

## Information for Ukrainian Guests Driving in the UK

This summary sheet attempts to answer the 'Frequently Asked Questions' I have received from the Ukrainian guests & hosts I have tried to assist, **and updates the original June 2022 version**. The information provided here is given with all good intentions but, given the legal & safety implications of anything associated with driving, this information should not be relied upon in abstract and must always be validated, within the context of your own specific situation, with DVSA or DVLA:



**DVSA** (Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency) Helpline: <https://www.gov.uk/contact-dvsa>

**DVLA** (Driver & Vehicle Licensing Agency) Helpline: <https://www.gov.uk/contact-the-dvla>

### 1. Ukrainian Driving License & License Exchange for UK License (DVLA)

**You can drive in the UK on a Ukrainian driving license for up to 12 months;** or simply exchange your Ukrainian License for a UK License **without** having to take a Driving Test:

<https://www.gov.uk/exchange-foreign-driving-licence>

\* Professional driving qualifications (Lorry, Bus, etc) do not appear to be being recognised by DVSA, so the UK equivalent test may be required; check with DVLA or potential employer for details.

### 2. Learning to Drive in UK, applying for 'Provisional Driving License' (DVLA)

If you do not have a full Ukrainian driving license and want to learn to drive while living in the UK you must apply for a **UK Provisional Driving Licence**. To apply you must: be at least 15 years and 9 months old, be able to read a UK number plate from 20 metres away, and have legally lived in the UK for at least 185 days\* in total in the past 12 months. (You must be 17 years old to start driving a car).

**\* or have a Visa giving you permission to stay in the UK for more than 185 days; you will need to send your Passport & Visa confirmation with your license application:**

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-first-provisional-driving-licence>

#### RESIDENCY LEGISLATION

In order to apply for a GB driving licence you must be resident in GB. This requirement is implemented by virtue of Section 89 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended. A copy of the Road Traffic Act 1988 may be viewed on the website of the Office of Public Sector Information: [1] [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk)

### 3. Getting Help & Guidance with driving in the UK

**The AA Driving School** is currently offering a **FREE** confidence building drive for Ukrainian Guests: <https://fleetworld.co.uk/aa-pledges-further-support-for-ukraine-aid-efforts/>

Your local **IAM RoadSmart** or **RoSPA Groups** may also be worth contracting; both are Road Safety / Driving Standards Charities where volunteer 'Advanced Drivers' give feedback on your driving in your own car: <https://www.iamroadsmart.com/courses> or <https://www.rospa.com/safety-training/on-road/driver-training>

### 4. The Highway Code and DVSA Know your Traffic Signs (DVSA)

**The Highway Code** 2022 edition: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code>

Know your **TRAFFIC SIGNS**: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/know-your-traffic-signs>

### 5. Child car seats: the law. Using a child car seat or booster seat

See The Highway Code rules 99 to 102:

<https://www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk/rules-for-drivers-and-motorcyclists-seat-belts-and-child-restraints.html> &

<https://www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules>

**DRIVE SAFE, ALWAYS!**

**When we wrote the first draft of these guidance notes in June 2022, we did not expect 6 months to be reached.**

**Version 3.0 : 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2022 update, including updated guidance on Importing into UK & Laying-up a car.**

## 6. Driving a Ukrainian registered & taxed car in the UK (DVLA)

You can drive a Ukrainian registered & taxed car in the UK for up to 6 months as a 'visitor'.

**If staying in the UK for longer than 6 months**, the car must be **UK Registered & Taxed**:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bringing-personal-items-to-the-uk-as-a-ukrainian-refugee>

**A UK car parked on a Public Road must be Taxed**, even if not being driven. If parked on Private Land and declared 'SORN' Statutory Off Road Notice no Road Tax needed <https://www.gov.uk/make-a-sorn>

## 7. Annual MoT Safety Testing requirement for UK registered cars over 3 years old (DVSA)

**Cars registered in the UK and over 3 years old MUST be presented for an annual MoT (Ministry of Transport) Safety inspection:** <https://www.gov.uk/check-mot-status> MoT Testing Stations are UK Government regulated so should give honest advice on safety; corruption is rare in UK testing. You are not obliged to have repairs done by the garage conducting the MoT Test and can seek a second opinion (unless the car is deemed unsafe to move).

