



European
Joint
Support Unit

Vehicles & Travel

Brunssum





VEHICLE ENTITLEMENTS

An entitled person is eligible for import tax exemption for as many vehicles as they bring into the country if those vehicles remain in their possession. If an entitled person chooses to sell any of those vehicles after arrival, they may be subject to the import tax levy.

A member is entitled to road tax exemption for the first TWO Privately Owned Motor Vehicles (POMVs), regardless of type, registered within the system.

An entitled person may purchase ONE tax-free POMV (specifically, entitled person will receive VAT refund after registration is complete), regardless of type from a Customs-approved merchant every 12 calendar months. Any additional new vehicles purchased within the 12-month period will be subject to VAT.

An entitled person is entitled to a fuel rebate for up to 150 litres per month.

To find out more about your entitlement to Tax Free vehicle purchases and registration please visit the Customs and VAT office co-located with the Passes and Registration Office.

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

Driving In NL

It is recommended that all drivers complete a European Highway Code Matrix Test for Driving in Europe, within 30 days of arrival. This can be found at: <http://bfgnet.de/matrix/index.php> There are some interesting 'right of way' rules and this will help you to understand them.

It is advisable that all vehicles have a portable red reflective triangle, high visibility vest, fire extinguisher and first aid kit in the boot. If a car is stopped for any reason, the triangle must be placed 200 metres behind it if on the motorway and 100 metres behind it on all other roads. Please ensure you know what to do if you are involved in an accident.

A useful source of information is at:

<https://www.rac.co.uk/drive/travel/country/netherlands/>

Vehicle Registration

Vehicle registration onto Dutch plates is through the Passes and Registration office. This is to be completed within 28 days of arrival.



UK Sticker Requirement

All POV (Personnel Owed Vehicles) with UK Plates require UK stickers from 28 September 2021, these stickers replace the GB stickers previously required.

Example - SP posted to the EU before Host-Nation registration / SP leaving with UK Plates on at end of assignment.

So What –

- SP is posted in on assignment to a Host Nation in Europe, they will need to have an UK Sticker on their vehicle.
- This also applies to SP that are at the end of their assignment and have handed back their Host-Nation vehicle Plates and put their UK Plates back on.
- If SP do not have an UK sticker on after 28 September – They will face a fine (We do not have information on how much that will be yet!).

The reason it is in JSP 800 is for UK WF (Leased) vehicles going to Europe will also need UK Stickers on them – From 28 September 2021.

From RAC website explaining why this has come about - [RAC news](#)



Fuel Card

All SP are entitled to 150 litres of tax-free fuel per calendar month; this is per SP, not per family car or per dependent.

After your vehicle is registered, the HNLO will take you through the process of applying for a FORAX card. You use the card at Esso stations in NL only to purchase your fuel. Approximately 7 days after purchase the fuel payment (minus tax) will be taken from your bank account by direct debit.

Car Seats in NL

Dutch law states the following:

- Babies up to 13 kg (28 lbs) must be in a car seat in a backwards position.
- Children 13-18 kg (28-39 lbs) must be in a forward-facing car seat.
- Children 18-36 kg (39-79 lbs) must be in an adapted car seat using normal seatbelt.
- Children measuring less than 1.35 m must be in an adapted car seat.

<https://www.avis.co.uk/drive-avis/driving-guides/road-rules/netherlands>

Parking in NL

Parking in town centres is controlled by parking meters, or in 'blue zones' by using a special disc (showing the time of arrival), which can be bought from supermarkets, newsagents or tobacconists.

Be vigilant for temporary signs left by the commune to indicate that the road needs to be kept clear for road works etc.

Do not park a vehicle within 15 metres of tram and bus stops.

Winter Driving

Useful sources of information on winter driving (including tyres, particularly in Germany) can be found at:

<https://www.uniroyal-tyres.com/car/tyre-guide/winter-care/winter-tyres-mandatory>

<https://www.rac.co.uk/drive/travel/driving-abroad/winter/>



International Driving Permit (IDP)

You can obtain an IDP from most UK main post offices in person; the 1968 version of the IDP applies in NL. You will need to bring a passport photo, your UKDL and the fee.

Priority to the Right

'Priority to the right' is practiced in NL. This means you must yield to all traffic on your right. Often there are no designated signs at an intersection. The priority in a roundabout is given to those currently in the roundabout.

For more information on road signs:

www.traffic-rules.com/en/netherlands/traffic-signs/mandatory

Drink Driving

Dutch laws on alcohol and driving are strict. It is an offence to drive with a blood alcohol level of 0.05% or above (0.02% if a licence holder for less than five years). This lower limit also applies to people under the age of 24 who drive mopeds, motorised bicycles and scooters. Police automatically test the breath of anyone involved in a traffic accident, whether victim or pedestrian.

Low Emission Zones in Germany

If you drive into Germany, you will need a special permit to enter vehicle low emission zones; for more information contact the HIVE.

Click to add text



Cycling in NL

Riding your bike in Netherlands requires you to have a road worthy bike with lights, reflectors, brakes and a bell to alert pedestrians that you are coming.

www.holland-cycling.com/tips-and-info/safety/road-signs-for-cyclists

Cyclists enjoy significant legal protection in NL; take extreme care when driving close to them!

Airports

Brunssum is well-served by international airports:

Maastricht Airport 15 km
Dusseldorf Airport 67 km
Eindhoven Airport 70 km
Cologne (Köln) Airport 82 km
Brussels Airport 105 km

Rail

There is an excellent rail network in NL for domestic and international travel. The nearest railway station is in the centre of Heerlen.

For details, please refer to www.ns.nl/en

Buses

Brunssum and Heerlen are well supplied with bus routes.

For detail, please refer to www.9292.nl

Travel Insurance

While EJSU Brunssum cannot advise on specific policies, SP and dependants are strongly advised to obtain travel insurance.

All SP and dependants are strongly advised to always carry their EHICs. EHICs provide emergency health care whilst travelling within other EU member countries but it does not include the country of residence. The EHIC is not an alternative to travel insurance. Visit www.ehic.org.uk for further information or to apply online.