

Criteria for SLTDA Registered Establishments to Apply for Tourist Vehicle Import Scheme

The Ministry of Tourism & Lands along with Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) has introduced a scheme to facilitate the import of vehicles for tourist transportation by registered establishments based on the cabinet decision No. 24/0644/615/003-1 dated 1st April 2024 to be eligible to apply, establishments must meet the following criteria:

1. Entry Qualifications

1.1. SLTDA Registration & Valid Licensing

- a. Registered with SLTDA for over 5 years as of 1st January 2024.
- b. Holding a current valid license from the SLTDA for the year 2024. (For those who have renewed their license for 2023, will be given a grace period of 45 days to renew their license for 2024 and be eligible)
- c. Filing of Tourism Development Levy (TDL) returns up to 31st March 2024 and having paid all TDL dues to the SLTDA up to 31st March 2024. (Except the deferment granted by the cabinet decision number CD/14/19/2025/106/030 dated 14th August 2019)

1.2. Financial Performance:

a. Foreign Exchange Earning Requirements

Foreign Exchange should have brought into the country or earned

Year	Minimum Earnings (USD)	Conversion Rate
2018/2019	300,000	1 USD = 175.00 LKR
2019/2020 to 2023/2024	500,000 (cumulative revenue) Including 300,000 for 2023/2024	1 USD = 275.00 LKR

b. DMCs:

- Submit bank confirmations certifying foreign exchange remittances received and transfer payments through official banking channels from 2018/2019 to 2023/2024 using prescribed format.
- Submit certified bank statements for the above period.

c. Hospitality Sector:

- Prove USD earnings through DMCs and Online Travel Agencies (OTAs) from 2018/2019 to 2023/2024 by submitting bank confirmations through official banking channels using prescribed format.
- Submit certified bank statements for the above period.

2. Permitted Vehicle Types and Capacity

No	Type
a.	Exclusive for Vans: 6 to 15 seats with Sliding Doors Excluding SUV S & Cars
b.	Mini Coaches: 16 - 30 seats
c.	Buses: 30 and above seats

3. Maximum Permitted Vehicles per Establishment

3.1. The maximum number of vehicles to be permitted per establishment will be determined based on the foreign exchange earned by each establishment based on the financial year 2023/2024. (Submit audited financial statements (AFS). Those who cannot be submit AFS should submit draft financial statement with revenue confirmation through external auditor.)

Rupee equivalent of foreign currency earned	Vans/ Mini coaches/Coaches
US\$ 300,000.00 - US\$ 400,000.00	1 Unit of Any Vehicle
US\$ 400,001.00 - US\$ 500,000.00	2 Unit of Any Vehicle
US\$ 500,001.00 - US\$ 600,000.00	3 Unit of Any Vehicle
US\$ 600,001.00 - US\$ 700,000.00	4 Unit of Any Vehicle
US\$ 700,001.00 - US\$ 800,000.00	5 Unit of Any Vehicle
US\$ 800,001.00 - US\$ 900,000.00	6 Unit of Any Vehicle
US\$ 900,001.00 - US\$ 1,000,000.00	7 Unit of Any Vehicle
US\$ 1,000,001.00 - US\$ 1,100,000.00	8 Unit of Any Vehicle

3.2. Tourism service providers that have met the minimum requirements will be entitled to one vehicle each. Allocation of additional vehicles will be determined by the “determination committee” based on the descending order of forex earnings, as the number of vehicles is to be restricted to one Thousand (1,000) in the first phase.

4. Other Conditions

4.1. The Vehicles should be registered in the name of the respective Company approved as licensed company, and not in the name of any individual.

- 4.2. These vehicles should not be transferred or sold within a period of 3 years from the date of registration. (All Applicants shall enter into an agreement with SLTDA and abide by all terms and conditions stipulated therein.)
- 4.3. All vehicles imported under this scheme must be unregistered (brand new) through authorized local agent of the manufacturer / sole distributor.
- 4.4. Noncompliance application or submission of fraud document/s will be result in rejection of application.
- 4.5. All vehicles' imports should comply with the prevailing import laws and regulations of related agencies.

5. Implementation procedure

- 5.1. All applications shall be duly completed and submitted on or before the deadline, Incomplete or late submissions will be rejected.
- 5.2. The application should clearly state the type(s) and quantity of vehicles required.
- 5.3. Establishments that are eligible to import vehicles under this scheme should submit an application as specified in section 7 of the criteria.
- 5.4. After registration of the imported Vehicles, the applicant should submit certified copy of the registration certificates to SLTDA.
- 5.5. The vehicles imported under the scheme are subject to inspection by the SLTDA at periodic intervals and any establishment that abuses will be penalized in accordance with the provisions of laws of Sri Lanka Customs.

6. Timelines

- 6.1. Manual application shall be submitted to SLTDA within 1st of May to 28th of June 2024.
- 6.2. Establishment of the Letter of Credit (LC) shall be on behalf of the permit holder within 45 days from the date of issuance of the permit.

7. Submission of application

7.1. Before handed over the application, make sure to carefully refer the specified criteria.

7.2. Eligible tourist establishments (DMCs, Hospitality sector, Travel Agencies) shall submit applications to the Chairman, SLTDA by following below steps.

- d. Download the application from the official SLTDA website.
- e. Duly fill the application and ensure that the declaration is signed by the Authorized Director/Managing Director of the applying company.
- f. Attach all required documents as specified in the application. (Please mention the attachment numbers clearly on the top right-hand corner of the attachment document)
- g. In addition to the preceding application, all tourist establishments are required to complete the Google Form available on the SLTDA website and submit it.
- h. After submitting the google form, duly filled application with the relevant documents and one duplicate copy of the same shall be handed over to the Chairman, SLTDA on or before the closing date. (The final decision would be made based on receive the hard copy of the application.)
- i. Based on the recommendation from SLTDA, Ministry of Tourism & Lands will be issuing the permit.