



01525-851545

Karman Shipping

Karman Shipping Limited

**Shipping your car to Hong Kong
Information pack**

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Welcome to Karman Shipping

Many of the things that are now expected of a motor vehicle shipping agent originated at Karman Shipping.

It all began back in 1984, on December 3rd to be precise. That was the day the 'specialist car shipper' was born.

It was one of the first customers who best described the services provided by this new freight forwarding company:

“... in these days of slipshod workmanship and shoddy service, it really is a delight to deal with an outfit like Karman.”

This simply stated philosophy is the very essence of everything we still do today. In fact, for most people, the words 'Karman Shipping' do not simply describe a company in the car shipping industry, but also a method of handling cars that is unique.

These ideas and their attitudes continue to shape the Karman Shipping service to this day and appear like milestones in the history of our company. But our enthusiasm for innovation is always tempered by our responsibility to our customers, and to the safety of their vehicles.

We know that our painstaking method of shipping cars takes more time and trouble, but that's fine with us, as long as there are customers who appreciate such commitment. They make our efforts worthwhile.

Key Facts

- For a personal quotation of all the costs and requirements of shipping and importing a car to Hong Kong use our [online quotation form](#) or call Richard on 01525 851545.
- Cars in Hong Kong are generally more expensive than in the UK, especially modern European models and luxury/prestige cars.
- Although there is an excellent public transport system in Hong Kong a car is still almost a necessity to get around.
- We have been shipping cars by safe and secure container from our private East London/Barking warehouse to Hong Kong for over 30 years.
- Shipping can be arranged in less than a week and vessels from the UK sail every 7 days taking 4–5 weeks to Hong Kong.
- It can take 2–4 weeks in Hong Kong to clear customs and then pass roadworthy checks and register a car.

- A personal import is a car owned and used for 6 months prior to shipment and these are generally slightly easier to register in Hong Kong.
- Cars with a diesel engine are almost impossible to import and register in Hong Kong as are left-hand drive cars.
- Any items packed inside a vehicle would travel free of charge and would clear customs separately from the car.
- Fuel does not have to be drained prior to shipment and batteries can be left safely connected.
- UK costs are shipping at about £1,000–1,200 and Lloyds of London marine insurance cover at up to 1.5% of the car value.
- The shipping and insurance costs cover everything from the UK through to the arrival port but none of the Hong Kong charges all payable at destination.
- Destination costs payable in Hong Kong to import and register a car are about HK\$12,000–15,000 + registration taxes.
- The registration taxes start at 40% and go up to 115% of the car + shipping value and a depreciation allowance is given if a car has been owned and used in the UK.
- Hong Kong paperwork and procedures can be very particular and exacting and it is useful to have the assistance of an agent at destination.
- We have an agent in Hong Kong that can assist and handle all of the arrival formalities from arrival through to registration.
- Once a vessel has sailed the shipping and insurance documents along with arrival instructions are emailed, along with copies to the destination agent.
- Full track and trace facilities are available of both the container and the ship from the time the container is loaded through to arrival at destination.
- To book a shipment use our [online booking form](#) on our website. Payment is due at the time of shipment by bank transfer or cheque or at any bank.

A Guide to Shipping

A car is shipped on its own in a sealed 20' container from our private warehouse near Barking/East London to Kwai Chung port in Hong Kong. Ships normally sail every week taking 4–5 weeks and any items packed inside a car travel free of charge. It can take a further 2 to 4 weeks in Hong Kong for clearance and entry checks along with tests and paperwork authorisation before a car is ready to be registered to be used on the road.

A booking is made by completing our shipment [booking form](#) and can be made up to 3 months or as little as 1 week before shipment. Cars cannot be shipped if there is finance still outstanding.

The costs in the UK are for shipping and Lloyds of London [marine insurance](#) payable before the day of sailing by UK cheque or bank transfer. In Hong Kong costs are payable for local shipping line, port fees and container unpacking, customs clearance and handling, import declarations, moving the vehicle from the port to and from the government test centre, possible emissions and noise tests, roadworthy test and inspection licensing, number plates and driving insurance.

Hong Kong registration taxes are levied on the total cost/value of the car once it has arrived in Hong Kong – the purchase price + the cost of any improvements + the shipping costs. The tax rate is 40% for the first HK\$150,000 of value, 75% for the next HK\$150,000, 100% for the next HK\$200,000 and 115% on any balance over and above this. If the vehicle has been owned and used in the UK then a depreciation allowance of 25% per year is applied.

Vehicles not qualifying as a personal import (a vehicle owned and used for a minimum of 6 months in the UK prior to shipment) or as a classic car may require modification in Hong Kong in order to meet emission and noise standards. Left-hand drive (LHD) cars and almost all diesel cars are prohibited from being imported to Hong Kong.

