving licence number of the new keeper (not required by law): _____ 14

Present mileage (not required by law): _____ 15

R 16 S 17

7. Changes to current vehicle Only enter corrected or added details H 19

Wheelplan / Body type: _____ 20

VIN / Chassis / Frame Number: _____ 21

New revenue weight: _____ Date of change: _____ Cylinder capacity (cc): _____ 24

No. of seats inc. driver: _____ No. of standing places: _____ Type of fuel: _____ 27

Engine number: _____ 28

New colour: _____ Date of change: _____ CLR: _____ 30

Tax class: _____ Y 31 32

*The tax class shown in section 4 can only be changed when taxing. Please apply at your nearest DVLA local office.

8 Declaration - You MUST sign, date and return this page to DVLA, Swansea, SA99 1BA when you notify any changes.

Registered keeper: I declare that the new details I have given are correct to the best of my knowledge.

New keeper: I declare that this vehicle was sold or transferred to me on the date shown in section 6 and my name and address are correctly shown.

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Law: If the vehicle is sold or transferred, both the registered keeper and the new keeper must sign this Certificate.

Official use only - Please do not write below this line.

Doc. Ref. N° **0266 513 0600 23 09 10**

Des. Codes **1002308760 / 0389 30**

V5C-0710

URT 155F U

4

8269 3320 2666 0984 0180 2787

BILL OF SALE

You probably do not have a bill of sale so you need to sit down and create one: Just make sure the car details, dates etc are consistent with the log book.

A bill of sale can look like this:

VEHICLE BILL OF SALE

I (seller's name) _____
 of (seller's address) _____
 do sell a car (car year, make and model) _____
 with VIN# _____
 to (buyer's name) _____
 in the amount of (sale price) _____

 Seller's signature

 Buyer's signature

 Seller's name

 Buyer's name

 Date

 Date

Just invent a sellers name and signature and maybe fold it over to create some creases but the reality so long as it matches the details in the log book nobody cares. The price should be a good guess but the Spanish authorities will do their own valuation from their system and records so it's not important.

Chapter Four

Changing headlights and booking ITV inspection.

The one physical modification you must do to your vehicle is to make sure the headlights 'dip' in the proper direction and are correctly aligned.

Unless mechanics is your thing the best thing to do is to go to the local dealer of your make of car and ask them to do it for you. Spanish headlights are not going to cost more via a dealer and when they are installed part of the process will be to line them up correctly. If they are not lined up then the car will fail it's MOT/ITV test.

This is probably the time to explain to the dealer that you are re-registering the vehicle as Spanish and ask them to check it over to make sure it will pass mechanically. Tyres, brakes, stop and fog lights etc. All the items that a MOT in the UK requires to be OK.

Headlights - Los faros
 Back lights - Luces traseras
 Brake lights - Luces de los frenos
 Fog Lights - Faros antiniebla
 Left - Izquierda
 Right - Derecha
 Hand Brake - Freno de mano
 Steering wheel - Volante
 Windscreen wipers - Limpia para brisas
 Indicators - Intermitente
 Hazards - Cuatro intermitentes
 Reverse lights - Marcha atras

You can also ask the garage to make the booking and take the car for it's ITV inspection and it appears many Spanish owners do this as a matter of course. I would advise you to get the garage who has done the headlights to take the car for you. Failing that find an ex-pat garage and ask them to make the booking and take the car. They will do so willingly for a fee

If you do it yourself, and I managed with very little Spanish, you need to go to the office of the ITV centre and make an appointment. They will give you a date and time to report.

You turn up with the following documents:

passport (+photocopy)
 log book, (+ photocopy)
 certificate of conformity, (+ photocopy)
 NIE number & photocopy of the residency card(+ photocopy)
 Padron - 'Certificado de Empadronamiento' (+ photocopy)
 Insurance certificate. (this is a recent requirement) (+ photocopy)

And you are going to need cash. Roughly 47€ for a normal car but because its an import the charge can be just over 100€

The actual testing is a bit like a production line.

They'll test your exhaust emissions, headlight alignment, seatbelts and will take a look under the bonnet of the car. After that you'll be told to queue at one of the doors in the next shed where your lights will be tested and they may (but don't always) test windscreen wipers and horn; then there are tests for brakes and steering, shock absorbers, wheel alignment, and an inspection of car's underside.

You stay in the car all the time and follow the orders of the mechanics. You move the car from section to section until at the end you are given all your papers back.

Having got the car through the ITV test, you get a certificate saying the car conforms, 3 copies of the MOT certificate and a decal to stick on the windscreen and show when the next MOT is due. (Do not stick it on the windscreen yet, You will need it for the new Spanish registration document.)

If your car failed because of *defectos graves* you'll be allowed to drive the car away and have it put right within two months. If you return to the same ITV station within 15 days they will check that those faults have been fixed for no charge'

You are almost there.....

