

No. 6809

**GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS,
NICARAGUA and COSTA RICA**

**Regional Agreement on the Temporary Importation of
Road Vehicles (with annexes). Signed at San Salvador,
on 8 November 1956**

Official text: Spanish.

*Registered by the Organization of Central American States acting on behalf of
the Contracting Parties on 10 July 1963.*

**GUATEMALA, SALVADOR, HONDURAS,
NICARAGUA et COSTA RICA**

**Accord régional relatif à l'importation temporaire des
véhicules routiers (avec annexes). Signé à San Salvador,
le 8 novembre 1956**

Texte officiel espagnol.

*Enregistré par l'Organisation des États de l'Amérique centrale agissant au nom des
Parties contractantes le 10 juillet 1963.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 6809. REGIONAL AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA AND COSTA RICA ON THE TEMPORARY IMPORTATION OF ROAD VEHICLES. SIGNED AT SAN SALVADOR, ON 8 NOVEMBER 1956

The Governments of the Central American Republics, wishing to promote the movement of persons and goods through their respective territories and to strengthen ties conducive to a greater and more rapid integration of their economies; and

Convinced of the need to facilitate the movement of vehicles across their frontiers and through their ports and airports to the greatest possible extent and to standardize customs laws and regulations to that end,

Have agreed, through their respective duly authorized plenipotentiaries, to conclude the following Central American Agreement on the temporary importation of road vehicles :

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

For the purposes of this Agreement, the term " vehicle " means all road motor vehicle and trailers, together with their component parts and normal accessories and equipment when imported with the vehicle.

Article 2

Each of the Contracting States shall grant temporary free admission, without any financial guarantee of the payment of import duties and charges, to vehicles registered in the territory of any of the Contracting States if the said vehicles satisfy the conditions set forth in this Agreement and are brought

¹ In accordance with article 21, the Agreement came into force as between the following States on the respective dates of deposit of their instruments of ratification with the Secretary-General of the Organization of Central American States, as indicated :

Guatemala	24 April	1957
El Salvador	16 May	1957
Nicaragua	3 December	1957

in on a temporary basis by persons resident in one of the Contracting States. Any Contracting State may exclude from the scope of this provision vehicles brought into its territory by persons resident there.

Article 3

1. Any motor vehicle brought into the territory of a Contracting State under the terms of this Agreement shall leave within thirty days unless that State has provided for a longer period of temporary free admission in accordance with its regulations. Otherwise, and save as provided in articles 10 and 12 of this Agreement, payment of the import duties and charges may be required, and such customs penalties as have been incurred may be applied.

2. The Contracting States may require that vehicles imported on a temporary basis shall be covered by an undertaking by the importer to remove the vehicle within the specified period and to comply with all the other conditions under which permission for temporary importation is granted, the said undertaking to be in the form of a customs certificate deposited with the customs authorities of the country of temporary importation.

Article 4

This Agreement shall not cover the importation of fuel, accessories and spare parts which are not part of the normal equipment of vehicles imported on a temporary basis.

CHAPTER II

PROVISIONS RELATING TO CUSTOMS CERTIFICATES

Article 5

1. The customs certificates referred to in article 3, paragraph 2, shall be drawn up in conformity with the standard form constituting annex I of this Agreement.

2. The customs authorities of the Contracting States shall provide these certificate forms free of charge to persons who wish to enter the territory of other Contracting States and to prepare their documents before arriving at the customs post or custom-house of the country or countries of destination.

3. The customs authorities may authorize the competent tourist and transport associations to issue the said forms to the persons referred to in the preceding paragraph.

4. Each customs certificate shall be valid for only one country or customs district and only one journey.

Article 6

The customs certificate shall be issued in the name of the driver of the vehicle imported on a temporary basis.

Article 7

Spare wheels, tyres and inner tubes and other accessories not considered part of the normal equipment of the vehicle (for example, radios, ordinary trailers, luggage trailers, etc.) shall be declared in the customs certificate and be produced on exit from the country of temporary importation.

Article 8

After the particulars in the customs certificate have been passed by the customs authorities of the country of importation, they may be altered only with the approval and subject to the requirements of the authorities of that country.

CHAPTER III

CONDITIONS FOR TEMPORARY IMPORTATION

Article 9

1. Vehicles admitted under the provisions of this Agreement shall leave in the same condition (except for ordinary wear and tear) within the period prescribed by article 3, paragraph 1.

2. If the person who imported the vehicle on a temporary basis leaves the country without having deposited the value of the corresponding duties and charges or posted a bond to the satisfaction of the customs authorities of the country, the said authorities may declare the period of temporary importation of the vehicle terminated.

Article 10

The authorities of the country of temporary importation shall not require the re-exportation of vehicles that have been badly damaged as a result of authenticated accidents. Nevertheless, the Contracting States reserve the right not to grant this privilege in the event of fraud.

Article 11

Any breach of the provisions of this Agreement or any substitution, false declaration or act having the effect of causing a person to benefit improperly from the system of temporary importation provided for herein shall render the offender liable to the penalties prescribed by the laws of the country in which the offence was committed.

CHAPTER IV

EXTENSION OF THE PERIOD OF TEMPORARY FREE ADMISSION

Article 12

1. Extensions of time for the re-exportation of vehicles imported on a temporary basis shall be granted if the persons concerned establish to the satisfaction of the customs authorities that they are prevented for reasons of *force majeure* or for some other reason considered valid by those authorities from re-exporting the vehicles within the prescribed period.

2. Requests for extension shall be presented to the competent customs authorities before the expiry of the period of admission unless it is impossible to do so for reasons of *force majeure* or for some other reason found sufficient by those authorities.

CHAPTER V

VALIDATION OF CUSTOMS CERTIFICATES

Article 13

The visa on the exportation voucher of the customs certificate shall be considered proof of re-exportation of the vehicle.