**\* It is the driver's responsibility to ensure that their vehicle is safe & legal to drive on the road.**

Long journeys across Europe may have worn tyre tread depths low, or caused other mechanical defects to the car, so having a basic safety inspection on arrival in the UK would be advisable. Halfords AutoCentres, and other national garage chains, offer FREE basic safety checks, with no obligation:

<https://www.halfords.com/car-repairs/car-checks/>

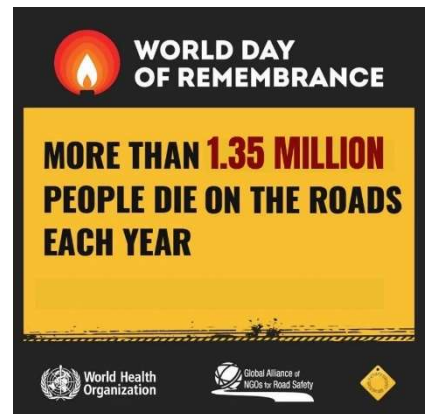
This web-search information, from 2017, implies that there is no compulsory MoT-type Safety Test requirement in Ukraine. So, car maintenance & safety requirements may be more stringent here in UK, with hefty fines for safety defects e.g. £2500 fine per defective tyre.

<https://eba.com.ua/en/ukraine-need-vehicle-inspection/>

'Today, in Ukraine, only vehicles that carry out commercial transportation must be subject to mandatory technical inspection, and inspections of passenger cars from 2011 are not mandatory. This greatly influenced the aging of the Ukrainian fleet and led to an increase in the number of accidents with injured or dead.'

November 2021 update: <https://good-time-invest.com/blog/ukraine-began-to-check-the-safety-of-transport-on-the-roads/>

**SAFETY CHECKS Videos: F.L.O.W.E.R.:** <https://youtu.be/BnajsOza-no> **TYRES:** <https://youtu.be/2H6mmqe14JY>



## 8. Adjustments for driving in UK (driving on LEFT) - Headlights & Speedometer MPH

Left Hand Drive cars will need their **headlight beam pattern adjusted** to avoid dazzling on-coming vehicles when **driving on the LEFT in the UK**. On modern cars this may be a simple adjustment through the car's programming menu or an under-bonnet adjustment to the headlight unit itself (check your own car's Owners Handbook). Older cars can have their light pattered adjusted temporarily while visiting the UK with simple stick-on '**Beam Benders**': <http://www.consumabulbs.com/files/bdet.php?id=407> However, these would **not** pass the IVA Import Test requirement: lens masking **not** permitted.

**UK Speed Limits are in 'Miles Per Hour' (MPH) not 'Kilometres Per Hour': 1 kph = 0.62 mph.**

Modern electronic **Speedometers** can often be simply converted to MPH via the car's programming menus, or garage ECU reprogramming. **Sat Navs, Phone aps, or standalone speedometers can offer accurate GPS based speed readings in MPH, but these secondary devices will not pass the IVA Vehicle Import Test.** <https://www.kmh-mph.co.uk/>

Key UK speed limits are **20, 30, 40, 50, 60 & 70mph**

**Blind Spot Mirrors:** January 2022 updates to The Highway Code, H2, place an additional onus of responsibility on drivers to look out for vulnerable road users, cyclists, motorcyclists, etc., who may pass on either side of the car; the electric scooter trial in Southampton adding a new road user type. Adding some 'Blind Spot Mirrors' may help to improve all round vision when driving a left-hand-drive car on the left side of the road in UK: <https://www.parkers.co.uk/car-advice/product-reviews/best-blind-spot-mirrors/>

## **Інформація для українських гостей, які їздять у Великобританії**

Цей підсумковий аркуш дає відповіді на «часті запитання», отримані мною від українських гостей та господарів, яким я намагався допомогти. Наведена тут інформація надається з усіма благими намірами, але, враховуючи юридичні та безпекові наслідки будь-чого, що пов'язано з керуванням автомобілем, цю інформацію завжди потрібно перевіряти в контексті вашої конкретної ситуації з DVSA. або DVLA:

