

SADC Sub-Regional Workshop on harmonization of Low Sulphur Fuels
Standards and Used Vehicles Regulation

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Vehicle Import Regulations in Mauritius

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Outline of Presentation

- Introduction about Mauritius
- Land Transport, Number of Vehicles in Mauritius
- Introduction about the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection
- Second-Hand Motor Vehicle Import Regulations
- Tradelink system
- Who has the right to import Second-Hand Motor Vehicles in Mauritius?
- Conditions under which the vehicles shall be imported by Authorised Dealers
- Procedures prior to shipping of the Second-Hand Motor Vehicles
- Competent Authority
- Procedures after obtaining clearance
- Enforcement
- Sales Agreement between Authorised Dealer and a Purchaser
- Inspection of second hand Motor Vehicles at Vehicle Examination Centres
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Introduction

- Mauritius is a sparkling crystal in the turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean - Area 1865 sq km
- Vibrant country with contrast of colors, cultures and tastes making the island charming for an unforgettable holiday
- Population as at 1 July 2022 was as follows: 1,217,588
- Mauritius Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per Capita reached 10,134.349 USD in Dec 2022, compared with 9,006.853 USD in Dec 2021
- It has rich wildlife and nature parks

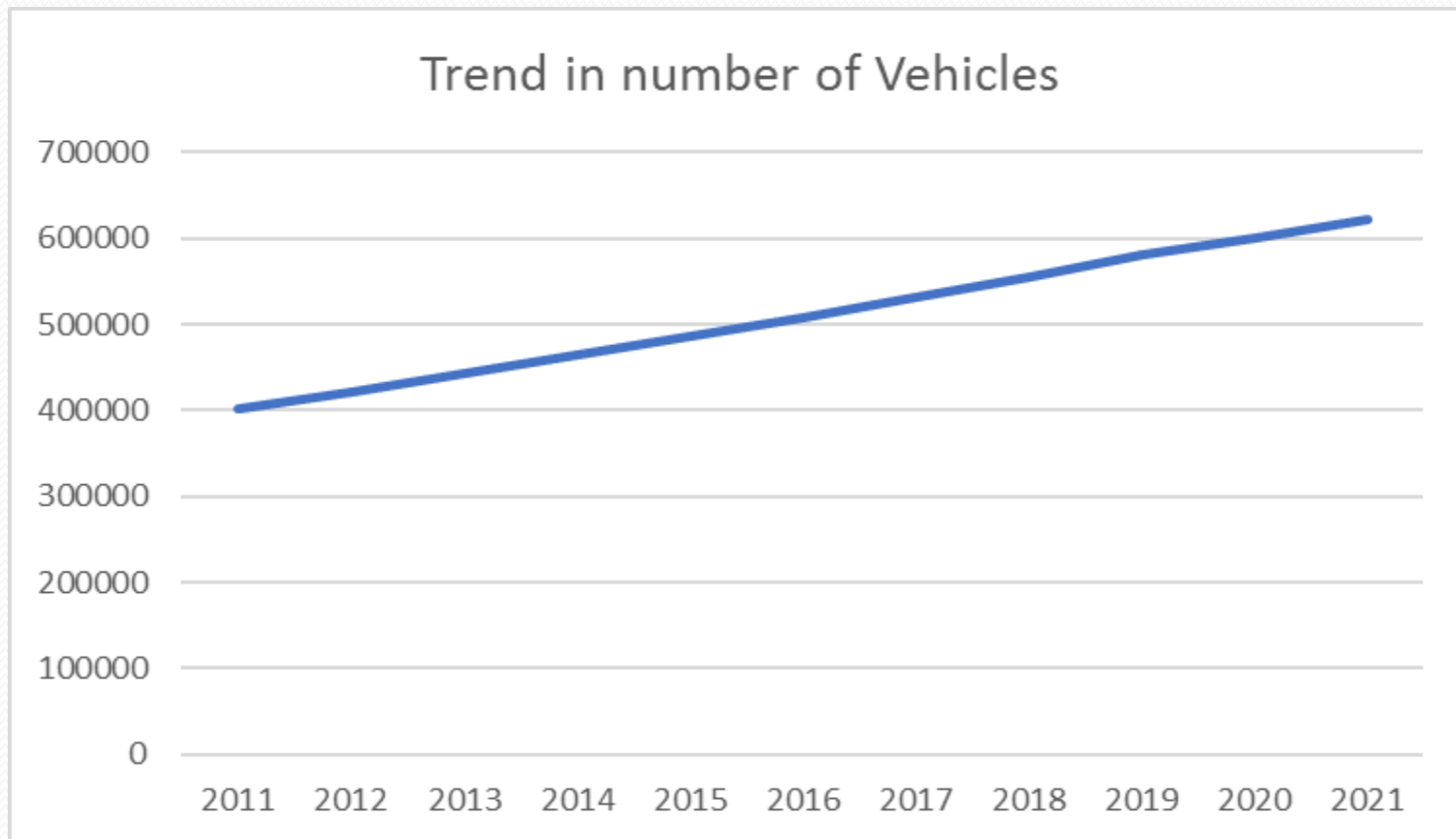


Land Transport

- More than 600,000 vehicles as at 2021
- More than 2700 km of roads
- Modernisation of the public transport landscape in Mauritius with the operation of the light rail system in January 2020 (The Metro Express)