Any items or personal/household effects packed inside a car travel free of charge and at the owner's risk. A list of such goods is required by customs and these would be cleared separately from the vehicle.

A guide to the total costs (excluding registration tax and import declaration) is as follows:

- £1,000–1,200 car shipping costs
- £200–400 marine insurance
- HK\$6,000–8,000 in Hong Kong to cover port, haulage, unpacking, and customs charges
- HK\$6,000–8,000 for other fees, including a Hong Kong agent to handle the importation and registration on your behalf.

Payment of Shipping Charges

Our quotations are valid for 28 days. Shipping charges are due prior to shipment. Payment can be made by UK cheque or direct bank transfer or telephone or Internet banking. All cheque payments require clearance before shipment can be effected. All charges, unless otherwise specified, are to arrival port only and exclude all destination charges and fees including import duty, stamp duty, GST, other taxes, port, haulage, container unpacking, customs clearance, quarantine, agriculture, local delivery, local and national compliance, inspection and registration costs. We reserve the right to dispose of the vehicle if our charges remain outstanding as per our terms and conditions.

Arrival Procedures

If you utilise the services of our recommended agent in Hong Kong then almost all of the following procedures and arrangements are handled by them on your behalf.

There is no requirement for an import licence and there is no import duty. A customs declaration must be made within 14 days of arrival and this can be done electronically through a Hong Kong service provider. An 'Import Return' (CED 336) and an 'Import Declaration' (CED 336A) must also be filed with the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department in North Point within 30 days of the car's arrival.

A 'Notification of Taxable Value' is then issued and there is a first registration tax to pay of between 40% and 115% of this value.

There are also very strict emission and noise regulations, with 3 main exemptions for petrol-engined cars only (there is no exemption for cars with diesel engines and these vehicles are very difficult to import and register):

- Classic vehicles – vehicles manufactured more than 20 years prior to shipment to Hong Kong, which still have the same engine, and which run on unleaded petrol.
- Personal imports (allowed once every 5 years) – vehicles owned and used overseas/in the UK for at least 6 months prior to shipment to Hong Kong. The minimum supporting documentation required for a personal import is:
 - UK registration document
 - proof of UK residence
 - UK insurance certificate
 - passport
 - UK driving licence
 - purchase receipt
 - shipping documents
 - reason for moving to Hong Kong.
- Vehicles purchased brand new that were built to Hong Kong equivalent standards, imported within 6 months of purchase and that have been driven in the UK for a distance of less than 5,000 km. Or a new vehicle with a European CoC.

Vehicles not classified as personal imports or classic vehicles must comply with the Hong Kong exhaust emission control and conforming noise regulations and have to undergo a very strict testing regime at an approved emission testing laboratory in Hong Kong. A vehicle without exemption should not be shipped to Hong Kong without first seeking prior advice and cost confirmation of any conversion,

modification and compliance. The vehicle emission requirement figures are very strict and it is always possible that many older European cars cannot be converted to comply with the required regulations.

An exemption or approval certificate is obtained from the Environmental Protection Department (Noise Emission Certificate General Approval (NECGA)). Before a vehicle can be registered with a form TD22 and the taxes paid it must also be taken for vehicle examination to a Government examination test centre. Please note that rear privacy glass in cars must have a light transmission rate of at least 44% (windows marked AS2 are normally acceptable but not AS3). A Certificate of Roadworthiness is issued and this along with the Taxable Value Notification from customs and EPD exemption or approval certificate is taken to licence and register a vehicle in Queensway. A vehicle examination is then required annually for all vehicles over 6 years old and the test involves checks on brakes, the fuel system, lights, steering, suspension, tyres and wheels, emissions and other general safety issues.

Any UK insurance no-claims bonus is also valid in Hong Kong.

Arrival Costs

Normally the taxable value is the 'total landed cost/value' of the vehicle and this means the total cost/purchase price of the motor vehicle including the cost of any extras or improvements made to the vehicle plus shipping/freight/marine insurance costs plus all Hong Kong arrival costs including any conversion and/or testing costs required to comply with any noise or emission regulations and any other costs incidental to the purchases and importation of the vehicle to Hong Kong.

The documentary proof of the total costs involved should be presented to Customs and Excise in their original currency. A depreciation allowance of 25% per annum on a reducing balance basis is deducted from the purchase price on vehicles owned and used overseas prior to shipment for each complete year period.

The actual registration tax payable is:

- 40% on the first taxable value amount up to HK\$150,000
- 75% on the next HK\$150,000
- 100% on the next HK\$200,000
- 115% on any remaining value.

