



Information Sheet 2n

Motoring

Last Updated: September 2010

The intent of this information sheet is to provide you with some relevant information on Motoring in Cyprus. It is always best to speak to your relevant MT Section or Master Driver for further information.

Most Bases in Cyprus are remote from the main towns and shops. Facilities on most Bases are accessible without a vehicle. To experience more of what Cyprus has to offer you will need to be able to drive or have a car.

Obtaining a Driving Licence in Cyprus

If you wish to take driving lessons on assignment to Cyprus it is advisable to get a British Provisional licence prior to arrival. The law in Cyprus states that you must be 18 years old and have resided in Cyprus for 6 months before you can apply for a Cypriot one, although you may use the UK provisional one as long as you are 18 years old. You cannot take your driving test until you have been resided on Island for 6 months. The 6 month is taken from the date on the dependents stamp in the passport.

If you have a UK driving license there is no requirement to exchange it for a Cypriot one, unless you take your initial driving test or adding additional driving categories to your current license. On completion of your test you will be issued with a Cypriot driving license. Once returned to the UK you can exchange your Cypriot driving licence for a UK one, all driving categories will be moved across.

Mopeds/Scooters

You may ride a moped/scooter from the age of 17 on a UK Provisional License

Importing

Should I bring my car?

This is most certainly a personal choice, but it would be cheaper to bring and run a 1000cc than a 2500cc Car (top speed in Cyprus is 100Kph / 62Mph). Fuel prices, servicing costs, road tax, insurance etc are around the same as the UK. Road conditions are fine for most family cars, sport cars may suffer because of suspension wear on rough roads. 4x4 (Chelsea tractors) are only useful if you want to go skiing in Troodos Mountains (very seasonal) or off-roading in the wild. If your car is not paid out right, contact the Hire Purchase, Loan Company first about exporting it.

Cyprus drives on the left, which is the same as the UK e.g. Right Hand Drive vehicles. For those with Left Hand Drive vehicles there are some variations to the rules. More information can be obtained from the Cyprus Department of Transport http://www.mcw.gov.cy/mcw/rtd/rtd.nsf/dmlindex_en/dmlindex_en?opendocument

The majority of information on importing your vehicle has been taken from the SBA Customs and Republic of Cyprus Customs websites:

<http://www.sba.mod.uk/customs.htm>

http://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/customs/customs.nsf/ced07_en/ced07_en?OpenDocument

Classic Cars:

If you are interested in bringing your classic car, further information is provided at this weblink:

<http://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/customs/customs.nsf/All/40D99383B4F07F7AC225727D0031EAB2?OpenDocument>

DVLA

When a vehicle registered in the United Kingdom (UK) is taken out of the country for 12 months or more, it's regarded as being permanently exported from the UK. You can tell DVLA by filling in the purple section 'Notification of Permanent Export'

11 Notification of Permanent Export – Please complete and return to DVLA (see note overleaf) Please mark along dotted line V5C/4 1

Registration Mark 2 Validation character U 3

Date of export 4

Document Ref. No. 5062 630 0303 03 03 05

Dispatch Codes 1033566560/1010 23

THIS SECTION WILL NOT PRODUCE AN EXPORT CERTIFICATE.

Declaration Please read the notes overleaf before signing.
I declare that the vehicle will be exported on the date shown opposite.