Гаряча лінія DVSA (Агентство зі стандартів водіїв і транспортних засобів):  
<https://www.gov.uk/contact-dvsa>

Гаряча лінія DVLA (Агентство з ліцензування водіїв та транспортних засобів):  
<https://www.gov.uk/contact-the-dvla>

### **1. Українське посвідчення водія та його обмін на посвідчення Великобританії (DVLA)**

Ви можете їздити по Великій Британії за українськими правами водія до 12 місяців; або просто обміняйте своє українське посвідчення на посвідчення Великобританії без здачі іспиту на водіння:  
<https://www.gov.uk/exchange-foreign-driving-licence>

### **2. Навчання водінню у Великобританії, подача заявки на отримання «тимчасових водійських прав» (DVLA)**

Якщо ви не маєте повних українських прав і хочете навчитися водінню, проживаючи у Великобританії, ви повинні подати заявку на отримання британських тимчасових водійських прав. Щоб подати заявку, ви повинні: бути старше 15 років і 9 місяців, вміти читати номерний знак Великобританії на відстані 20 метрів і легально проживати у Великобританії не менше 185 днів\* загалом за останні 12 місяців. (Щоб почати керувати автомобілем, вам має бути 17 років). \* або мати візу, яка дає вам дозвіл на перебування у Великобританії більше 185 днів; Вам потрібно буде надіслати підтвердження паспорта та візи разом із заявкою на отримання ліцензії:  
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-first-provisional-driving-licence>

#### **ЗАКОНОДАВСТВО ПРО ПРОЖИВАННЯ**

Щоб подати заявку на отримання водійських прав Великобританії, ви повинні проживати в Великобританії. Ця вимога реалізується відповідно до розділу 89 Закону про дорожній рух 1988 року зі змінами. Копію Закону про дорожній рух 1988 року можна переглянути на веб-сайті Управління інформації про державний сектор: [1] [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk)

### **3. Отримання допомоги та рекомендацій щодо водіння у Великобританії**

Наразі Автошкола AA пропонує Гостям з України БЕЗКОШТОВНИЙ заїзд для зміцнення впевненості: <https://fleetworld.co.uk/aa-pledges-further-support-for-ukraine-aid-efforts/>

Ваші місцеві групи IAM RoadSmart або RoSPA також можуть бути корисними; обидві є благодійними організаціями з безпеки дорожнього руху / стандартів водіння, де волонтери «Досвідчені водії» дають відгуки про ваше водіння на власному автомобілі:  
<https://www.iamroadsmart.com/courses> або <https://www.rospace.com/safety-training/on-road/driver-training>

### **4. Правила дорожнього руху та DVSA Знайте свої дорожні знаки (DVSA)**

Видання The Highway Code 2022: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code>

Знайте свої ДОРОЖНІ ЗНАКИ: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/know-your-traffic-signs>

## 5. Дитячі автокрісла: закон. Використання дитячого автокрісла або автокрісла

Дивіться правила 99-102 Кодексу дорожнього руху:

<https://www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk/rules-for-drivers-and-motorcyclists-seat-belts-and-child-restraints.html> & <https://www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules>

## 6. Керування зареєстрованим українським автомобілем у Великобританії (DVLA)

Пом'якшено вимоги до в'їзду для українських транспортних засобів, які в'їжджають до Великобританії.

Проте, все ще існує вимога зареєструвати автомобіль та подати податок на автомобіль у Великобританії, якщо він залишився більше 6 місяців:

<https://www.gov.uk/quidance/bringing-personal-items-to-the-uk-as-a-ukrainian-refugee>

Тимчасове ввезення транспортного засобу до Великобританії:

<https://www.gov.uk/importing-vehicles-into-the-uk/temporary-imports>

Постійне імпортування транспортного засобу до Великобританії:

<https://www.gov.uk/importing-vehicles-into-the-uk>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/individual-vehicle-approval-iva-for-cars-help-to-get-a-pass>

Будь-який автомобіль, припаркований на дорозі загального користування, підлягає оподаткуванню, навіть якщо він не за кермом. Якщо ви не збираєтеся керувати транспортним засобом і можете припаркувати його на дорозі, на приватній землі, ви можете оголосити його «SORN» законодавчим повідомленням про бездоріжжя та не платити дорожній податок:

<https://www.gov.uk/make-a-sorn>

## 7. Щорічні вимоги щодо перевірки безпеки технічного обслуговування автомобілів, зареєстрованих у Великобританії, старше 3 років

Автомобілі, зареєстровані у Великобританії та старше 3 років, ПОВИННІ представлятися для щорічної перевірки безпеки (Міністерство транспорту): <https://www.gov.uk/check-mot-status>.

