

INFORMATION ON PEOPLE THAT COME IN GREECE WITH PRIVATELY OWNED PASSENGER CARS - WITH LICENSE PLATES FROM USA AND CANADA

STATUS OF TEMPORARY IMPORTATION FOR USE OF PRIVATELY OWNED PASSENGER CARS

QUALIFIED PERSONS:

Persons (foreigners or Greeks) that have their usual residence abroad, that is to say they stay in another country for 185 days at least per 12 month period because of personal or even commercial interests, that reveals strong ties of the person with the said country, they can bring in Greece their passenger car, RV, caravan or motorcycle, without paying the mandatory amount of taxes and duties, for a period 6 months, continuous or fractured, per 12 months. When a person has commercial interests in more than one nation, his usual residence is the place where that person's personal ties exist. The sale or transfer of vehicles imported in Greece by such a way is strictly forbidden. Also, their use is not allowed by third non beneficiary persons, same when these persons have their usual residence in Greece. The infringement of these limitations, involves very heavy fines or sentences. The responsibility of "proof of usual residence" or the dates of the entry of the vehicle in Greece, in the cases where these are not checked by the frontier custom (EU Vehicles), rests upon the shoulders of the owner.

Conditions that concern vehicles:

The vehicles must have upon entrance of the nation license plates from the nation that has published their authorization of circulation, which they must also bring with them. They also need to be insured and if their authorization of circulation and the plates are only temporary they must be valid and in effect at their time of entry in Greece. If they expire afterwards, for the continuation and circulation of the vehicle until the six month period expires the owner has to make sure he is provided with temporary authorization of circulation and Greek license plates. Failure to do so may result in sever fines.

Expiration of Qualifications:

With the completion of the six month circulation the vehicle should either be exported out of Greece or to be reported immobile and stored in any secure facility. Such immobilization has to be reported to the Greek custom authority and it has to be in either a private space or a public space of parking. The duration of immobilization may not exceed 24 months. The owner [beneficiary] is able to ask for a renewal of circulation for another six months after the twelve months have past, provided that he/she is able to prove that during his past year he continued having his usual residence abroad. If the person and the car stay in Greece and the use of the car without its immobilization is prohibited. If during immobilization the owner does not renew it before his 24 months the car is considered unclaimed and may be taken to an auction, it passes in complete control of the Greek Government.

Other cases:

The above benefits for circulation of privately owned passenger cars, or RV, caravan or motorcycles for a period of 6 months per 12 months, is also provided to Greeks with a usual residence in Greece that with proof resides and work abroad at least six months per 12 months. With the completion of the six month period the vehicle must be re-exported because no immobilization period is granted to such persons. The persons that have declared that they are repatriating and they are bringing a vehicle with them to Greece, are allowed to use the vehicle for one month with foreign plates before they have to take it through the customs process. If they fail there may be strict fines.

For Further Information:

Hermes Toll Free:877-889-7011

*Hermes International Movers has no responsibility to keep this information up to date to the newest change of the law. The above matters are subject to change without notice at any time.