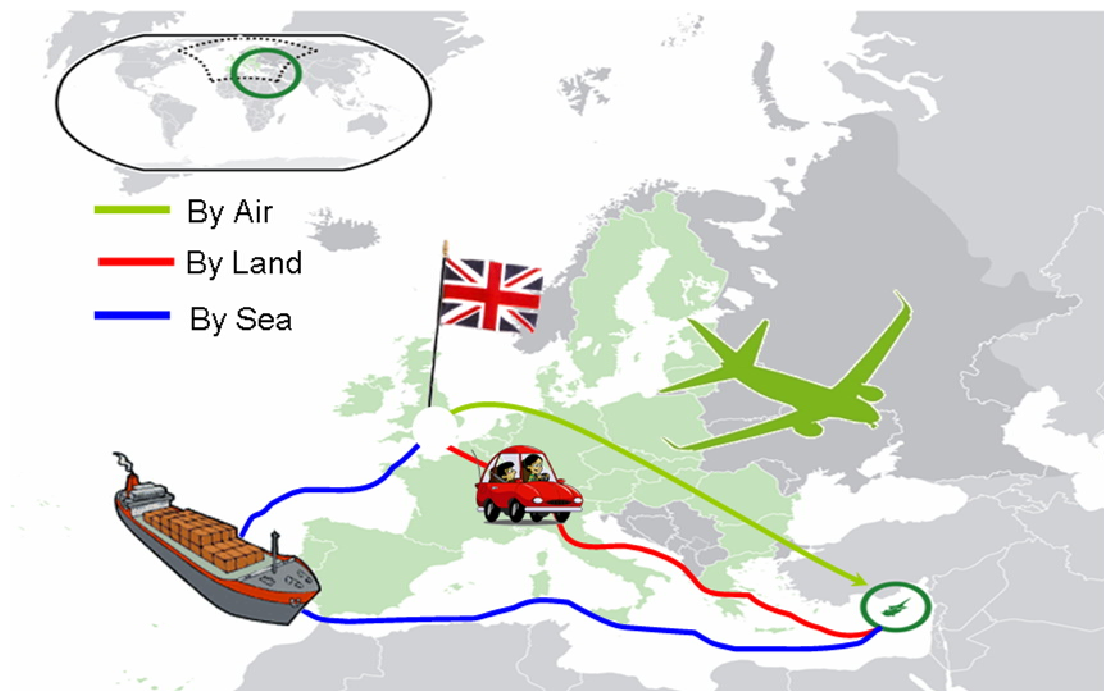
Signature _____

Date _____

(V5C/4) of the vehicle registration certificate (V5C), and send it to DVLA, Swansea SA99 1BD. However, It is sometime easier to bring the whole V5 and complete this as part of the registration process in Cyprus.

For further information from DVLA see <http://www.direct.gov.uk/>

Should you wish to bring your vehicle to Cyprus, there are several options available to you:



Indulgence through RAF Lyneham / Akrotiri (Very Limited)

A very limited service may be available to fly your vehicle from RAF Lyneham (Import) or RAF Akrotiri (Export). Vehicles are wait listed and if space becomes available may be loaded to fly to Cyprus or the UK. For information on the Indulgence service contact Air Freight at DSCOM on military 9679 81112 fax 9352 38943 for flights from RAF Lyneham. Contact Joint Movements Squadron RAF Akrotiri 94120 6500 or see Akrotiri indulgence guide available on request from the HIVE.

Drive your vehicle to Cyprus

This is like a combination fly, drive & ferry excursion. Several People have provided their stories on how they have driven to and from Cyprus. For a copy of this information contact the HIVE.

Indulgence through Marchwood Military Port (Limited)

A very good guide has been produced by DTMA that will guide you through this process: Contact the HIVE for this guide. Otherwise contact the Service Freight Centre DSCOM, Abbey Wood Mil: 9679 81138 or Civ: 030679 81129.

Ship the vehicle via a civilian company

This will be relevant to most that cannot indulge or want to drive across Europe.

Shipping your vehicle as freight on a roll-on / roll-off vessel

To ship via a civilian company you will need to contact a shipping agent in your country of departure (there is a link provide above to a search engine). You may be responsible for getting your car from home to the loading dock. The agent should arrange the transportation of your vehicle and clearance from the UK or other port locations. This process will take anywhere between 12 days to 1 month. The approximate cost for a 'Ro-Ro' (roll on-roll off) service from Southampton to Limassol (Main port for vehicle imports) is GBP £500.00 to £600.00 however prices and level of service can vary.

Ring several shipping agents and ask for a quote, prices can vary. Always get confirmation of what is included in the price, also get quotes for marine and salvage insurance.

The following is an example of how much it may cost to bring a 4 year old Ford Mondeo 1.8 from the UK via a shipping company to Cyprus and out of the port.

Shipping Costs Ro-Ro (with UK agent fees):	€550.00	Average
Shipping operator release fees	€215.00	Paid in Cash in Limassol
Port Fees	€25.00	(Depends on storage time)
Total so far	€790.00	(Average)

This does not include using a handling agent in Cyprus. Handling agent fees may vary from €100 - €600. Local car dealers and other on-camp personnel maybe able to assist in port clearance. Some companies like M&S Shipping provide import/export services for vehicles.

While you will NOT pay IMPORT DUTY on your vehicle, you will have to pay the registration fee and road tax. You have a maximum of 28 days to register your vehicle with the republic of Cyprus Department of Transport.