Chapter Five

Getting paperwork processed

AT THIS POINT YOU ARE READY TO GET A LITTLE HELP!

In every town of any size, you will find there is an office calling itself a **GESTORIA**. These people deal with government paperwork on your behalf.

They are semi official but of course you have to pay them to do the work. Typically their price for importing and registering a motor car is 100-200€.

Their work and charges includes getting a current road tax for the car - the proportion outstanding to the end of the year.

(Unlike the UK this road tax is taken by the local town hall and not by central government. It depends on cc etc of the vehicle but seems to be around 120€ PA.)

You have to pay cash as they don't take credit cards

You go into any **GESTORIA** office and explain you want to change your British car registration into Spanish registration.

You need to present them with the following documents:

All the ITV inspection centre documents including the decal

The original car registration documents

Your NIE card & Number

Your Passport

Your Padron

The certificate of conformity.

Bill of sale of the car to you

Insurance certificate

What happens next is the Gestoria looks up the exact model and type of the car in a book and finds it's 'Spanish Value' when new.

He then makes adjustments for the age of the car and it's CO2 emissions and arrives at a figure on which the 12.5% matriculation tax will be based.

(If you have done all the above before you have been resident for a month this tax will be waved.)

You will also have to pay the 'circulation tax' which is due to the town for running the car. (Road Tax) For a large car you are looking at around 120€ a year and for the year in which you register/import the car you only pay for the outstanding month. Thereafter you pay annually.

The Gestoria will add up all these charges and give you a total which needs paying, in cash, including their fees. They will probably offer to get the new number plates as well.

I let the garage who took the car to the ITV station make up the plates and fix them for me..

Probably you will receive the paperwork, with the Spanish licence plate number, the Spanish log book, together with the circulation (road tax) certificate, in about 3-4 working days.

Take the car to a garage to have the new licence plates made and attached then cancel your old UK car insurance and get a refund!

In the future as in the UK, your car will need to have MOT/ITV inspections.

The system is a little different in that cars from 0-4years old don't need one.

4-10 years old have one every 2 years and over 10 years old annually.

You can book the ordinary MOT online at: <http://itvcita.es> (a 'cita' is an appointment) - very efficient system you just put your Spanish licence plate in the web site and it will make an appointment for you. The cost for these normal ITV/MOT is around 45€ a time

And that's all you need,

Your car is now legally registered as a Spanish vehicle.

**If you are a Brit who has lived in another country, before moving to Spain, and your car has a non UK registration.
in this case you will need**

Baja Consular - Which is a paper from the British Consulate stating that despite having lived abroad you are in fact British but you lived in that foreign country for over a year. You need to make an appointment with the British Consulate in Malaga or another major centre. There are a load of documents they want to examine and will charge you a mind blowing 160€ for the privilege of handing you this bit of paper. Go to the web site and exchange unhelpful emails in order to get this document. Recently the UK consular offices have stopped issuing these so to prove you have been living in another country then moved to Spain, you need to go to a Notaire for this document and they will charge around 60€.

Car Insurance

Now your vehicle is legally Spanish you must cancel your old UK or non Spanish insurance and take out Spanish Car insurance.

There are lots of insurance companies but I have found the service and value for money from **LA LINEA DIRECTA** (Direct Line) insurance to be very easy to use, all in English and when I put petrol in my diesel tank and the car stopped really helpful!

<https://www.lineadirecta.com/Recursos/recursos/EN/html/car-insurance.html>

**La Linea Directa offers an introductory deal with 30€
refund if you**

FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE THREE STEPS

YOU CALL 902 325 325

AND QUOTE MY NAME - Michael Briant

YOU APPLY FOR

CAR OR HOME INSURANCE

YOU & I each RECEIVE €30 EACH.

Chapter Seven

Changing your driving license to Spanish

The bad news is that if you are a Spanish resident (spend more than 183 days in any 12 month period in Spain) and you are driving a Spanish registered car, the law requires that within 6 months of owning a Spanish registered vehicle or driving one you must obtain a Spanish driving licence! The fine if caught by the Guardia Civil is around 400€.

Spanish Driving Licence

As you get older, the UK driving licence system takes away some of the 'features' of your licence like HGV and other permissions.

The Spanish system allows you to retain your HGV element for as long as you hold a car licence. When you reach retirement age it only requires a 'medical' every 4 years rather than annually or bi-annually like the UK system.

Before you can apply for a [Spanish Driving Licence](#) you need to go to the special centre that does medicals taking your UK licence with you.

There is a driving 'medical' centre in most towns but sometimes the opening hours are limited to one or two evening a week. Ask at the local police station or tourist where the nearest centre is then go there and check the opening times which are always displayed outside.

If you know someone who speaks fluent Spanish or even pay a Spanish teacher to go with you it's probably a good thing. Lots of the information required is in Spanish and there is no guarantee that anybody in the department speaks English.

All Spanish drivers are required to take this test every 4 years.