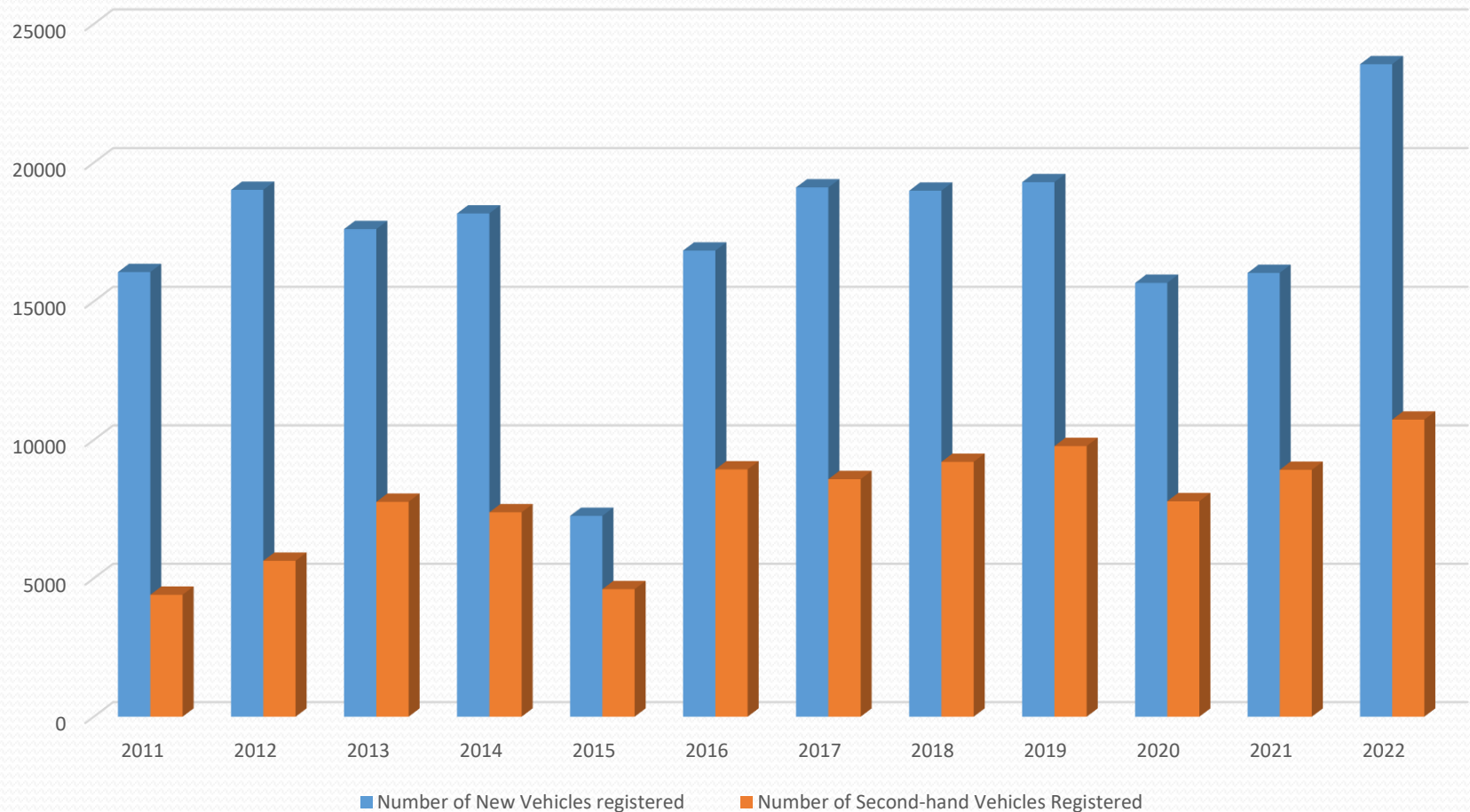


Number of Vehicles in Mauritius



Source: National Land Transport Authority

Number of New Vehicles V/S Number of Second-hand Vehicles in Mauritius



Overview of the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection

- The Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection is responsible for matters related to international trade practices and the implementation of trade policies. It is concerned with the control of Import and Export of certain Controlled/Restricted goods while also ensuring that there is smooth exchange of goods and services at national and international levels and regular supply of essential commodities. Apart from warranting a conducive commercial environment, it also aims to have an effective protection of consumers.

Importation of second-hand motor vehicles

- The importation of second-hand motor vehicles falls under the aegis of the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection.
- The imports of second-hand motor vehicles are regulated by the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017 [GN 160 of 2017].

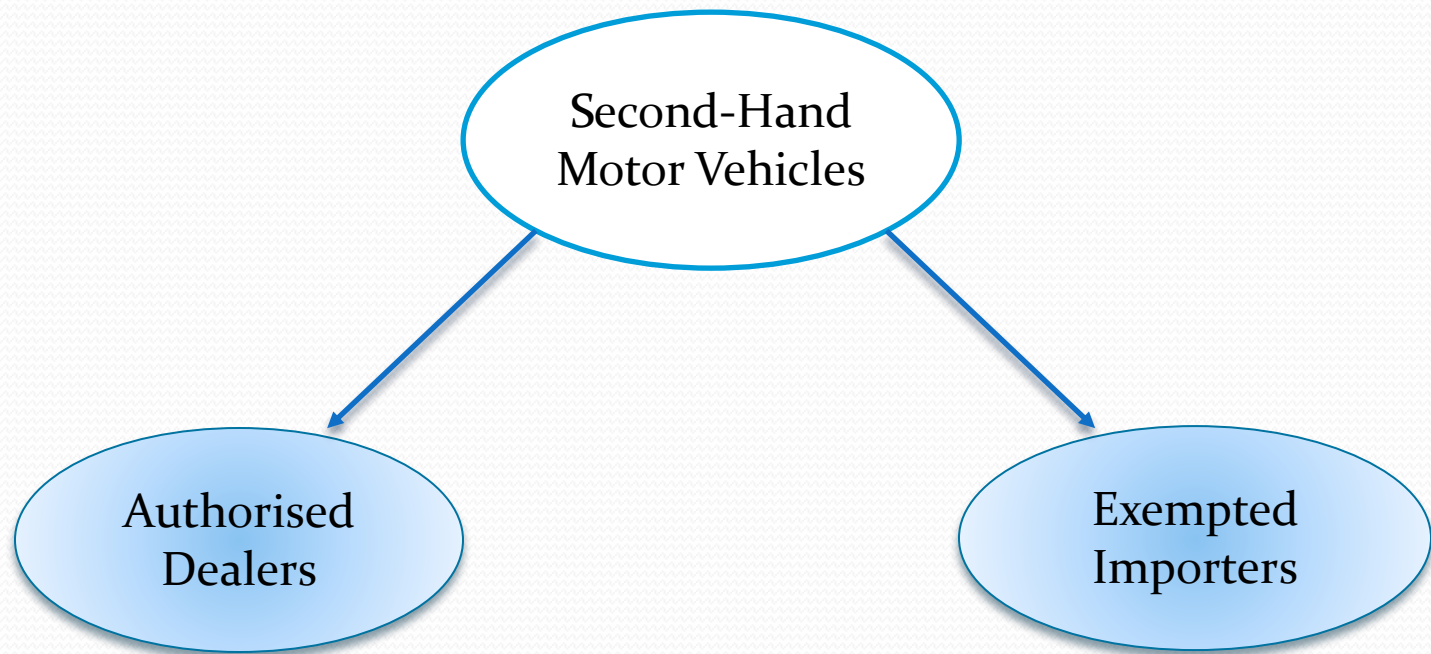
The Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017

