

## **Displaced persons from Ukraine: registration of motor vehicles**

Displaced persons from Ukraine who are entitled to temporary protection under the Temporary Protection Directive are currently exempted from the obligation to apply for Dutch registration plates for their vehicle. They also have a temporary exemption from paying motor vehicle tax (MRB).

This situation is changing from 4 March 2025. The cars of displaced persons from Ukraine must then have Dutch registration plates. Cars must be registered with the Netherlands Vehicle Authority (RDW) by 4 March 2025. It is possible to apply to the Tax Administration for exemption from car and motorcycle tax (BPM).

### *1. Registration process*

You can find out how to register your vehicle on the websites of the Tax Administration [You have come to the Netherlands from Ukraine and brought a motor vehicle](#) and the RDW [Arrived from Ukraine with your vehicle | RDW](#)

*Q: What happens to the Ukrainian registration plates after registration?*

A: The Ukrainian registration plates will remain yours. You can destroy them once you have your Dutch registration plates.

*Q: Will my car remain registered in Ukraine? How can I deregister my vehicle in Ukraine without returning there?*

A: The Ukrainian authorities will not be informed automatically when your vehicle is registered in the Netherlands. You will not be asked to give up your Ukrainian vehicle registration document. To deregister your car in Ukraine, you are advised to contact the Ukrainian authorities. If you do not deregister your car in Ukraine, you may still be subject to tax and other obligations as a vehicle owner in Ukraine on top of obligations in the Netherlands.

*Q: What about trips to Ukraine? Can I drive a vehicle in Ukraine if it has a Dutch registration plate?*

A: Yes, you can travel to Ukraine in a vehicle with a Dutch registration plate.-You should check with your insurer whether your car is insured in Ukraine.

*Q: Can I register my car in Ukraine again if I return?*

A: Yes. If you relocate to Ukraine and take your car, make sure that you deregister your car in the Netherlands for the purpose of export. Otherwise you will still be subject to the obligations linked to your Dutch registration (like tax, car insurance and periodic technical inspections). You should contact the Ukrainian authorities to find out how to register your car there.

*Q: What should I do if I have lost my Ukrainian motor vehicle registration document?*

A: You can still register your car without your motor vehicle registration document. If you have an exemption from car and motorcycle tax (BPM) from the Tax Administration, bring it with you as evidence when you go to the RDW inspection location.

If you do not have an exemption from BPM, you are advised to contact the RDW. The RDW will help you based on the documents you do have and the vehicle's year of manufacture.

*Q: How do you register a motor vehicle registered in someone else's name (authorisation or loan arrangements)?*

A: The person in whose name the vehicle is to be registered must personally take the vehicle to an RDW location. Ownership of the vehicle is not checked. They must bring the removal goods declaration (*verhuisgoedverklaring*) that includes the vehicle identification number (VIN).

*Q: Will Ukrainian driving licences still be valid after 3 March?*

A: Yes. There is an EU regulation under which all Ukrainian driving licences are valid in the Netherlands as long as the licence holder is entitled to temporary protection.

*Q: How can I identify myself to register my vehicle if my identity document has expired?*

A: An expired identity document is accepted on two conditions:

- The person registering the vehicle must be the same as the person in the photograph on the document.
- The person who registers the vehicle must be able to show the sticker or card (proof of residency) showing that they are entitled to temporary protection.

## 2. Financial aspects

Registering a vehicle entails costs:

- Taxes:
  - Car and motorcycle tax (BPM): this is a one-off tax. You can [apply for an exemption](#) if :
    - you came from Ukraine to the Netherlands, bringing your vehicle, which was registered in the Ukrainian vehicle register;
    - your vehicle is part of your household effects;
    - you will use the vehicle for the same purpose as you used it in Ukraine.
  - Motor vehicle tax (MRB): this is a tax you pay for keeping a motor vehicle. You pay a fixed amount every month or every quarter. There are no exemptions, so you will have to pay MRB. You can use this tool to work out how much you will need to pay: <https://www.belastingdienst.nl/wps/wcm/connect/nl/auto-en-vervoer/content/hulpmiddel-motorrijtuigenbelasting-berekenen>. The amount of MRB you have to pay does not depend on your income. It depends on the type of vehicle, its weight and the fuel it runs on.

*Q: If you have been granted an exemption from BPM, do you still have to file a BPM return to obtain Dutch registration plates?*

A: Yes. If you applied for exemption from BPM as part of the process of obtaining Dutch registration plates, you still need to file a BPM return. See:

[https://www.belastingdienst.nl/wps/wcm/connect/bldcontentnl/themaoverstijgend/programmas\\_en\\_formulieren/aangifte-melding-opgaaf-bpm](https://www.belastingdienst.nl/wps/wcm/connect/bldcontentnl/themaoverstijgend/programmas_en_formulieren/aangifte-melding-opgaaf-bpm)

- Netherlands Vehicle Authority (RDW): At the RDW you pay for the registration and inspection of your car. You can find out more via this link: [https://www.rdw.nl/en/import-export-transit/have-you-fled-from-ukraine-and-took-your-vehicle?utm\\_source=intern&utm\\_campaign=redirect&utm\\_medium=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.](https://www.rdw.nl/en/import-export-transit/have-you-fled-from-ukraine-and-took-your-vehicle?utm_source=intern&utm_campaign=redirect&utm_medium=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.)