MOT станції тестування перевірені государством, тому дають чесні поради з безпеки; корупція рідко зустрічається в тестуванні у Великобританії.

Ви не зобов'язані виконувати ремонт у гаражі, який проводить перевірку технічного обслуговування, і можете звернутися до іншого експерта (якщо автомобіль не буде визнано небезпечним для руху).

\* Водій відповідає за те, що його автомобіль є безпечним і законним для їзди на дорозі. Довгі поїздки по Європі могли призвести до зношення протектора шин або до інших механічних дефектів автомобіля, тому доцільно було б пройти базову перевірку безпеки після прибуття до Великобританії. Автоцентри Halfords та інші національні мережі гаражів пропонують БЕЗКОШТОВНІ основні перевірки безпеки без жодних зобов'язань:

<https://www.halfords.com/car-repairs/car-checks/>

**SAFETY CHECKS Videos: F.L.O.W.E.R.:** <https://youtu.be/BnjsOza-no> **TYRES:** <https://youtu.be/2H6mmqe14JY>

## 8. Adjustments for driving in UK (driving on LEFT) - Headlights & Speedometer MPH

Left Hand Drive cars will need their **headlight beam pattern adjusted** to avoid dazzling on-coming vehicles when **driving on the LEFT in the UK**. On modern cars this may be a simple adjustment through the car's programming menu or an under-bonnet adjustment to the headlight unit itself (check your own car's Owner's Handbook). Older cars can have their light pattered adjusted temporarily while visiting the UK with simple stick-on **'Beam Benders'**:

<http://www.consumabulbs.com/files/bdet.php?id=407> However, these would **not** pass the IVA Import Test requirement.

**UK Speed Limits are in 'Miles Per Hour' (MPH) not 'Kilometres Per Hour': 1 kph = 0.62 mph.**

Modern electronic **Speedometers** can often be simply converted to MPH via the car's programming menus, or garage ECU reprogramming. **Sat Navs, Phone aps, or standalone speedometers can offer accurate GPS based speed readings in MPH, but these will not pass the IVA Vehicle Import Test** which uses a static roller based test to check speed calibration in MPH: <https://andrewsjapanesecars.com/speedometer-conversion/> Key UK speed limits are **20, 30, 40, 50, 60 & 70mph**

**Blind Spot Mirrors:** January 2022 updates to The Highway Code place an additional onus of responsibility on drivers to look out for vulnerable road users, cyclists, motorcyclists, etc., who may pass on either side of the car; the electric scooter trial in Southampton adding a new road user type. Adding some 'Blind Spot Mirrors' may help to improve all round vision when driving a left-hand-drive car on the left side of the road in UK:

<https://www.parkers.co.uk/car-advice/product-reviews/best-blind-spot-mirrors/>

## Importing a Ukrainian car into the UK



**BEFORE YOU START FILLING IN FORMS,  
FIND OUT THE FOLLOWING 4 THINGS ABOUT YOUR CAR,  
IT WILL SAVE TIME LATER!**

The answers to these 4 questions will probably be found within your car's Owners Handbook and Paperwork, if you have it with you. Electronic versions of vehicle handbooks can often be found on-line. Your car Brand's MAIN DEALER garage should be able to assist you in answering these questions:

- 1. Was your Ukrainian Registered car built to a European Union Specification?**  
Entering your car's 17 digit VIN number into this website may help: <https://www.vindecoderz.com>
- 2. Can your car's original KPH Speedometer / digital display be switched to MPH?**
- 3. Can your car's Headlights be electronically switched or manually adjusted for driving on the left?**
- 4. Do you have rear Fog Light(s) mounted centrally, to the right as viewed from behind, or in a matching pair (but NOT left side only)?**

If the answer to any of these questions is **NO**, then it is advisable to explore the costs involved in modifying the car before starting filling in forms. In some cases it may be cost prohibitive.

