

Correct as at 1st May 2026. It may be superseded at any time.

Extract taken from: Entry certification > Pre-registration and VIN > Left-hand drive vehicles > Left-hand drive categories

5-1 Left-hand drive categories

The new left hand drive categories described below apply to vehicles presented for certification after 1 April 2010. A vehicle that is presented for certification after 1 April 2010 that was border checked before 1 April 2010 can be processed using the rules that applied prior to 1 April 2010.

A vehicle presented for certification after 1 April 2010 that was border checked after 1 April 2010 maybe eligible to be processed under the old rules. In these cases the owner will need to apply to the vehicles section of the Transport Agency for consideration of their case.

Table 5-1-1 describes the only categories under which a left-hand drive vehicle may be registered.

Table 5-1-1. Left-hand drive vehicle categories

Category	Description
A	<p>Class MA vehicles less than 20 years old:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vehicle must be class MA, and <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. be issued with a Category A left-hand drive vehicle permit by the Transport Agency, and 2. be manufactured in a country other than New Zealand less than 20 years before the vehicle is certified for entry in New Zealand • The vehicle must not be operated in a transport service and must be registered in the name of the person who obtained the original Category A LHD permit for a period of 4 years. <p>Requirements that the vehicle must meet:</p> <p>To issue a vehicle with a Category A LHD vehicle permit, the Transport Agency must either deem it to have historic value, or it must be a vehicle that was not manufactured in right-hand drive form that meets three of the following four requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vehicle (or its make, model and submodel) is identified as being a collector's item in a commercially produced motoring publication • The vehicle's make and model and submodel has been (or was) manufactured in annual volumes of 20,000 units or less • The vehicle is, and was manufactured as, a two-door coupe or a convertible • The vehicle is, and was manufactured as, a high-performance vehicle. <p>The owner must also comply with the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be a New Zealand citizen or resident • Must not have received a Category A LHD vehicle permit during the two years before your application • Have the vehicle registered in their name • Must prove the other necessary standards for the vehicle year.
B	<p>Light vehicles that are 20 years old or more:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vehicle must be class MA, MB, MC or NA. Its gross vehicle mass must not exceed 3.5 tonnes, and it must have been manufactured in a country other than New Zealand 20 years or more before the vehicle is certified. • The vehicle must not be operated in a transport service.

Category	Description
C	<p>Specialist vehicles. There are five sub-groups in this category:</p> <p>Category C1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vehicle must have dual steering columns and controls. <p>Category C2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vehicle must be used solely or principally as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a mobile crane, or b) a vehicle which operates wholly or partly on self-laying tracks, or c) an agricultural tractor or self-propelled agricultural harvesting machine, or d) an earthmoving machine. • The Transport Agency must confirm in writing that it is satisfied the operation of the vehicle requires it to be a left-hand drive vehicle or that the vehicle is only available as a left-hand drive vehicle <p>Category C3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Transport Agency must confirm in writing that it is satisfied that the vehicle has special characteristics, or is equipped for special operational purposes, such that conversion to right-hand drive is impractical. <p>Category C4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vehicle must be identified as a hearse by the original vehicle manufacturer (eg Ford, General Motors). <p>Category C5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vehicle must be a class MA or class MC motor vehicle that is used in motor sport competition and is operated in accordance with the conditions of a valid motor sport authority card.
D	<p>Vehicles operated by diplomats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vehicle must be operated by a person who is, for the time being, entitled to diplomatic immunity from jurisdiction.
E	<p>Vehicles exempt from registration and licensing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vehicle must be exempt from registration and licensing requirements.

Category	Description
F	<p data-bbox="288 304 568 331">Former crown vehicles</p> <ul data-bbox="328 371 932 398" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="328 371 932 398">• The vehicle must be formerly owned by the Crown.
G	<p data-bbox="288 533 616 560">Motorcycles with side cars</p> <ul data-bbox="328 600 1283 627" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="328 600 1283 627">• The motorcycle may have a sidecar fitted to the right-hand side of the motorcycle.