The documents required by Customs and Excise are:

- the UK purchase receipt (as proof of the purchase cost and ownership of the vehicle)

- UK registration document/V5C (as proof of the year of manufacture, origin, and ownership)
- shipping documents, i.e. waybill or bill of lading and freight invoice
- Hong Kong identity card (as proof of identity)
- insurance certificate or cover note (as proof that the vehicle will be covered by insurance once registered in Hong Kong)
- passport
- driver's licence
- emissions and noise compliance test documentation (unless exempt under the personal import or classic vehicle concessions).

Approximate Charges Payable in Hong Kong for Cars

- Port, haulage, and unpacking fees – approx. HK\$4,000–6,000.
- Import declaration and examination fees – approx. HK\$1,000–1,500.
- Purchase of number plates and registration fee – approx. HK\$250–500.
- Hong Kong fees for attendance, customs clearance, post shipment preparation, licensing, inspection, registration, and delivery, if carried out by an agent – HK\$6,000–8,000.
- Unless exempt, noise and emission test fees – HK\$3,000–20,000
- First registration tax (40%–115% of the taxable value) – HK\$ variable.
- Annual licence fees (this depends on the engine capacity) – approx. HK\$6,000–11,000.
- Motor insurance (TPFT or fully comprehensive) – HK\$ variable.
- Hong Kong driver's licence – HK\$750–1,000.

Useful Links & Contacts

We recommend the use of our approved agents in Hong Kong as they are able to assist with the import formalities once your car arrives:

Mr. Johnson Siu,
Atlantis Motors Consulting (HK) Ltd.,
Room A, 29th Floor, Legend Tower,
7, Shing Yip Street, Kwun Tong,
Tel: 2967 6551 / 9020 3184,
Email: atlantismotors@netvigator.com
Website: www.atlantismotorscon-hk.com

Other Useful Contacts

Import return and declaration for a 'Notification of Taxable Value':

Customs & Excise Department,
Office of Motor Vehicles Valuation Group,
3/F., Customs Headquarters Building,
222, Java Road,
North Point,
Tel: 2231 4390 / 3759 2556.

Hong Kong registration and licensing office (and registration tax):

Transport Dept.,
3/F., United Centre,
95, Queensway,
Central,
Tel: 2804 2636.

Vehicle examination centres:

2–10, Long Yuet Street,
To Kwa Wan,
Tel: 2364 7211.

2, Cheung Yip Street,
Kowloon Bay,
Tel: 2759 7573.

302, Wo Hi Yop Road,
Sheung Kwai Chung,
Tel: 2426 9085.

8, Tsing Hing Street,
Kowloon,
Tel: 2751 8862.

Vehicle safety and standards division for roadworthy tests:

Room 3402,
34/F., Immigration Tower,
7, Gloucester Road,
Wan Chai,
Tel: 2333 3112 or 2829 5466.

Emission testing laboratories (if required):

ETC HK Ltd.,
G/F, 92, Sung Wong Toi Road,
To Kwa Wan,
Tel: 2264 2299.

HK Exhaust Emission Laboratory Ltd.,
33, G/F, Block D.,
Tsing Yi Industrial Centre,

Phase II,
1-33, Cheung Tat Road,
Tsing Yi,
Tel: 2475 3661.

Environmental Protection Department:

34th and 45th Floor,
Revenue Tower,
5, Gloucester Road,
Wan Chai,
Tel: 2877 0448 (exhaust) and 2411 9665 (noise)

Useful Websites

[Import procedures from Hong Kong Customs](#)

[Import procedures, vehicle registration from Hong Kong DoT](#)

and

[Import procedures, vehicle licencing and drivers licences from Hong Kong DoT](#)

[List of vehicle and driver's licence fees](#)

Hong Kong Car Values

[Adpost.com](#)

[GoCarSite.com](#)

Marine Insurance

We value your business and hope that we can carry out your forthcoming shipment. Whilst we take every care to ensure that your vehicle and belongings arrive safely at their destination we strongly recommend that you take advantage of the marine insurance cover.

We will look after your vehicle to the best of our ability but unfortunately accidents do occasionally happen. You are insured with Lloyd's of London but naturally there have to be some conditions and exclusions and there are some circumstances that cannot be covered. In order for us to have arranged marine insurance cover you must declare to us the value of your vehicle. If you do not give us a valuation or decline marine insurance cover then our liability will default to Limited Liability. The declared value should represent the replacement value at destination otherwise 'average' could apply to any claim.

Policy Coverage: Accidental damage, destruction, theft and physical loss, subject to the policy clauses, conditions and exclusions.