- No person shall import any vehicle unless he holds an import permit.
- An import permit shall –
 - a) be valid for a period of 12 months
 - b) not be transferable
 - c) relate to the restricted goods specified in the permit; and
 - d) be subject to such terms and conditions as the Permanent Secretary may impose.
- Prior to the importation of second-hand motor vehicles, an application for an import permit has to be made on the Tradelink System (Single window system).

Tradelink System (Single window system)

- It is an electronic platform for the online application, processing and issue of permits and trade related clearances.
- The objectives of the Single Window System are to: -
 - a. provide an electronic platform for the application, processing and approval of import and export permits;
 - b. enable operators to track progress of the status of their applications;
 - c. enhance the trade efficiency through reduction of processing time and related transaction costs;
 - d. improve trade facilitation and providing a one-stop shop service to operators, traders as well as customers; and
 - e. accelerate trade liberalisation, elimination of non-tariff barriers and the ease of doing business.

Who has the right to import second-hand motor vehicles in Mauritius?



Exempted Importers

1. Embassies and their personnel
2. Foreigner who is –
 - a. taking employment in Mauritius;
 - b. an investor, a self-employed non-citizen or a professional who has been granted an occupational permit for 3 years or more under section 9A of the Immigration Act;
 - c. a retired non-citizen who has been granted a residence permit under section 9B of the Immigration Act; or
 - d. a holder of immovable property under the Integrated Resort Scheme who has been granted a residence permit under section 5(1)(g) of the Immigration Act, importing a motor car for his own use from abroad without any transfer of funds from Mauritius

Exempted Importers (Ctd)

3. Foreign firm engaged in a Government project or any other project of national interest importing its own vehicles, from abroad, involving no transfer of funds from Mauritius
4. Government bodies, local authorities, parastatal bodies
5. Religious, educational and benevolent institutions receiving a second-hand motor vehicle from abroad involving no transfer of funds from Mauritius
6. Returning resident or spouse of a returning resident or a Mauritian receiving as gift a second-hand motor vehicle owned by his father, mother, brother, sister, son or daughter staying abroad, without any transfer of funds from Mauritius

Authorised Dealers

- Authorised dealers are those companies who have been issued with a Licence as authorised dealers in importation and sale of second hand motor-vehicles.
- Authorised dealers should hold a business premises consisting of a showroom or closed yard, or both and an office which shall be –
 - a. Destined solely for the display and sale of imported second-hand motor vehicles and sale of spare parts
 - b. Separated from any other compound or building used for a purpose, other than for the purposes specified under paragraph (a); and
 - c. Easily accessible to the public and motor vehicles
- Authorised dealers are required to provide to the Ministry an insurance security or a bank guarantee of Rs 5 million per showroom for 2 years as from the date of license.
- All authorized dealer should provide a warranty period of at least 1 year to the consumer as a way of ensuring that the vehicle is in good running conditions .

Showroom of an Authorised Dealer



Main conditions of the importation of second-hand vehicles

SN	Description	Conditions under which the vehicles shall be imported
1	Motorcars (including sports vehicles, crossovers and jeep-type motor vehicles)	Shall be between 18 months and 4 years from the date of first registration, at the date of shipment, except for the first vehicle imported by an individual importer
2	Dual purpose vehicles (including 2x4 and 4x4 double-cab truck but excluding van and double-cab heavy duty lorry)	Shall be between 18 months and 3 years from the date of first registration, at the date of shipment, except for the first vehicle imported by an individual importer;
3	Goods vehicles (lorries, including double-cab heavy duty lorries and trucks other than 2x4 and 4x4 double-cab trucks)	Shall be not more than 6 years from the date of first registration, at the date of shipment, except for a vehicle imported by an individual importer;

Main conditions of the importation of second-hand vehicles

SN	Description	Conditions under which the goods shall be imported
4	Vans (other than motor buses, designed to carry goods or to carry not more than 7 persons including the driver)	Shall be not more than 4 years from the date of first registration, at the date of shipment, except for a vehicle imported by an individual importer;
5	Motor buses	<p>Shall be not more than 3 years from the date of first registration, at the date of shipment, except for buses imported by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Embassies for their own use 2) Foreign firm engaged in a Government project or any other project of national interest importing its own motor buses, for the transport of its employees, involving no transfer of funds from Mauritius 3) Government bodies, local authorities, parastatal bodies 4) Religious, educational and benevolent institutions receiving a second-hand motor bus from abroad, for their own use, involving no transfer of funds from Mauritius <p>Be fitted with a motor vehicle air conditioner when imported by public transport operators</p> <p>Have been designed for the transport of not less than 8 persons including the driver and not more than 32 persons, including the driver</p>

