

# French Diplomatic Registration for your car: Your rights, benefits and obligations

## ❖ YOUR RIGHTS AND BENEFITS:

If you hold a **French Special Residence Permit (FSRP)** with code AT or FI

you are entitled to\* :

- or ■ **Import one car to France without any taxes or duties**
- **Buy one new vehicle\*\* without any VAT**

*(Value Added Tax = 20% in France)*

On the new purchase, you can also benefit from the **environmental bonus** and be exempt from the ecologic 'malus' tax (but not from the annual ecologic tax if any)



**If your spouse also holds a FSRP, you have a 2<sup>nd</sup> entitlement.**

In both cases, only a 'diplomatic' registration is applicable to the car and the process has to go through the Welcome Office (WO). For the process and the list of documents, please refer to the WO information sheet corresponding to your case. **The diplomatic registration process will get started once you have submitted all required documents.**

Diplomatic registration is also possible for a second-hand car. In that case, since the tax has already been paid, there is no VAT benefit (except on the dealer's margin, if any), but the following additional benefits, also granted for a diplomatic registration, remain :

- **No registration fees**
- **European conformity not mandatory** (whereas compulsory for French regular registration)
- **French technical control not mandatory** (but regular maintenance highly recommended - for French normal registration, a technical test is compulsory every 2 years for cars > 4 years)

**\* According to Article 13-3 of the ITER Headquarters Agreement**

**\*\* Only private passenger vehicles or motorcycles (no camping-cars nor commercial cars): to check the eligibility of the vehicle to the VAT-free purchase, please contact the WO**

## ❖ YOUR OBLIGATIONS:

- **For one entitlement, a 2-year legal period has to be respected between 2 diplomatic registrations** (when the previous car was bought tax-free or imported from a non-EU country)
- All documents must be **in the ITER staff member's name only** (even if the car is for your spouse) and provided **in French or in English**
- The diplomatic registration procedure **can't be started before the actual start date at ITER**
- An **attestation certifying your entitlement to buy a car tax-free** can be issued by the Welcome Office, **but not before you have actually received your FSRP**
- **With a French diplomatic registration card, with or without green plates on the car, you must anyway respect all French road traffic rules (NO immunity on the road)**
- **Only the holder of a French Special Residence Card (FSRC) can drive a car with a diplomatic registration (spouses without FSRC or French spouses can't drive the car).**



# French Diplomatic Car Registration Rights, benefits and obligations

## ❖ END OF DIPLOMATIC REGISTRATION:

When you want to get rid of a car under diplomatic registration, **please contact the WO** since the diplomatic registration has to be cancelled in any case (with or without tax/duties payment according to the case, and whether you had green plates on your car or not).

If you benefitted from a tax/duties benefit on the car purchase, **no tax will be due in the following cases:**

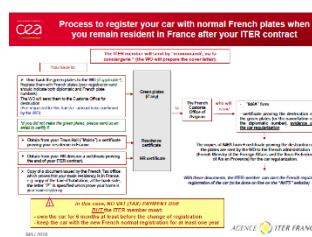
- if you sell it to another ITER staff member with one entitlement to a diplomatic registration
- if you export it (tax may be due in the destination country)
- If you remain resident in France at the end of your ITER contract and register the car normally (proof of residency will be required)
- If the car is destroyed (officially scrapped by a professional – evidence will be required)

**Tax will be due:**

- if you sell the car to a French person/dealer or to ITER staff without diplomatic entitlement (even if the 2-year period is respected)
- if you register it in your name as a regular French car

**If you had green plates on your car, you will have to give them back to the WO for final destruction by the French Customs Office.**

The WO can provide information sheets detailing the process in each of the above cases.



Etc.