Irrespective of the method of arrival in Cyprus you must register the vehicle within 28 days.

Once your vehicle has arrived into Limassol port or RAF Akrotiri you will need to have your Vehicle logbook (V5C) a C104A form (which is the form to import a duty free vehicle – available from your Cyprus Unit Admin Office) as well as motor insurance for Cyprus (check to see if your current insurer covers you for EU) and have paid the release fees to drive your car out of the port.

Vehicle Registration

The vehicle registration process differs between vehicles purchased in the EU or first registered in the EU and those imported from outside of the EU. Left-hand drive vehicles must meet additional requirements.

The vehicle must pass a Department of Transport (DoRT) roadworthiness inspection (similar to an MOT) at an authorised inspection station. The test will check emissions, brakes, suspension, steering, lights and tyres among other things. The test is computerised and generally takes less than an hour. Costs are around **€35.00**.

Once the vehicle passes the inspection, the following documents should be taken to a Vehicle Examination Centre of the Department of Road Transport:

- Results of the roadworthiness inspection
- Vehicle registration documents from an EU member country (Logbook (V5C), C104A)
- Sales invoice for the car (if the car is registered to a person other than the one importing and registering the vehicle)
- Payment for registration and car tax (CASH ONLY), plus two large Cyprus stamps.

Department of Road Transport - Vehicle Examination Centre, Larnaca District

At: 13 Acropoleos Avenue, 7102 Aradipou

Tel: 24 813 196

Fax: 24 818 691

Department of Road Transport - Vehicle Examination Centre, Limassol District

At: Korivou Street, Kampos Polemidion, 3112 Limassol

Tel: 25 870 442

Fax: 25 305 696

Department of Road Transport - Vehicle Examination Centre, Nicosia District

At: Old Nicosia, Limassol Road

Tel: 22 815 712

Fax: 22 486 510

Vehicle Registration is only relevant to imported or new duty free vehicles brought too or purchased in Cyprus. For those that buy a new duty free vehicle in Cyprus the dealer should do all the registration for you as they would in the UK.

You can register the vehicle yourself, it involves going to the department of transport Vehicle Examination Centre paying (CASH ONLY) your registration and tax fees, you will need 2 Large Cyprus Stamps (Available from the BFPO)

Calculations for vehicles can be worked out using the information provided in the weblink below for the Cyprus Department of Transport. All vehicles costs are worked out on engine Cubic Capacity and CO2 emissions. Take of copy of your sums as mistakes can happen at the Examination Centre and they may try to over charge you.

http://www.mcw.gov.cy/mcw/rtd/rtd.nsf/dmlregistration_en/dmlregistration_en?OpenDocument

Example:

Ford Mondeo 1.8LX – 4 Years old – Petrol – Co2 180 gr/km – Current market value (Aug 2009) £3000.

Registration Fee:

Motor Vehicle cubic capacity = 1650 cc > < 2050 cc

Cost is €0.42715 x engine CC – €0.42715 x 1800 = €768.87

This figure can then be reduced by the following factors:

CO2 emissions = 165 (gr/km) >< 200 (gr/km) = Minus 10% - €76.89

Certificate of Conformity = 1650 cc >< 2050 cc = Minus 20% - €138.40

Total Registration fees €553.58

Road Tax

Motor Vehicle cubic capacity = 1650 cc >< 2050 cc

Cost is €0.11960 x engine CC = €215.28

This figure can then be reduced by the following factors

CO2 emissions = 165 (gr/km) >< 200 (gr/km) = Minus 10% - €21.53

Certificate of Conformity = 1650 cc >< 2050 cc = Minus 20% - €38.75

Yearly Road Tax €155.00

Road tax is issued twice a year (Jun / Dec). If you have to tax your car between these dates the tax will be worked up until the end of that period e.g. December.

Once you have your new registration you will need Number Plates. These are around €15.00 but depend on where you get them.

Total price (Estimate) to get a Ford Mondeo 1.8lx to Cyprus and on the road is: €1550.00 (Inclusive of handling fees, port fees, MOT, Number plates, Stamps, Registration fee and road tax) No Cyprus Agent)

This does not include insurance or using a handling agent in Cyprus. Handling agent fees vary from €100 - €600.

Living Overseas Allowance (LOA) has an element of vehicle sales/purchase and running costs built into it.