## Importing a Ukrainian car into UK - The Forms



Phil Palfrey  
DVSA Approved  
Driving Instructor  
Manual Car

07771 806603  
phil.palfrey@outlook.com

SOUTHAMPTON • WINCHESTER • SALISBURY

**I am not a subject expert in this area** - please refer to source documents and validate all details for yourself **at the time you are undertaking your import**. The information presented here was checked directly with DVLA, HMRC & VCA in October 2022.

Download leaflet **INF 106 'How to import your vehicle into Great Britain (GB)'**  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/inf106-how-to-import-a-vehicle-into-the-united-kingdom-uk](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inf106-how-to-import-a-vehicle-into-the-united-kingdom-uk)

- **WATCH THIS VIDEO FIRST:** <https://youtu.be/0PZq6vk8hc4> an extremely helpful lady!

If staying in the UK for **longer than 6 months**, the car must be **UK Registered & Taxed:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bringing-personal-items-to-the-uk-as-a-ukrainian-refugee>

### **C110 Form:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/import-and-export-temporary-admission-notice-of-arrival-of-a-non-eu-private-motor-vehicle-c110>

Having submitted the C110 form you should then receive a letter from HMRC confirming that you have received tax relief on the import of the car so will not have to pay import duty & VAT. You will also be given a **Unique Reference Number (URN)**. \*\* The C110 form does have provision for extensions to the 6 month 'visitor' status but, at the time of writing, 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme was not one of these extensions.

HMRC, Temporary Admissions Team, Means of Transport:

Phone: 0300 322 7064, Option 3 - Temporary Admissions Team, then Option 4 - Means of Transport

**'Transfer of Residency' TOR 1 application** is initiated by the **C110 form**, and you receive a letter back with your unique reference number URN confirming that you will be able to claim **'Transfer of Residence' Relief** on the VAT & Import Duty:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/application-for-transfer-of-residence-relief-tor1>  
[nch.tor@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:nch.tor@hmrc.gov.uk) Phone: 0300 322 9434

That letter explains what to do next to make a **Notification of Vehicle Arrival (NOVA)** application.  
[ecsm.nchcars@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:ecsm.nchcars@hmrc.gov.uk) or Phone **0300 322 7071** for advice.

Having notified HMRC, you will then be advised to **Register the vehicle with DVLA**

<https://www.gov.uk/importing-vehicles-into-the-uk>

**(DVLA Helpline: 0300 790 6802)** - the DVLA helpline will e-mail you full details of what you need to do but, in summary, you should apply to tax and register the vehicle by submitting your application to: **DVLA, Swansea, SA99 1BE** You will need to submit the following documentation:

- filled in application form **V55/5** (for used vehicles)
  - registration fee **£55** & fee for vehicle road tax (**£?** Depends on car)
  - Ukrainian registration document, export certificate or any other papers relating to the vehicle (must be original)
  - original evidence of type approval (Certificate of European Conform) – circa **£130** from car's Main Dealer or on-line suppliers
  - original current British MOT Certificate – circa **£65** paid to garage
  - GB Conversion – IVA Certificate - **£100** paid to VCA
  - valid insurance certificate or cover note for vehicle being registered
  - photocopies of documentation confirming your name and address
- Alternatively, there are **Specialist Vehicle Import Companies** that will provide a quote for doing an end-to-end registration service, including all form filling and vehicle modification. They will have experience and expertise in dealing with the problems likely to be encountered by Ukrainian refugees e.g. lost registration documents when leaving in haste. This company, for example, will provide a quote for a specific car via this web-link (circa £1500):  
<https://mycarimport.co.uk/import-process/importing-a-car-from-ukraine-to-the-united-kingdom/>

## Importing a Ukrainian registered car into the UK – The Car

1. You will need to obtain a ‘**European Certificate of Conformity**’ from the car’s manufacturer (Ford, VW, Nissan, Kia, BMW, etc) confirming that the Ukrainian registered car complies to European Union standards. On-line document services can also obtain this for you from the car’s Type Approval number can be found on its VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) plate, for example: <https://www.dvlaadvice.co.uk/typeapprovalnumber.htm>



