

# Importing new light vehicles to New Zealand under the Clean Car Standard



The following information is to help new light vehicle importers understand what they need to do to meet their obligations under the Clean Car Standard (CCS).

## Overview

The CCS is a government initiative that regulates importers to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to specific targets by encouraging a greater supply of low and no emission vehicle imports to New Zealand.

From 1 January 2023, a vehicle's CCS value is used to determine whether a charge may need to be paid or a credit may be earned for the vehicle. This value is called the 'CO<sub>2</sub> difference' in the CCS system. The value will either be a positive or negative number. A negative number means a charge will be due unless offset later by the importer.

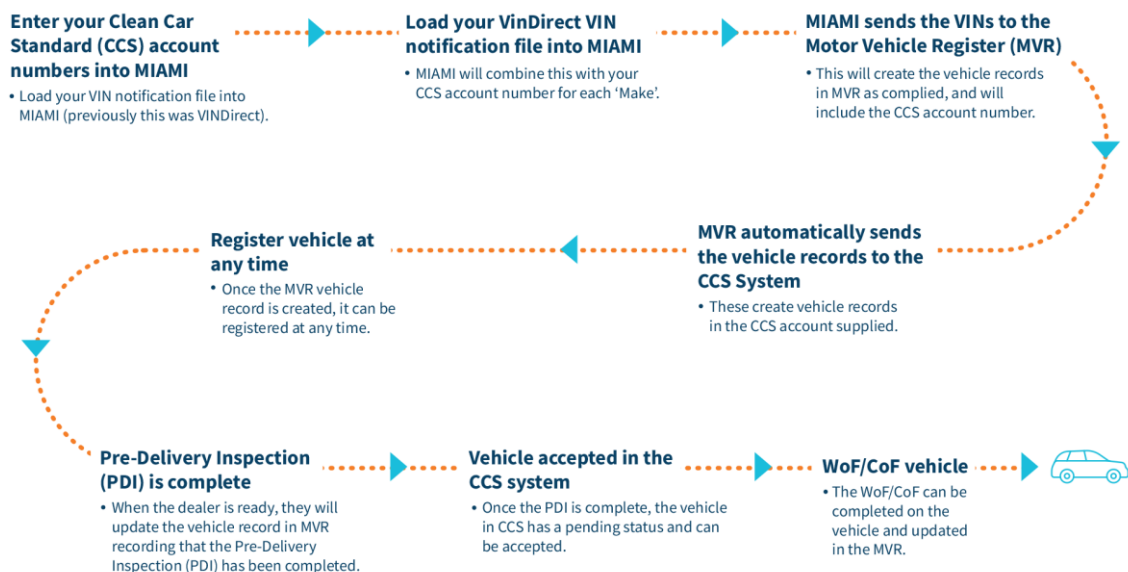
For vehicles that are below the weight adjusted annual target the importer receives a positive CCS CO<sub>2</sub> value that they can use to offset vehicles that are above the weight adjusted target.

Light vehicle importers must have a CO<sub>2</sub> account and use the CCS system operated by Waka Kotahi to manage their vehicles to comply with the CCS.

This diagram shows the pathway for importing new vehicles.

## New vehicle importation process

Applicable for NZTA approved entry certifiers only. Parallel imports use the used vehicle importation process.



## CO2 accounts

- The CCS system calculates a CCS CO<sub>2</sub> value (called the CO<sub>2</sub> difference) for each vehicle and records that vehicle and its details in an importer's CO<sub>2</sub> account.
- The CO<sub>2</sub> difference is a complex calculation and the vehicle's 3pWLTP CO<sub>2</sub> value alone doesn't determine the charge or credit - the weight ratio to CO<sub>2</sub> is a significant factor.
- Applying for a CO<sub>2</sub> account can be done by any legal entity (including individuals). A Pay as You Go (PAYG) account is provided as the default. Importers can apply for a Fleet Average account at any time or revert from a Fleet Average to a PAYG.
- The CCS system automatically creates vehicle records in the importer's CO<sub>2</sub> account based on records in the Motor Vehicle Register (MVR).
- There are three main sequential status steps for each vehicle record. A record is:
  - created by assigning the VIN or Chassis number to the account
  - pending acceptance once a Pre-Delivery Inspection is completed
  - accepted by the importer as being their vehicle with the correct details.
- Vehicle transactions can be searched, sorted and filtered and exported in a CSV file format for distributors to use for their business information.
- The CO<sub>2</sub> accounts also have other reporting information to help importers manage their accounts and targets.
- Accounts can have as many users as authorised by the account owner.
- Account settings can be controlled by authorised account users.

## Vehicle processing

- VIN notifications for light vehicles, other than motorcycles, are now processed in the Motor Industry Association's MIAMI system. The VIN Direct system is being retired in 2023.
- VIN notification processing automatically assigns the CO<sub>2</sub> account to each VIN and creates the record in the MVR and the importer's CO<sub>2</sub> account in the new CCS system.
- Registration can occur once the MVR record is created.
- The Pre-Delivery Inspection remains unchanged.

## Charges and credits

- The new vehicle charge rates for 2023 are \$45 per gram for Fleet Average accounts and \$36 per gram for PAYG.
- For Fleet Average, it's only the net position at the end of a year that determines if there's a charge or a credit. For charges there's a three-month settlement period after the end of the year before any residual amount is due.
- For PAYG vehicles, charge obligations begin from 1 January 2023 but are not due for payment until 1 June 2023.

## Payments and transfers

- From 1 June 2023, importers will have the option to pay for chargeable vehicles or offset with credits. Credits don't need to be used to offset charges and can be left to accumulate.
- Credit transfers are available for any credit balance held from 1 June 2023, for both PAYG and Fleet Average accounts.
- Credits can be transferred between new-to-new accounts or used-to-used accounts and between Fleet Average and PAYG schemes.
- GST and Anti Money Laundering requirements apply to credit transfer activity.

For more information visit our website: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/vehicles/clean-car-programme/clean-car-standard/>

If you have any questions, please email [CCSImporter@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:CCSImporter@nzta.govt.nz) or call 0800 141 801.