[rdw.nl/en/ukraine](https://rdw.nl/en/ukraine)

- What other costs does registration entail?
  - Possible repairs: your car must pass a technical inspection (APK). This is a requirement for registration. Your car may need to be repaired in order to pass this test. The cost will depend on what needs to be done.
  - Registration plates: once you have received the registration certificate, you must have registration plates made by a manufacturer recognised by the RDW. See also [the step-by-step plan on the RDW website](#).
  - APK: your car will need a valid APK certificate. An APK vehicle inspection costs between €20 and €70.
  - Insurance: a car always needs to be insured if it is to be used on public roads in the Netherlands. This also applies to cars with a foreign registration.

*Q: I've always kept my car in good condition and have paid maintenance costs. Is an APK vehicle inspection still required?*

A: Yes, a valid APK certificate is mandatory for all cars registered in the Netherlands. If your car is well maintained, it is more likely to pass the inspection without needing costly repairs.

*Q: Is specific assistance available if I cannot afford the cost of registration and repairs?*

A: No specific assistance is available for displaced persons from Ukraine who are unable to pay these costs because, for example, they do not work and do not have any income. But displaced persons from Ukraine who are entitled to temporary protection can apply for exemption from car and motorcycle tax (BPM). See above.

- How does this relate to the personal contribution?

Since 1 July 2024, displaced persons from Ukraine in municipal accommodation have had to pay a personal contribution towards the cost of gas, water, energy and – where relevant – catering. Municipalities were given time to introduce this measure in order to ensure it is workable, but they have been required to implement this measure in full since 1 January 2025.

Municipalities make allowance for situations where displaced persons who receive a low income or may be disproportionately disadvantaged for some other reason. Where displaced persons earn less than they would have received in subsistence allowance, their subsistence allowance should not be stopped and the personal contribution should not be collected. This means that work continues to pay even if the personal contribution is collected.

*Q: Did the introduction of the personal contribution take account of the fact that displaced persons would have to pay motor vehicle tax (MRB)?*

A: No, when the personal contribution was introduced, no account was taken of displaced persons having to register their vehicles and pay motor vehicle tax (MRB). Municipalities have the freedom to decide not to charge the personal contribution in cases where the impact on a displaced person would be disproportionate. Municipalities may decide that this is the case for some displaced persons who have to pay motor vehicle tax (MRB).

### 3. *Technical requirements*

*Q: What are the technical requirements?*

A: The technical requirements depend on the motor vehicle, the year of manufacture and fuel type, among other things. If you need advice about your car, contact the RDW or go to a garage authorised by the RDW to carry out APK inspections. Some of the more common technical faults in cars brought from Ukraine include:

- windscreen and/or front side windows fitted with window tint films
- orange parking lights (should be white or yellow)
- no rear fog lights (mandatory for all vehicles built after 1 January 1998)
- no side indicator lights (mandatory for all vehicles built after 1 January 1998)

If your car has one of these faults, you can get help and advice from the RDW or an RDW-recognised garage.

*Q: Do vehicle repairs or alterations need to be done with original parts (OEM parts)?*

A: No. You can use aftermarket parts, as long as your vehicle meets the requirements. The exact technical requirements depend on the vehicle. If you need advice about your car, contact the RDW or go to a garage authorised by the RDW to carry out APK inspections.

### 4. *Selling your car*

*Q: Is it possible to sell a Dutch-registered motor vehicle?*

A: Yes. The vehicle must be registered to the new owner (person or company).

### 5. *Special situations*

*Q: If a displaced person from Ukraine and now staying in the Netherlands uses a car that is registered in a different European country, do they still have to register it in the Netherlands?*

A: Yes, from 4 March 2025. The exemption from vehicle registration applies until that date to all vehicles brought by displaced persons from Ukraine who are entitled to temporary protection and are staying in the Netherlands. The temporary tax exemption only applies to displaced persons from Ukraine who came to the Netherlands with a car registered in Ukraine. Motor vehicles with registration plates from a country other than Ukraine are therefore not covered by the tax exemption. This means that displaced persons with a car registered in an EU country other than Ukraine have been liable to motor vehicle tax (MRB) since their arrival in the Netherlands. They can contact the Tax Administration about this.

### 6. *Penalties*

*Q: What penalties could be imposed if a car still has Ukrainian (or other foreign) registration plates after 4 March 2025?*

A: There are different penalties depending on what obligation has not been fulfilled.

- Motor vehicle tax (MRB): you may receive a tax demand for a maximum of one year's tax plus a fine (a percentage of the tax due). This applies to foreign-registered vehicles where the driver is registered in the Personal Records Database (BRP). If you are stopped by a law enforcement officer and you are found to be registered in the Personal Records

Database, this is passed on to the Tax Administration and a tax assessment (plus a possible fine) will be imposed.

- Valid APK certificates: motor vehicles registered in the Netherlands must pass periodic APK technical inspections. The Netherlands Vehicle Authority (RDW) uses its database to check drivers have a valid APK certificate for their car. If they do not, the RDW will issue a fine. But foreign-registered motor vehicles must be safe too. The police only enforces safety requirements for Dutch-registered motor vehicles. For a relatively minor technical fault, the police may issue an official report. If a vehicle poses a danger to other road users, you may be ordered to have the vehicle inspected by the RDW before you can again use it on public roads. This is known as 'WOK' (*wachten op keuren*) status.
- Insurance: motor vehicles on public roads in the Netherlands must be insured. Dutch-registered vehicles are checked automatically through the RDW's vehicle registration database. The Dutch police do not check whether foreign-registered vehicles are insured.