Other conditions of the importation of second-hand vehicles

SN	Description	Conditions under which the goods shall be imported
1	All the above mentioned types of motor vehicles referred to in item (1) to (5)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. be consigned to the applicant whose name shall appear on the Bill of Lading and the manifest as the consignee;2. be registered with the National Land Transport Authority in the name of the importer except where the vehicle is imported by an authorised dealer;3. be a right-hand drive;4. be in good running condition and not damaged;5. have its original chassis;6. be covered by a document issued by the appropriate authority in the exporting country or the country of origin, acceptable by the Permanent Secretary as an evidence that the vehicle is not a stolen vehicle;7. have been first registered not later than in the year following the year of its manufacture;8. not be fitted with any bull bar;9. be accompanied by a deregistration certificate and an export certificate or permit issued by the official vehicle registration body in the exporting country;

Conditions of the importation of second-hand vehicles originating from Japan

SN	Description	Conditions under which the goods shall be imported
1	Second-hand motor vehicles originating from Japan	<p>Every second-hand motor vehicle originating from Japan shall, in addition to the conditions specified for the types of motor vehicles referred to in item (1) to (8), be covered by a certified true copy of the original auction sheet, <u>in English</u>, specifying –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) the grade of the vehicle which shall not be below the grade of 3.5 on a scale of 1 to 5;2) the Auction House Number; and3) the lot number of the vehicle.

Conditions of the importation of other categories of second-hand vehicles

SN	Description	Conditions under which the goods shall be imported
1	Motorcycle	The motorcycle shall be less than one year old at the time of shipment.
2	Specialised motor vehicle designed for passengers in need of special support for embarkation and disembarkation at Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport	The specialised motor vehicle shall be – 1) covered by an inspection certificate issued by a registered mechanical engineer before its shipment, certifying the suitability of the vehicle for embarkation and disembarkation of passengers in need of special support; 2) examined, on arrival, by a registered machinery inspector in conformity with the Occupational Safety and Health Act.
3	Classic or vintage motor cars	The classic or vintage motor car shall be – 1) as per Road Traffic Act since 01 December 2023 [GN 157 of 2023] 2) in running condition

Mandatory Criteria for Authorised Dealers to meet

- When importing from all countries
 - i. Pre-Shipment Certificate
 - ii. Age Criteria
 - iii. Vehicle should not be reported as stolen

Criteria for Authorised Dealers to meet (Ctd)

- When importing from Africa
 - Together with the criteria mentioned above, a **Sarpcco certificate** is required.
 - The commissioner of Police of Mauritius has a common database with Africa, which enables them to check whether the vehicle has been stolen or not.

Procedures prior to shipping of the second-hand motor vehicles

- Authorised dealers shall submit:
 1. A proforma invoice which includes the following:
 - Basic information about the motor vehicle
 - Chassis Number
 - Engine Number
 - Make and Model
 - Color of the motor vehicle
 - Year of Manufacture
 - Year of Registration
 - Country of Origin



Procedures prior to shipping of the second-hand motor vehicle (Ctd)

- Authorised dealers shall submit:
 2. Registration Document
- **Note:** Given that Japan does not use Registration Document, the auction sheet should be submitted when importing from Japan at the time of an application for import permit is made.
- After successfully submitting those documents, the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection approves the permit and the vehicle is authorized to be shipped.

Procedures for clearance

- To be granted clearance, Authorised Dealers shall make another application on the Tradelink system to submit:
 - Export certificate
 - Pre-shipment certificate
 - Auction sheet (if Japan)

Auction sheet



Auction Sheet

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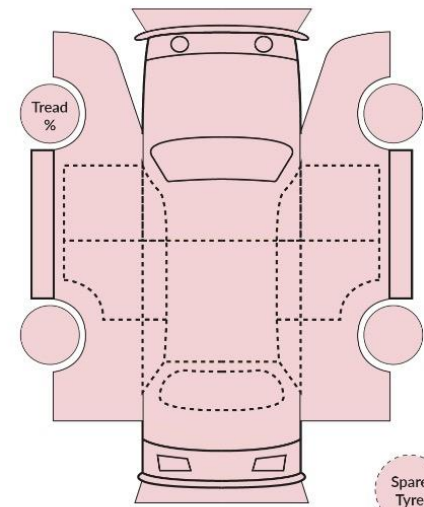
Lot No.	Owner Type Private / Rental		Displacement		Model		Auction Grade	
	First Registered Date	Car Name	No. of Doors	Variant	2WD ▪ 4WD	Interior Grade		

Current Registration / Expiry Date				Transmission		SR	AW	PS	PW
Mileage <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Km Mile <input type="text"/>				Air Con		TV			
Colour	Original → Repainted	Colour Code		History Book	Yes / No	Sales Points			
Fuel	Petrol / Diesel (Other)		Interior Colour						
For Import Car	Model Year	Dealer / Parallel Import Yes / No	Steering LHD / RHD						

Recycle Fee	No. of Seats	Weight	Registration No.				
			Chassis No.				
			Serial No.				

Important Points

Inspection Notes



Length	x	Width	x	Height	(cm)
cm		cm		cm	

Competent Authority

- Means:
 - a. an overseas branch of Bureau Veritas or Société Générale de Surveillance;
 - b. an authority in the exporting country recognized by the Permanent Secretary; or
 - c. with regard to Japan, South Africa and the United Kingdom, an authority specified in the Ninth Schedule,which –
 1. submits a yearly bank guarantee of USD 100,000, in favour of the Government of Mauritius, to the Permanent Secretary;
 2. gives an undertaking to the Permanent Secretary that it will only issue inspection certificates which contain true and correct information; and
 3. abides by such conditions as the Permanent Secretary may determine.

Inspection Certificate

- The inspection certificate shall emanate from a competent authority recognised by the Permanent Secretary and shall certify –
 - i. that the vehicle has been inspected not earlier than 2 months before the date of shipment;
 - ii. that the vehicle is not stolen;
 - iii. the roadworthiness and usability of the vehicle; and
 - iv. where the vehicle is imported from Japan, the auction grade of that vehicle.

The pre-shipment certificate should be according to the format found in the Eight Schedule of the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017

EIGHTH SCHEDULE

[Regulation 9(3)(a) and (e)(iii)]

INSPECTION CERTIFICATE

1. We hereby declare that the second-hand motor vehicle described hereunder, to be exported to Mauritius/already imported into Mauritius,* has been inspected by our organisation. The particulars of the inspection are specified hereunder and this Pre-shipment Inspection Certificate/Inspection Certificate* has been issued to the under-mentioned applicant.