Having got your appointment you have to sit and wait for your number to come up.

If you fail don't worry as you will still have your UK driving licence and can try again later.

The Car Licence Medical test

is split into 3 totally separate items and there does not appear to be any particular order for doing each item.

- 1) Intelligence test and coordination test.
- 2) Examination by a doctor, He fills out a form with your medical history
- 3) Examination by an eye specialist - sometimes the doctor does this.

The intelligent test currently is an A4 sheet of paper with around 12 questions asking things like day of the week and month. The department in which you live and a bit more scary – Who is the Spanish foreign minister and who is the Prime minister?

I dare say these questions vary from place to place and year to year.

The co-ordination test requires you to play a few computer games. They too are pretty self explanatory. There is one where you drive two cars at the same time up two different tracks and the tracks start changing directions independently! That got me going a bit! I bet my pulse rate was way too high but it would appear that the pass mark is pretty low so it's not to worry about. Another test is a ball crosses the screen then disappears behind a coloured bar which then has a finish line. You have to estimate when it reaches the finish line. (I suspect it is better to finish early rather than late!)

The doctor seems interested in your blood pressure and pulse rate and if our hands are steady when you hold them out. They enquire about any serious illnesses... He fills out a form as he interviews you which you sign at the end.

The eye specialist requires no real command of Spanish - you read from a chart on the wall. It has signs like $\uparrow \rightarrow \downarrow \leftarrow$ There are some rudimentary colour tests which are self apparent. If you wear glasses he checks them out (Spanish driving law requires you to carry a second pair in the car at all times)

Having completed all three items you go back to reception where the receptionist asks what sort of licence you want. My UK HGV was out of date by years so she asked if I still wanted it? I said yes and she produced a computer printed form for all the items on my UK licence. I was required to pay in cash around 20€ for the rather nervous making series of test but walked away with a **medical certificate** to allow me to apply for a driving licence.

I have been through this process twice and got away with it with very basic Spanish. Basically they want to pass you to drive so there appears to be a

reasonable amount of leeway. The hardest part is the A4 paper intelligence test as it is totally geared to Spanish people.

NEXT is a visit to the local Spanish equivalent of the UK DVLA.

<http://www.dgt.es/> and these are only in large towns. Ask at the Police Local station or Google.

They deal with vehicle registration, fines and of course driving licenses.

There is a special department for foreigners changing their existing licence to Spanish so you hardly have to queue at all.

You must bring with you with photocopies and the original of all the following:

- 1) Your UK driving licence
- 2) Your new medical form for a driving licence application
- 3) Your passport
- 4) Your NIE number
- 5) Your resident's card
- 6) Your Padron
- 7) 2 Passport size photographs

Most of the application is completed by the official on the computer and you just sign a couple of papers.

At the end of it they retain your UK licence and hand you a paper licence that **IS ONLY VALID IN SPAIN!** It takes 3-4 weeks for your Spanish driving licence to arrive in the post.

If you intend returning to the UK or going into a neighbouring country by car during that time, you do not have a valid international driving licence...

They will ask again here what sort of licence you want and you are entitled to ask for all categories on your UK licence even if they are out of date.

About 4 weeks later your new EU Spanish Driving licence arrives by post.

When you come to renew your licence after 4 years the process is almost exactly the same as the above. The following link is to the official Spanish PDF file for renewing licence in English:

https://sede.dgt.gob.es/Galerias/tramites-y-multas/permiso-de-conduccion/renovacion/11/11-PRORROGA-PERMISO-CONducir_EN.pdf

Chapter Eight

Working out approximate 12% matriculation tax

The cost of the car registration tax depends on several variables, the fact that most affects to calculate the car registration tax of a vehicle is the volume of CO2 emitted by the vehicle. Although it is not the only factor, it also influences the type of vehicle, in which region is registered the car or how old is it or more other factors.

This is clearly not straightforward and there are companies that for a fee will do it for you although I have no direct experience of them:



<https://www.importarcoches.com>.

0034 606 900 188

Offer this service for 1.99€ for one car. The fact it talks about German cars is not relevant – the same matriculation tax is payable on a car with German plates, English plates, French plates or any other EU country.

The other and probably free way of finding out what you will have to pay is to take all the cars documents to a Gestoria and asking them.

You will need to show them the cars ‘log book’ paper.

Each year the Spanish authorities publish a book which lists every EU car manufacturers cars, models, years etc and shows what the ‘matriculation’ tax is going to be. Normally they value 2nd hand cars on the low side and the ‘tax’ is reasonably modest.

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I hope you have found this book helpful and informative. Inevitably things change and particularly in Spain the 'rules' can vary from area to area.

If you have found any major discrepancies or inaccuracies then please email them to me at: michael@michaelbriant.com. So I may correct later editions of this book.

Thank you and good luck with changing your plates to Spanish.

Other books by Michael Briant are available from

gentlesailing.com

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