This wording, taken verbatim from DVLA’s INF 106 on ‘**A Certificate of Conformity**’ reads:

- ***For UK registration, if you have an original European Certificate of Conformity it must state that the speedometer shows miles per hour (imperial units) and that the vehicle is suitable for driving on the left-hand side of the road. If this is not stated then you will require additional approval.***  
Source: INF 106 ‘**How to import your vehicle into Great Britain (GB)**’  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/inf106-how-to-import-a-vehicle-into-the-united-kingdom-uk](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inf106-how-to-import-a-vehicle-into-the-united-kingdom-uk)
2. If you can obtain a ‘European Certification of Conformity’ for your Ukrainian registered car, then VCA has confirmed that this simplified registration process is the correct one to follow ‘**Application for GB Conversion IVA - Passenger Cars**’ (M1, Personal Import, Left Hand Drive)  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1051315/application-for-gb-conversion-iva-passenger-cars.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1051315/application-for-gb-conversion-iva-passenger-cars.pdf)

In addition to providing the ‘European Certificate of Conformity’ you will need to provide written confirmation from an appropriate garage that the **Speedometer, Headlights and Rear Fog Light(s)** conform to the precise requirements described in this form, so do read the wording carefully as it outlines what is & is not acceptable.

- **Speedometer:** display speed in both MPH & KPH, though this can be a driver switchable function. For many modern cars with electronic speedometers this functionality will already be available through the Driver’s programming menus; on other cars it may require the car’s ECU to be reprogrammed by a garage (consult your owner’s handbook or take guidance from a car garage specialising in your car model). In some cases a replacement dial face showing MPH/KPH may be needed. This is an example of a specialist company that provides a variety of solutions: <https://www.kmh-mph.co.uk/> In extreme cases, where adjustment is not possible, the speedometer may need to be replaced with a UK spec version showing both MPH & KPH.

- **Headlight Beam:** adjusted for driving on left. The headlight beam pattern must be adjusted for driving on the left to avoid dazzling oncoming motorists when driving in the UK. On many modern cars this can be achieved simply through a driver’s programming menu, or via a manual adjustment to the headlight unit itself under the bonnet (consult your owner’s handbook or take guidance from a car garage specialising in your car model). In extreme cases, where adjustment is not possible, the headlamp units may need to be replaced with UK spec versions. **\*Temporary masking of areas of the headlight lens with tape, as used for holiday travel, is not permitted for this vehicle import test.**

- **Rear Fog Light(s):** positioned right, centre, or pair (not left only). Some Left Hand Drive (Ukrainian) cars will have a single rear fog light positioned to the left of the car (as viewed from the rear). This is not acceptable as UK regulations require either a matching pair of rear fog lights, or a single fog light mounted either centrally or to the right of the car (as viewed from the rear). If your car only has one fog light positioned on the left, it will need to have this replaced with rear lighting units from a UK / RHD variant of your car model and re-wired or computer re-coded accordingly to make these lights function correctly. A simpler/cheaper solution may be a temporary bolt-on fog light fitted while in UK, mounted: Max distance from side 100mm, minimum separation gap from stop/brake light 100mm, Max height 1000mm, Min Height 250mm. Light must be road legal.

Most local **MoT garages**, or the local **Main Dealer** for your model of car, should be able to advise and assist on these 3 areas if you show them the specific requirements detailed in the GB Conversion IVA form (link above) and provide you with the necessary letter to validate that this work has been completed. Alternatively, there are **Specialist Vehicle Import Companies** with specific knowledge & expertise:  
<https://mycarimport.co.uk/import-process/importing-a-car-from-ukraine-to-the-united-kingdom/>

The car then needs a **UK MoT Test Certificate**, which can be conducted using the car’s VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) as it won’t yet have a UK Registration number, before DVLA registration.  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mot-inspection-manual-for-private-passenger-and-light-commercial-vehicles>