Name of inspection organisation

Address

Telephone no.

Fax no.

Email address

Place of inspection

Date of inspection

2. Particulars of applicant

Name

Address

Telephone no.

Fax no.

Email address

3. Particulars of second-hand motor vehicle

Type of vehicle
Make
Model
Commonly called (emblem reading)
Auction grade
Body colour
Fuel type
Year of manufacture
Year/month of first registration
Inspection mileage (odometer reading)
Engine capacity
Chassis number
Engine number
Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)
Unladen weight
Gross vehicle mass
Fuel consumption**
Actual CO₂ emission***

4. We hereby certify and confirm –

- (a) having cross-checked with the Vehicle Registration Authority the original of the last document emanating thereof and having inserted our seal as hereunder on both sides of the document;
- (b) that the vehicle as described above is roadworthy and usable;

- (c) that the actual CO₂ emission in grammes per kilometre of the vehicle is correct; and
- (d) the findings as set out in the Vehicle Inspection Sheets 1 and 2 annexed.

.....
Certification number

.....
Date of issue

.....
Seal of Organisation

.....
Signature

.....
Name

.....
Designation

**Delete as appropriate*

***Expressed in litres per 100 kilometres (under Combined Test), rounded to the first decimal place, in the case of motor cars running on petrol, diesel or hybrid electric motor cars running on petrol or diesel as per country of origin*

****Expressed in grammes per kilometre (applicable only in respect of motor car specified in Sub-part A of Part III of the First Schedule to the Excise Act)*

VEHICLE INSPECTION SHEET 1

Type of vehicle		Driving system		Weather condition	
Sedan car	.....	FF	.....	Good	.....
Station wagon	.....	FR	.....	Darkness	.....
Van	.....	2WD	.....	Rainy	.....
Truck	.....	4WD	.....	
Jeep style	.....	Full-time/part-time			
Double-cab truck	.....			
Bus (..... seaters)	.....			

Whether body accidented*	Alteration of vehicle*	Crack of windscreen
Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No

To confirm whether the vehicle was reconditioned after having been damaged by accident or by natural calamities, including flood.

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Body colour	Normal/metallic/2-tone colour
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These two conditions are mandatory for the purpose of granting a clearance from the Ministry of Commerce & Consumer Protection

Transmission			Number of doors	Type of roof	
Floor column	χ	A/T	2/3/4/5/6	H: High	.....
	χ	M/T 3/4/5/6	.....	M: Medium	.....
		.....		S: Standard	.....

Shape and body of truck

Wide, cab, bonnet, standard, long, super low deck, low deck, high deck, opening 3 parts, opening one part, wood floor, steel floor**

**Tick as appropriate

Explanation of marking		Size of scratch and dent			
A: Scratch	.....	1: Slight			
U: Dent	.....	2: Small			
B: Bend	.....	3: Medium			
W: Wave	.....	4: Large			
S: Rust	.....	5: Heavy			
C: Corrode	.....			
T: Tear	.....	DAMAGE TO CHASSIS			
H: Hole	.....	Yes	.....	No	.....
XX: Replaced	.....	Severe	.....	
P: Painted	.....	Moderate	.....	
M: Marking of letter of make removed	.....	Light	.....	
L: Letter of make remaining	.....			

.....
Name

.....
Date of issue

.....
Signature

.....
Designation

VEHICLE INSPECTION SHEET 2

Tyres		Condition of interior and seats	
Steel wheel	.....	1. Smell of tobacco	.....
Alloy wheel	.....	2. Smell of pet	.....
Size of tyre	.....	3. Presence of nicotine	.....
		4. Presence of hair	.....

Condition of			Condition of room cleaning	
1. Engine			1. Clean	.....
(a) Smoke emission*	Good/bad	.....	2. Medium	.....
(b) Other functions	Good/bad	.....	3. Dirty	.....
2. Muffler	Good/bad	.....	
3. Transmission	Good/bad	.....	
4. Battery	Good/bad	.....	
5. Electrical Instruments	Good/bad	.....	

**To confirm whether the smoke emission of the vehicle is in conformity with the appropriate Japanese/European Standards, or in the case of a diesel driven motor vehicle, it has a maximum opacity of 50 per cent*

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Condition of accessories					
Air-conditioner (single, dual)	Good/bad	Sliding roof (power, manual)	Fixed/none
Power steering	Good/bad	.....	Jack	Fixed/none	.....
Power window (1, 2, 3, 4)	Good/bad	.....	Wrench	Fixed/none	.....
Electrical central door locking	Good/bad	.....	ABS	Fixed/none	.....
Power mirrors (door, fender)	Fixed/none	.....	Rear wiper	Fixed/none	.....
Cigarette lighter plug	Fixed/none	.....	Rear spoiler	Fixed/none	.....
AM radio	Fixed/none	.....	High mount rear stop lamp	Fixed/none	.....
AM/FM radio	Fixed/none	.....	Bumpers (coloured, black)	Fixed/none	.....
Cassette	Fixed/none	.....	Door visor (1, 2, 3, 4)	Fixed/none	.....
CD player	Fixed/none	.....	Mud guard (coloured, black)	Fixed/none	.....
TV	Fixed/none	.....	Wheel cover (1, 2, 3, 4)	Fixed/none	.....
GPS navigation system	Fixed/none	.....	Side slide glass (cut glass)	Fixed/none	.....
SRS airbag (single, dual)	Fixed/none	.....	Roof rails	Fixed/none	.....
Air pure filter	Fixed/none	.....	Front grill guard (large, small)	Fixed/none	.....