In respect of all shipments the following clauses apply, except the war clauses that only apply to waterborne/air movements:

- Institute Cargo Clauses (A)
- Institute Cargo Clauses (Air) (Excluding sendings by post)
- Institute War Clauses (Cargo)
- Institute War Clauses (Air Cargo) (Excluding sendings by post)
- Institute War Clauses (Sendings by post)
- Institute Strikes Clauses (Cargo)
- Institute Strikes Clauses (Air Cargo)
- Institute Classification Clause
- Institute Replacement Clause
- Institute Radioactive Contamination, Chemical, Biological, Bio-Chemical and Electromagnetic Weapons Exclusion Clause
- Institute Cyber Attack Exclusion Clause

Correct Valuation: In the event of the actual value being greater than the declared value the marine insurance cover shall only bear such proportion of the loss as the declared value bears to the total value of the vehicle.

Restrictions, Limits and Exclusions:

Limit: As declared and evidenced by the customer prior to shipment but in no event exceeding GBP 100,000 any one vehicle.

Excess: £250 each and every loss (£500 for vehicles over 10 years old) or 1% of the insured value whichever is greater.

Exclusions: Excluding loss or damage whilst under own power except for loading and unloading.

Excluding third party liability.

Excluding electrical and mechanical derangement unless caused by an insured peril.

Duration: Cover incept from the time the customer's property is in the care, custody and control of the Assured and continues until such property is delivered to the consigned location and/or where the Assured's care, custody and control ceases.

Claims Procedure

In the unlikely event of any damage then please notify the local Lloyd's of London office immediately at destination (full contact details appear on your marine insurance certificate). Under NO circumstances give a clean receipt except under written protest if the vehicle or goods are in doubtful condition – without this any insurance claim you make will be declined. If you appoint an Agent or Third Party to collect the vehicle on your behalf then they likewise must obtain the required damage notification. **TO REPEAT: YOU MUST OBTAIN AN OUT-TURN POST-SHIPMENT VEHICLE CONDITION REPORT COMPLETED AT THE TIME THE VEHICLE WAS HANDED OVER FROM THE CONTAINER** and not one completed at a later date after the vehicle was collected by you or your Agent. Apply immediately for a survey at the docks/unpacking warehouse by carrier's (shipping line) representative if any loss or damage is apparent at the docks/unpacking warehouse. Claim on the carrier, port authority or any negligent party for damage or omissions. You should attempt where possible to obtain estimates for repair or replacement. Send all correspondence with carriers or other negligent parties along with as many details as possible including photographs to the loss adjuster/local Lloyd's of London office at destination.

Terms and Conditions

Our terms and conditions are available on request. Please email us at info@karmanshipping.com or call us on 01525 851545.

APPLICATION FOR SHIPPING SPACE

CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THIS FORM ONLINE

As an alternative this form can be completed online on our website. The process will be easier if you have all the relevant information to hand.

*delete as appropriate.

Name of the person in which the vehicle is to be shipped:

UK contact address:

Telephone number:

Email address:

Year/make/model of vehicle:

UK registration number:

Chassis/Vin number:

Shipment to (Port):

In the UK is the vehicle to be COLLECTED/DELIVERED?

(Collection is by transporter at additional cost. Delivery is to our warehouse in Barking.)

On (date):

If the vehicle is to be collected, then from (address):

(Please note that the vehicle must contain a minimum amount of fuel.)

Your date of departure from the UK:

Any other instructions:

Your overseas destination address:

Telephone number:

Email address:

Address for posting of shipping documents if different from your destination address

(shipping documents available about 5-7 days after sailing):

Marine insurance

YES/NO

Declared value of the vehicle:

Upon receipt of this completed form Karman Shipping will prepare shipping documentation and an invoice normally within 48 hours and will forward copies to you for checking.

Shipment cannot be arranged if finance remains outstanding on a vehicle. Shipping charges are to be settled prior to shipment.

THE UNDERSIGNED AS OWNER OR AGENT AUTHORISES KARMAN SHIPPING LIMITED TO PROCEED WITH SHIPMENT AND AGREES TO ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

Full name:

Signed:

Date:

KARMAN SHIPPING LIMITED

HEAD OFFICE: TIMBER LODGE, PLANTATION ROAD, LEIGHTON BUZZARD, BEDFORDSHIRE, LU7 3JB

Tel.: 01525 851545 Email: info@karmanshipping.com Website: www.karmanshipping.com

All shipping and forwarding work is undertaken by us in accordance with our standard trading conditions (latest edition), copies of which are available upon request.

For transportation the standard conditions of the agencies and / or carriers involved apply.

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