

Myanmar Releases Updated Regulations on Car Importation for 2019



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On October 26, 2018, the Supervisory Committee for Motor Vehicle Import, a branch of the Ministry of Commerce, released Notification No. 1/2018 in regard to the importation of vehicles in Myanmar in 2019. Under the new legislation (which is largely similar to the 2018 notification that it replaces) only left-hand drive vehicles, or machines that cannot be classified as either right-hand or left-hand drive, will be permitted for importation. In addition, the updated law stresses the importance of importing new vehicles by classifying permitted vehicles based on their year of manufacture.

Permissible Classes of Vehicle for Import by License Type

Table 1—Old Vehicle Replacement Program License (including consignment)

Type of Vehicle	Year of Manufacture
(a) Personal-use vehicles with engines under 1350 cc	2016 - 2019
(b) Trucks	2015 - 2019
(c) Passenger vehicles (mini bus, city bus, express bus)	2015 - 2019

Table 2—Personal Import License

Type of Vehicle	Year of Manufacture
(a) Personal-use vehicles with engines under 1350 cc	2017 - 2019
(b) Trucks	2015 - 2019
(c) Passenger vehicles (mini bus, city bus, express bus)	2015 - 2019

Table 3—Normal Vehicle Import License (including donations from abroad)

Type of Vehicle	Year of Manufacture
(a) Personal-use vehicles	2017 - 2019
(b) Business-use vehicles	2015 - 2019
(c) Machines*	2010 - 2019
(d) Fire trucks	2010 - 2019
(e) Ambulances	2010 - 2019
(f) Hearses	2010 - 2019
(g) Vehicles for religious institutions	2015 - 2019
(h) Passenger vehicles	2015 - 2019

Table 4—Government Import License

Type of Vehicle	Year of Manufacture
(a) Personal-use vehicles	2017 - 2019
(b) Business-use vehicles	2015 - 2019
(c) Machines*	2010 - 2019
(a) Personal-use vehicles	2017 - 2019

*This type of vehicle is exempt from the left-hand drive only law because it cannot be classified as such.

The Notification sets out the following exceptions for permissible vehicle import:

- Imports of ambulances and fire trucks that are being donated to the country are permitted only if the vehicle is manufactured in, or after, the year 2007.
- Excavators, bulldozers, wheel loaders, vibratory rollers, clamp loaders, gantry cranes, tower cranes, pilling machines, crawler drills/cranes, overhead-traveling cranes, mobile cranes, rough-terrain cranes, forklifts, boom lifts, and asphalt finishers that are not going to be driven on public roads, are permitted for importation if the vehicle was manufactured within the last 15 years.

- International non-governmental organizations are only allowed to buy from sale centers/showrooms as prescribed above in Table 1 and Table 2.

The new regulations will come into effect in January 2019, and it is important for companies to take note of the revisions and prepare accordingly.

Though often considered unpopular, the mandate to only allow the importation of left-hand drive cars is ultimately in the interest of public safety. As a country that drives on the right, left-hand drive cars are safer and more suitable for the people of Myanmar than right-hand drive cars, and their adoption is for the public benefit. 🇲🇲