Condition of accessories					
Rear speaker (single, dual)	Fixed/none	.....	Side Steps	Fixed/none	.....
Floor mat (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)	Fixed/none	.....	Roller bar	Fixed/none	.....
Leather seats	Fixed/none	.....	Rear cargo bed cover	Fixed/none	.....
Radio antenna (power, manual)	Good/Bad	Rear protect bar	Fixed/none
Front fog lamp (single, dual)	Fixed/none	Rear spare tyre cover	Fixed/none

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Name

.....

Date of issue

.....

Signature

.....

Designation

Penalty fees

- Any person who submits an inspection certificate containing false or misleading information shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding Rs 100,000 and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years
- The permanent secretary may cease to recognize an authority as a competent authority where that authority had issued an inspection certificate containing false and misleading information.

Penalty fees (Ctd)

- Where the holder of an import permit fails to furnish an inspection certificate, the Permanent Secretary shall grant clearance subject to –
 - i. the payment of a fee of 20,000 rupees to the Director-General;
 - ii. the vehicle being inspected by the local branch of Bureau Veritas or Société Générale de Surveillance, or by any local inspection body acceptable to the Permanent Secretary; and
 - iii. the submission of an inspection certificate in the form set out in the Eighth Schedule

Procedures for obtaining clearance

- After verifying all the documents, the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection would give clearance to the importer.
- The debarkation process can then be done.
- For the purpose of granting clearance, the Permanent Secretary or Director-General, as the case may be, may, in the absence of the scanned copy of the original invoice and the relevant shipping documents, accept –
 - a. a scanned copy of the original Bill of Lading or Airway Bill or the Postal Receipt or Notice of Arrival of goods issued by an organisation providing a courier service or such other document acceptable to him; or
 - b. a scanned copy of the original Customs Provisional Bill of Entry and final Customs Bill of Entry
- The fees payable to the Permanent Secretary or Director General, as the case may be, under these regulations shall be paid electronically through the TradeNet

Procedures for obtaining clearance(Ctd)

- After the debarkation process, the Mauritius Revenue Authority have bonded showrooms where authorized dealers can keep their vehicles against payment of prescribed fees.
- Otherwise, the authorized dealers may pay the excise duties and remove the vehicle from the bonded showroom.



Enforcement

- The officers of Trade Division of the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection does regular checks/visits to showrooms of authorized dealers to check if vehicles are affixed with:
 - The auction sheet and the pre-shipment inspection certificate of the vehicle on the windscreen of that vehicle; and
 - An explanatory note specifying the grade as per the auction sheet of that vehicle

Sales Agreement between Authorized Dealer and a Purchaser

- An authorized dealer should sell and deliver an imported second-hand motor vehicle to the purchaser as per the sales agreement in the 5th Schedule of the Consumer Protection (Importation and Sale of Second hand Motor Vehicles) Regulations 2004 .
- The purchaser is allowed by the authorized dealer to effect a test drive.
- The purchaser should also have the opportunity to take cognizance of the pre-shipment inspection certificate issued in the exporting country in respect of the second-hand motor vehicle.

Warranty

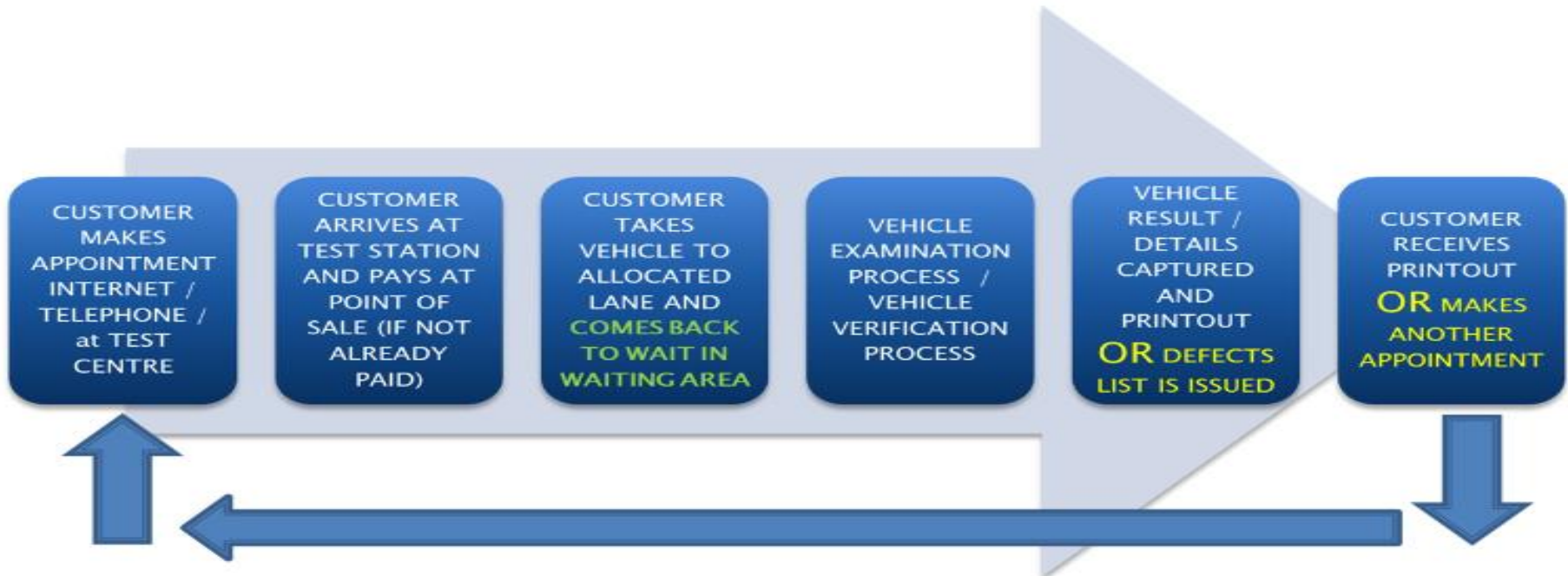
- The authorised dealer shall guarantee the vehicle and parts for a warranty period of **at least 1 year** from the date of this agreement;
- The warranty covers the repairing or replacement free of charge, including labour costs, of any part that is faulty and supply of materials needed to carry out the repairs under warranty;
- The authorised dealer shall guarantee that he owns, or is affiliated to, a garage through a written agreement to provide for repairs and after sales service, especially during the warranty period.