Gizzits

This is purely a Cypriot phenomenon, designed in essence to give the newcomer transportation on arrival; usually this is arranged by the person you are replacing, your line manager or you may find one on your driveway of your Married Quarter. Dealers make this gesture to entice you into purchasing a vehicle from them. When or if you receive a Gizzit you will have to make sure you are covered by insurance (normally through the dealer). You will need to give them a copy of your driving license. You need to ensure prior to taking the Gizzit what your obligations are with regards to the vehicle and any associated costs.

DO NOT HOLD ON TO THIS CAR FOR A LONG TIME Bring photocopies of your driving license to give to the car salesman, this will save you having to hand over your license.

Buying Motor Vehicles on Island

There are two status types of vehicles in Cyprus.

1. Duty Free – This is where no duty has been paid on a vehicle and it can only be sold to an entitled person (Military or Civil Servant (UKBC)).
2. Duty Paid – This is where duty has been paid and can be purchased by anyone including Cypriots. These are normally more expensive due to the Import Duty.

Duty Free Vehicles

Duty and VAT free vehicles can be purchased new or second-hand from various vehicle dealers, or by private arrangement from other entitled persons. You may acquire a tax-free vehicle provided that you:

- Are a member of British Forces Cyprus, the civilian component or UK authorities;
- Are posted or attached to Cyprus for a tour of at least 6 months.

Your relief from Duty and VAT is subject to the following conditions:

- That you acquire a C104A from your Unit Admin Office for clearance with the Republic of Cyprus Customs.
- Only the owner and his/her dependants are entitled to drive the vehicle (permission can be sought for visitors and on exceptional circumstances from the Fiscal Office)
- You register the vehicle in your own name within 28 days of purchase (or its arrival in Cyprus).

You are not restricted in the number of duty free cars you possess on island but you can only export one Duty Free vehicle per entitled person and adult dependant at the end of your assignment.

Both types can be bought from an individual or through a car dealer. Cost of motor vehicles in Cyprus is high compared to the UK. An example being a 4 year old Ford Mondeo 1.8 may cost you around €5000 Duty Free and €7000 Duty Paid.

BFC has a car dealer code of conduct sponsored by SO1 Legal/Command Master Driver. This code is not legally binding – so remember BUYER BEWARE. Details of dealerships involved in the scheme can be obtained from the HIVE. This is to assist Service personnel, Civil Servants (UKBC) and UK dependants on issues relating to car purchase in Cyprus. The British Forces Cyprus Car Dealer Code of Conduct can be found at the end of this information sheet.

Cars for sales are also advertised on notice boards around the base, www.hivecyprus.co.uk - sales and wants, Cyprusnet - Sale & Wants, and word of mouth to name but a few.

Car insurance

Car insurance is on par with the UK, it pays to shop around. Speak with other members of the Service community to see who they recommend. Here is a general link to some insurance companies. You will need proof of No Claims bonus.

<http://cyprus.angloinfo.com/af/22/cyprus-insurance-car-home-life.html>

Items to Carry in the Vehicle

It is compulsory to carry two red warning triangles in the vehicle and use them to warn other traffic when involved in an incident, breakdown or accident. If stopped, driver's should be able to show their valid driving licence (if it is not an EU-issued licence, it should be accompanied by an International Driver's Permit/Licence (IDP/IDL), vehicle registration documents, proof of insurance, proof of roadworthiness. Note: UK licence holders are generally only required to present the card section of the license.

Driving in Cyprus

- Car drivers must be at least 18 years of age; mopeds may be driven at age 17; motorcycles may be driven from the age of 21.
- Seat belts for driver and passengers are compulsory.
- It is obligatory for all children under the age of five to sit in the back, strapped into a proper child car seat. Children from five to ten years of age may occupy the front passenger seat provided a child's seat belt has been fitted.
- Using a mobile phone while driving is prohibited unless using a "hands-free" unit.
- Smoking in a vehicle which is carrying a passenger under the age of 16 is prohibited.
- Motorcyclists and passengers must wear a helmet.
- Motorcycle/moped/scooter passengers must be over the age of 12 and sit astride the seat.
- Road signs are in English and Greek.
- Distances are marked in kilometres.
- Road speeds are marked in kilometres-per hour (Km/h).
- Horns should not be used between 22:00 - 06:00 hrs. Honking near a hospital is forbidden at any time.
- Third party liability insurance is obligatory.
- For emergency assistance call 112 or 199.