## Ukrainian registered car WITHOUT a Certificate of European Conformity

If you are unable to get a 'Certificate of European Conformity' for your Ukrainian registered car then registering your car in the UK becomes significantly more complex and expensive. This is likely to be the case for cars not designed for the European market, for example, American specification cars. Entering your car's 17 digit VIN number into this website may give some guidance on whether it is built to EU specification: <https://www.vindecoderz.com>



**Unless you are extremely knowledgeable about cars, attempting to undertake a full IVA Test yourself without expert guidance would probably be unwise!** Specialist companies can provide quotations for doing this for you (e.g. <https://mycarimport.co.uk/import-process/importing-a-car-from-ukraine-to-the-united-kingdom/>) but these costs of conversion & testing should be compared to second-hand car prices. Second hand cars are significantly cheaper in the UK, so check the economics of importing relative to buying a UK right hand drive car, which may be safer to drive in UK long-term & cheaper to insure.

### Locations of DVSA 'IVA Testing Centres':

**SOUTHAMPTON**, Unit R Centurion Industrial Estate, Bitterne Road West, Southampton, S018 1UB.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/specialist-schemes-testing-station-map/individual-vehicle-approval-iva-test-centre-locations>

### Guide to IVA Testing:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/individual-vehicle-approval-iva-for-cars-help-to-get-a-pass>  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/812087/individual-vehicle-approval-scheme-guide.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/812087/individual-vehicle-approval-scheme-guide.pdf)

## Laying-up your car

If you are not able to make your car UK compliant and register it, you should take guidance from DVLA on what you should do - DVLA Helpline: 0300 790 6802. Unregistered / Untaxed cars must not be left parked on the public highway (road), and will be towed away by authorities if they are. If your host has off-street parking where you can store the car then the following tips & video links may be helpful as you prepare to lay-up your car for a number of months:

1. Run the **fuel tank reasonably low to reduce fire risk** to your car and your host's property; though consider a fuel/injection system additive to absorb moisture content / condensation build up in the empty tank air space and fuel injectors e.g. SeaFoam, Forte products.
2. Consider **disconnecting the battery** to avoid it going flat, and to reduce fire risk of rodents chewing through wiring looms, etc. You will need to take alternative security measures. Video on disconnecting battery and trickle charging: <https://youtu.be/vnRwm7U5UGA>
3. **Beware of using Jump Start Leads** on a dead, not recently flattened, battery. This can cause very expensive damage to sensitive electrical components on both cars. Video on safer methods of boost-starting a car: <https://youtu.be/FDruh-6tbGA>
4. **Over inflate your tyre** pressures to help keep your tyres in good condition. Video on tyre safety generally & how to inflate: <https://youtu.be/2H6mmqe14JY>
5. Have the **coolant anti-freeze strength** tested by a garage to avoid it freezing.
6. Top up **screen-wash to winter concentration** to avoid it freezing and cracking reservoirs/pipes. Video on screen wash concentration: <https://youtu.be/3Juh --P9M0>
7. A **car cover** may help protect the car through the winter months, though ensure it is correctly secured to avoid wind flapping damaging the paintwork; check regularly for rodent nesting.



## Why is Speedometer display so important?

The frequently asked question:

*“I understand that headlights can dazzle / blind oncoming motorists, I understand that a fog light on the left can be dangerous when driving on the left on a foggy day, but what’s the problem with the speedo?!”*

I did not write the rules, so cannot answer that question conclusively. As a Driving Instructor my interpretation of the rule would be that the answer may lie in **Speed’s Squared relationship with stopping distances and any resulting impact energy** i.e. an apparently small miss-reading on a scale can have a surprisingly large consequence. This is a video I share with my L-students to simply illustrate this complex area of automotive physics: <https://youtu.be/WjvVbXDy20w>

As **Professor Ian Johnston of Monash University Accident Research Centre** graphically explains in this video,  
*“No matter how good a driver you are, 5kph difference up there, makes 27kph difference down here!”*

If your car’s speedometer doesn’t have the facility to be switched or dealer reprogrammed to MPH, I can fully appreciate the frustration at the expense of having to replace the speedometer for a stay in the UK that will hopefully only last a few more months. This company offers alternative solutions which may work for some cars: <https://www.kmh-mph.co.uk/>



**DRIVE SAFE, ALWAYS!**