Inspection of Second-hand Motor Vehicles at Vehicle Examination Centers

- Prior to their registration, second-hand imported vehicles are examined at the Port Area by National Land Transport Authority Vehicle Examiners or they are taken to the Vehicle Examination Stations with a view to obtaining a Particulars of Motor Vehicle Form. The following documents will have to be produced:
 - a. Bill of Entry of the vehicle.
 - b. Certificate of registration/deregistration from the country of origin (second hand/reconditioned vehicles).
 - c. Original log book (if available)
 - d. Pre-shipment certificate from country of original
 - e. Either a removal permit or a TP.

Inspection of Second-hand Motor Vehicles at Vehicle Examination Centers

- Regarding Second Hand Vehicles (Goods Vehicles, Taxis, Buses, etc) for Public Service Vehicle License and 'A' or 'B' carrier licence, vehicle examiners are deputed to examine the vehicles and the testing process is as hereunder:



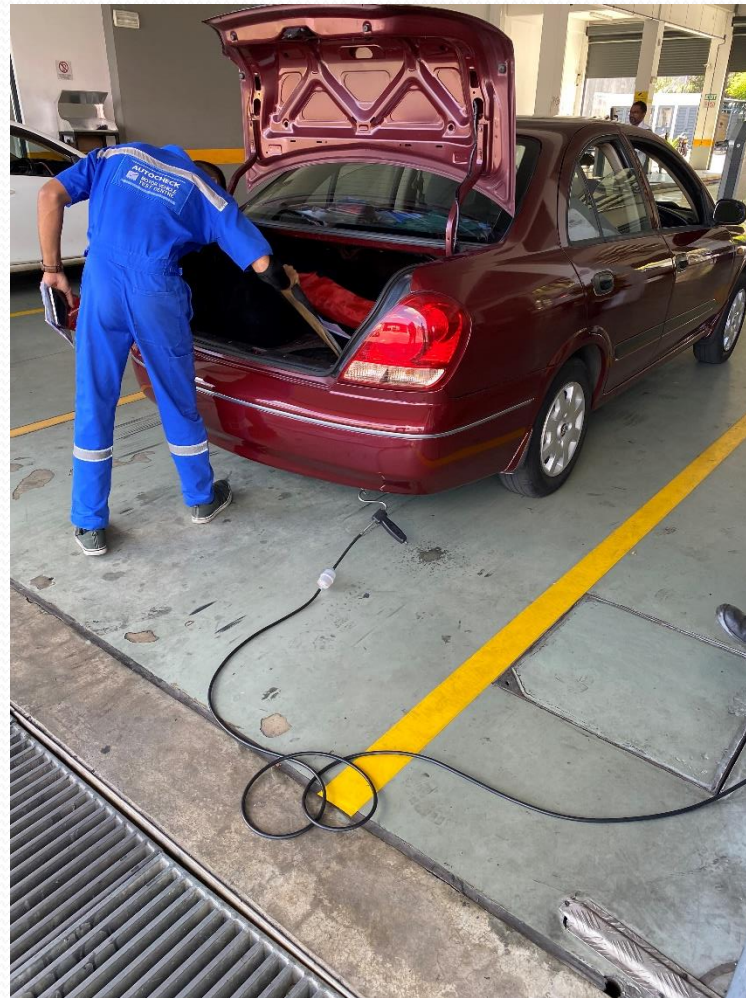
Vehicle Examination Process

- The following tests are done at the Vehicle Examination Centre:
 - i. Visual Test
 - ii. Smoke/vehicle Emission Test
 - iii. Side Slip Test
 - iv. Shock Absorber Bounce Test
 - v. Brake Efficiency Test
 - vi. Under Carriage Inspection
 - vii. Headlight Test
- In event the second-hand vehicle complies with the Road Traffic Act, the particulars of the vehicle form and certificate of fitness are issued for registration purposes.

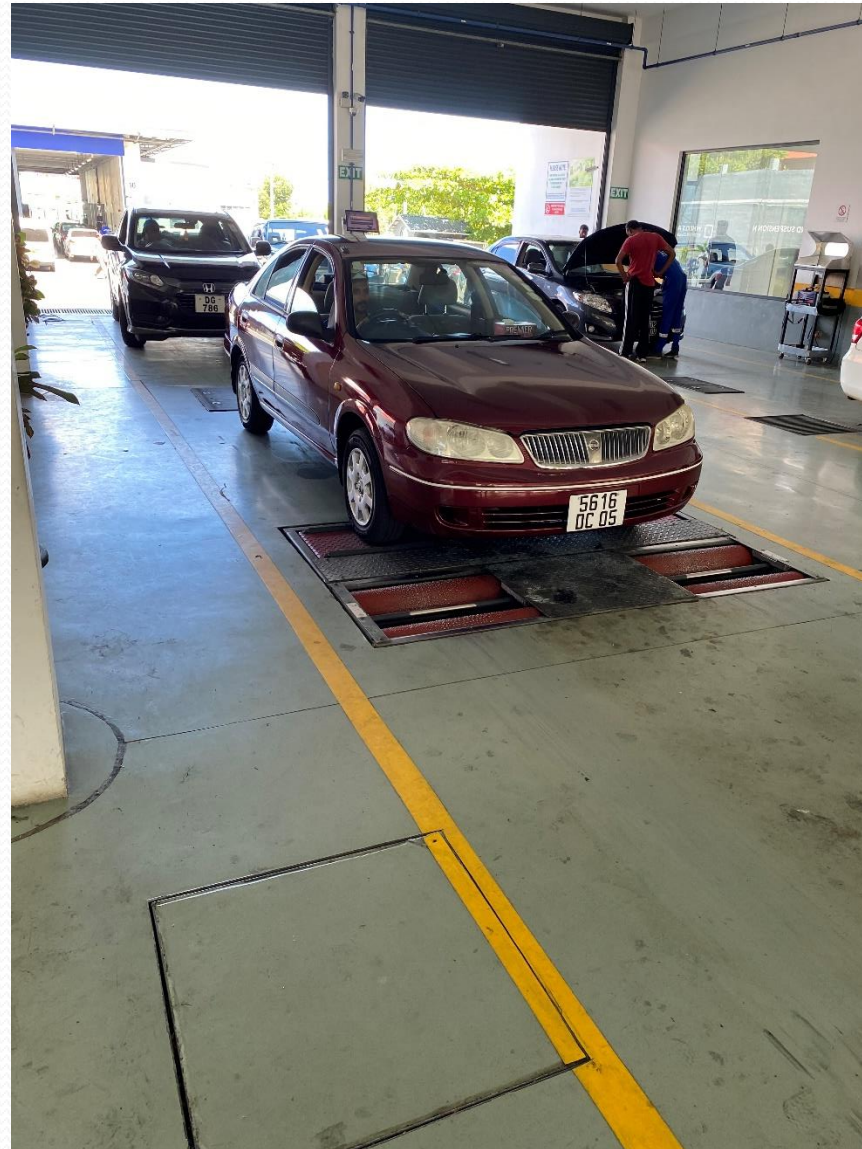
Vehicle Examination Process – Visual Test



