



How we identify a vehicle as historic

You may be able to tax your vehicle in the historic vehicle tax class from 1 April if your vehicle is recorded on the V5C registration certificate (log book) as first registered more than 40 years ago and is one of the qualifying vehicles listed below. For example, a vehicle registered in February 1983 will be eligible to tax as a historic vehicle from 1 April 2024.

Qualifying vehicles

Private or light goods vehicles – this includes buses used for voluntary, community or other non-profit purposes.

Motorcycles and tricycles

Private heavy goods vehicle (HGV) – this does not include vehicles designed, or adapted for, transporting goods on a public road for business purposes, including HGVs used for driver training or testing purposes.

Special vehicles – this includes mobile cranes and pumps, road rollers, works trucks and digging machines (except showmen's goods and haulage vehicles).

Haulage vehicles – not used for haulage purposes.

Special concessionary – including agricultural machines, mowing machines, snowploughs, gritting vehicles, electric vehicles and steam vehicles.

You cannot tax your vehicle in the historic tax class if:

- the vehicle is used for hire or reward
- the vehicle is used commercially in connection with a trade or business

You must tax your historic vehicle, even if the rate of vehicle tax is £0, and you must insure it every year.

By law, you must have a minimum of third-party insurance that covers your use of the vehicle on the public road.

To tax your vehicle in the Historic class, go to a Post Office® branch that deals with vehicle tax.

You'll need:

- the V5C registration certificate (log book) in your name showing the vehicle was made, or first registered, before 1 January more than 40 years ago
- proof of a valid MOT (electronic copies are acceptable) if applicable, or a Goods Vehicle Test certificate (GVT) – (the MOT or GVT certificate must be valid on the date the tax starts) – if your vehicle had an MOT test in Northern Ireland, a valid test certificate must be produced
- a filled-in 'Application for vehicle tax' (V10 form) – which you can download from GOV.UK at www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-for-vehicle-tax-v10 or fill one in at the Post Office® where you tax your vehicle
- an insurance certificate or cover note (only in Northern Ireland) – downloaded copies are acceptable, photocopies are not acceptable to change the date of manufacture for an already registered vehicle.

Additional information

If you do not have a V5C you'll need an 'application for a vehicle registration certificate' (V62). If the vehicle is not registered, you'll need an 'application for first vehicle tax and registration of a used motor vehicle' (V55/5). If you think the age shown is incorrect, you need to provide an extract from the manufacturer or factory record, or from the appropriate 'Glass's Check Book' that specifically links to your vehicle's original identity. This must be supported by a covering letter from the relevant vehicle owner's or enthusiast's club (do not contact Glass's directly as they do not provide this service). Dating certificates from a vehicle enthusiast's club are not acceptable to change the date of manufacture for an already registered vehicle.

If the V5C shows that the vehicle was registered between 1 January and 7 January more than 40 years ago, you can still register it as a historic vehicle. This assumes the vehicle would have been made in the previous year.

When your vehicle tax runs out

About 2 weeks before your tax runs out, DVLA will send you a 'Vehicle tax reminder' (V11). The notes on the V11 explain what you need to do.

Further information

Go to www.gov.uk/historic-vehicles

Contact us at www.gov.uk/contact-the-dvla