Driving Instructors/Schools:

Speak with other members of the Service community to see who they recommend

Driving Schools	Address	Telephone Number
Agatha's	Dodge City, Episkopi	25211 1211
Anthoulla's	Dodge City, Episkopi	25211 1390

Garages and MOT Centres

Car Maintenance can be done by the car dealerships listed in the code of conduct, also speak with other members of the Service community to see who they recommend:

Polykarpos N. Ioannou	14 Arch. Makarios111' Kolossi	25933087
Dial A Mechanic	Mobile	99266229

In Cyprus, all vehicles over four years old are subject to a Department of Road Transport (DoRT) test (similar to a UK MOT) for mechanical safety as well as emissions levels. This test must be passed every two years. The test checks emissions, brakes, suspension, steering, lights and tyres among other things. It is computerised and generally takes less than an hour.

Exporting a vehicle

Similar to importing just in reverse:

Consult <http://www.sba.mod.uk/customs.htm> BFC414 Car exportation application form must be completed and submitted ONE Month prior to export. Guidance on exporting your vehicle is available from SBA Customs.

Again you have the option to Drive, Fly or Ship your vehicle back to the UK following the guides in the importation section.

M&S Shipping (Int) Ltd offers a door-to-door car shipping service to members of the British Forces Cyprus. Co-located within the Joint Service Port Unit in Limassol New Port, they are able to offer the following services: Professional Advice, Competitive Pricing, Customs assistance including UK clearance, Ro/Ro or Containerised Service, Marine Insurance, Vehicle Registration, MOT and Number Plates, UK Delivery

For further details and helpful advice on shipping your car back to the UK or Germany contact the Limassol Office on (00357) 2557 6838 or the UK Office on 0044 1708 340034. Or visit them at www.msshipping.com

BRITISH FORCES CYPRUS CAR DEALER CODE OF CONDUCT (AUGUST 2010)

1. **Introduction.** This Code of Conduct is intended to provide guidance to British Service personnel, their dependants and UK based Civilians posted to Cyprus on issues relating to car purchase. It is not a legally binding agreement and simply reflects a number of sensible, agreed practices between British Forces Cyprus and the Car Dealers listed, that when applied to the purchase and sale of cars to the British Forces community seeks to assist both the purchaser and dealer alike.

2. **Terms of the Code.** The current code states:

- a. New vehicles will not be older than six months from the date of manufacture, unless otherwise stated on the Order Form. They will be supplied to the manufacturer's specifications as ordered.
- b. Second hand vehicles will be provided with a valid road worthiness certificate (an MOT) start date valid from the time of delivery/collection.
- c. All vehicles supplied will be fit for purpose having due regard for price and age. Vehicles will be supplied with no obvious faults unless agreed in writing by the purchaser.
- d. Agreements, offers and undertakings, whether made by the Dealer or his representatives, will be confirmed in writing and honoured by the company. Such terms include, for example, warranty, guaranteed buyback and delivery dates.
- e. The purchaser may cancel an order if delivery is more than two months after the agreed date of delivery written on the contract, and any deposit will be returned in full.
- f. Prior to the release of any vehicle the Dealer, or his representatives, will ensure that road tax and insurance have been arranged and are valid.
- g. Registration documents will be provided to the purchaser upon delivery/collection of the vehicle.
- h. When requested at the time the order is placed, a Certificate of Conformity, valid for import to the UK/EU, will be provided within 28 days of purchase.
- i. The provision of a "gizzit" car is without obligation to purchase and any incidental costs will be clearly explained to the potential purchaser at the time. The "gizzit" is to be fully roadworthy, tax paid and insured in accordance with extant legislation.