Vehicle Examination Process – Vehicle Emission/Smoke Test



Vehicle Examination Process – Side Slip Test



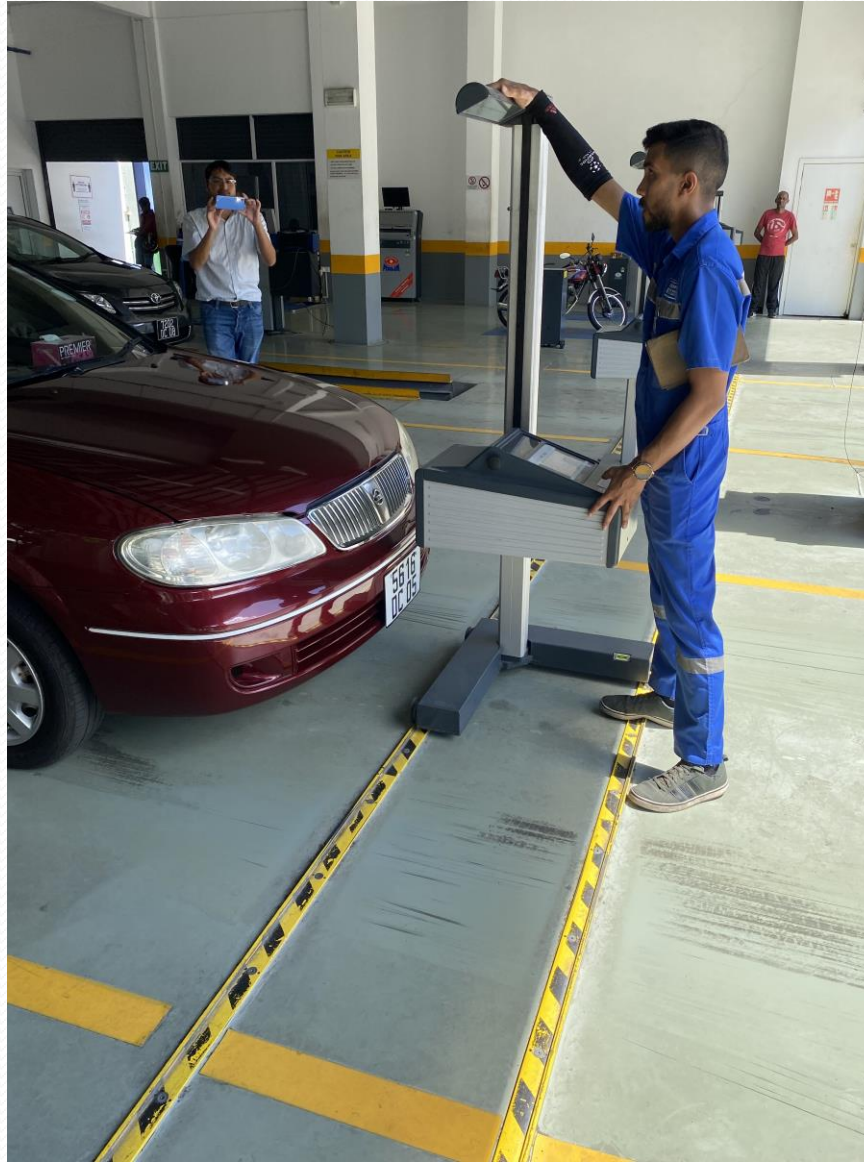
Vehicle Examination Process – Brake Test



Vehicle Examination Process – Undercarriage Test



Vehicle Examination Process – Headlight Testing



Consumer Affairs Unit (CAU)

- A consumer can make a valid complaint if he believes that his vehicle has been altered, to the Consumer Affairs unit of the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection, which will do an investigation.
- The Consumer Affairs Unit (CAU) is a specialized unit within the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection, which caters for the protection of consumers in general
- The main objectives of the CAU are:
 - To protect consumers through enforcement of laws
 - To educate consumers of their rights and responsibilities
 - To settle disputes between traders and consumers by mutual agreement or in case of deadlock through a court of justice
 - To update existing laws to meet the new challenges ahead

Prohibited goods

- To ensure the safety of consumers, under prohibited goods at import, spare parts and accessories of second-hand motor vehicles listed below cannot be imported:
 - a. ball joints;
 - b. bearings;
 - c. belts;
 - d. body shells of motor cars or any parts of motor cars originally welded by the manufacturer to their structured body shells or chassis;
 - e. brake linings;
 - f. chassis and parts thereof
 - g. clutch nut and parts thereof;
 - h. coil spring, leaf spring and torsion bar;
 - i. engine mountings;
 - j. filters;
 - k. Hoses, ... etc

Thank You

