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Buying Vehicles from China: What Importers Need to Know

Electric, hybrid and gasoline vehicles from China: how to check import rules, choose a supplier and plan export and shipping.

By the Made in China Easy team, Guangzhou · 31 October 2026

Chinese manufacturers now offer a wide range of electric, hybrid and gasoline vehicles. Buying them for export is very doable, but the import rules in your country come first.

1. Check your country's import rules first

Every country has its own rules. Before you choose a vehicle, confirm:

- Whether vehicles of that age can be imported
- Which side the steering wheel must be on
- Emissions and safety standards that apply
- Whether the vehicle must be type-approved or certified
- Import duties and taxes on vehicles

Your country's transport or customs authority is the right source. Not every vehicle can be registered in every country.

2. New or used?

- **New vehicles** come from manufacturers and established dealers. Clear specifications and documents.
- **Used vehicles** can be good value. Check the history, condition and export eligibility carefully.

3. Electric vehicles: extra points

- Charging standard: make sure the charging connector matches what is used in your country
- Battery warranty and how it applies abroad
- Batteries need special handling and paperwork for shipping
- Spare parts and service support in your market

4. Choose the supplier

Work with manufacturers or established vehicle suppliers. Confirm the vehicle details, price terms and what documents come with each vehicle before you pay.

5. Inspect before shipping

An inspection checks the vehicle against what you agreed: model, specification, condition and documents. It is much easier to fix problems before the vehicle leaves China.

6. Shipping and paperwork

Vehicles are shipped as roll-on/roll-off or in containers, and need export documents from China and import clearance in your country. Every vehicle purchase is quoted individually once the vehicle and destination are known.

How we help

We source new and used vehicles, check them and arrange export and shipping to your market. Registered business buyers can see our vehicle inventory. Not listed? Ask us about your vehicle.

Talk to our team in Guangzhou.
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