3. **Dealerships.** The following car dealers have signed to say that they will abide by the above code:

- a. Andy's Motors Ltd
- b. Elite Motors Ltd
- c. F & A Key Cars Ltd
- d. Flamingo Motor Agency Ltd
- e. Premier Cars Ltd
- f. Sam's Motors Ltd

4. **Burden of proof. Purchasers must obtain the terms of any agreement in writing and be able to produce this if a complaint is to be made. Examples of such agreements include delivery dates, guaranteed buy back terms, cost, and the terms of any warranty.** Therefore purchasers are advised to ensure that all documents and correspondence relating to purchase are retained. Purchasers must consider their own circumstances carefully and ensure that their contract reflects these circumstances.
5. **Legal Assistance.** Initial legal advice is available from BFC Army or RAF Legal Assistance Officers. Where a dispute is not capable of resolution, in order to enforce individual contracts it may be necessary to instruct Cypriot lawyers to commence civil proceedings before the Republic of Cyprus Courts. There is no legal aid scheme for such proceedings and personnel will be liable for legal costs incurred.
6. **Unlisted dealers.** Purchasers may still choose to purchase cars from dealers who are not signatories to this Code of Conduct, however any prospective purchaser should be aware that the dealer is not a signatory and has not undertaken to comply with this code. In those circumstances the purchaser is advised to show the dealer this code and to obtain their written agreement to comply with its terms.
7. **Complaints procedure.** If any member of the BFC community feels that a specific car dealer is not abiding by the Code of Conduct and that they have cause for complaint, a complaint should be addressed to the Command Master Driver, via their Unit Chain of Command.
8. **Satisfaction survey.** It is necessary for HQ BFC to ascertain where dealers are adhering to good practice, rather than just fielding complaints from disgruntled customers. A satisfaction survey will therefore be issued by HQ BFC to all car dealers approved by the code of conduct. Car dealers will issue a blank copy of this survey to customers when a vehicle is sold, along with any other paperwork such as contracts etc. Individuals are to complete and return this survey either upon completion of their tour, or completion of their business with a car dealer, whichever occurs sooner.
9. **The buy back deal.** This is a phenomenon of Cyprus which may be offered by car dealers to present a seemingly more attractive deal to the buyer, **beware it is not a cast iron guarantee.** At purchase you may be offered a percentage (eg: 50 of the initial price paid) or cash (eg: 2500 euro) incentive upon completion of your tour in Cyprus if you return a vehicle to the dealer from whence it came. The following should be considered when taking into account any buy back offer: The initial asking price may be inflated to provide the dealer with some protection against future market conditions. Ensure any proposed offers are clearly written in your contract and temper any offer with reality (is it likely I will return the car in exactly the same condition?). Manage your expectations when returning your car upon completion of tour and do not be fooled into thinking you are leasing/hiring the car - you are buying it. Finally always consider private sale at cessation of tour before returning to the dealer as this is likely to generate a higher price. If you do elect to sell back to the dealer do not leave it until two weeks before posting to try and sort out your deal but approach your dealer and advertise for private sales at least three months before posting.

10. **A word of caution.** The Car Dealer Code of Conduct cannot protect purchasers from poor judgment and bad purchase decisions. There are sufficient car dealerships across Cyprus, many of which are named above, to ensure a competitive market and avoid being exploited. Purchasers are strongly advised to seek local recommendations (word of mouth), shop around and thoroughly check their proposed car, including a test drive, prior to signing a contract or parting with cash. Obvious safety defects such as balding tyres, frayed seatbelts, defective brakes/steering/ suspension etc are normally fairly easy to identify. Any car dealer that presents a sale in such condition does not deserve your custom. There are many guides produced these days to assist buyers in buying cars some examples of these can be found at the following web links:

<http://www.theaa.com/cbg/home.jsp>

<http://www.topgear.com/content/buyersguides/02/1.html>

<http://www.rac.co.uk/news-advice/car-knowledge/what-to-do-if/post/2009/10/im-buying-a-used-car-what-now/>

Contact Details for Car Dealers

The following car dealers have signed to say that they will abide by the above code:

Car Dealer's Name	Address	Town	Tel. No.
Andy's Motors	104 Omonia Ave	Limassol	2557 9380
Elite Motors	15 Paphos Road	Limassol	2556 1777
Flamingo Motors	Omonia Ave	Limassol	2556 6456
F&A Key Cars Ltd	www.keycarscyprus.com		26960274 97657955 99988437
Premier Cars Ltd	Franklin Rousevelt Ave	Limassol	2556 1433
Sam's Motors	22 Pafos Str.,	Limassol	2556 0055

Episkopi HIVE, 339 Buckingham Rise, British Forces Episkopi, BFPO 53
 Tel: (00357) 25962000, Mil Tel: 94120 2000, Fax: (00357) 25962000,
 Email: episkopi@hivegb.co.uk, Website: www.hive.mod.uk or www.hivecyprus.co.uk
 Opening Hours: 0800 – 1230 hrs

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