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Driving a car in Ukraine: legal aspects

As for most western tourists the ride on a car is the most ordinary method of movement, at arrival to Ukraine a transportation problem becomes especially actual for them. There are a few legal ways of its decision, depending on the term of stay in Ukraine:

- import a car on territory of Ukraine from a foreign country
- purchase of car in Ukraine
- rent (lease) of car in Ukraine

The order of import is regulated by Law of Ukraine from 2005.07.06 № 2739-IV "About some questions of import on custom territory of Ukraine and registration of vehicles" and by adopted according to it normative acts. In particular, it is foreseen by points 1,2,3,3-2 of this Law, that bringing in is possible only for cars made not early than 8 years ago, which meet ecological standards not below "EURO-2" and national standards (that is confirmed by a certificate or similar document). But these terms are not needed for cars, that cross Ukraine by transit and for the cars of citizens, that transmigrate to Ukraine on a permanent residence.

The purchase-sale of car is carried out by the conclusion of written treaty with notarial certification (Chapter 54 f the Civil code), as well as rent (lease) of the car (§ 5 of the Chapter 58 of the Civil code).

But regardless of what legal foundation a person owns a car on, she has such rights and duties (they are defined by Section of 2 Rules of the Road traffic, ratified by Decision of Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine from 2001.10.10 № 1306):

The duties are:

- 1) in transit a driver has to have with himself
 - certification with a coupon on a right for the drive of such category of vehicles
 - registration document on a car
 - policy (certificate) of obligatory insurance of civil liability or documents about the release from insurance
 - at transportation of definite load - documents on a load
 - at presence of advertising, lighthouses, the special sound devices are needed the permissions or concordances on them
- 2) before departure it is needed to check up the technical state and completeness of the car
- 3) at the management to be attentive and accurate
- 4) by a common rule it is needed to use passive facilities of safety (like straps of safety,) for a driver and passengers
- 5) on call of policeman a driver has
 - to stop
 - to show documents
 - to give possibility to check up the technical state of the car, numbers of aggregates, completeness
 - to allow to examine the car (at presence of legal grounds for examination)
 - to pass medical examination or even extraordinary verification of knowledges of Rules of the road traffic and skills of driving
 - to give the car to police or medical men in the urgent cases

II. A driver has a right

- 1) to entrust the use and disposal of auto to other person
- 2) to know a reason on which he/she was stopped by the inspector of road auto inspection
- 3) to require showing of his identification document with the indicated name and position
- 4) to appeal actions of policeman, that violates the legislation
- 6) to receive help from public servants and organizations, that provide safety of traffic
- 7) to retreat from the requirements of legislation at the act of providence or that to prevent the death and injury of other

In addition, the proprietor of car has a right to compensation of charges in connection with the use of his car for public necessities and on reimbursement of the losses inflicted through bad roads.

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