

# FAQs on Armoured, Custodial and Defence Force Vehicles

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**What are armoured, custodial or defence force vehicles?** These vehicles are classed as special purpose vehicles (SPVs) and as such belong to either category M, N or O having specific technical features intended for the protection of conveyed persons or goods with anti-bullet armour plating.

**Do these vehicles need type approval?** Type approval is optional under (EU) 2018/858 for vehicles designed and constructed for use by the civil defence, fire services and forces responsible for maintaining public order.

**Are Irish prison service vehicles exempt from CVRT?** No. The only vehicles which are exempt are vehicles constructed for use by defence forces or An Garda Síochána.

**What are the requirements for ensuring the vehicle can be operated legally in Ireland if it is exempt from type approval, entry into service and CVRT?** All vehicles must still adhere to all road traffic construction, equipment, lighting and use regulations. It is the owner's responsibility to ensure their vehicle is maintained in a roadworthy and safe condition at all times when used on a public road.

**What is the registration procedure for these vehicles?** You will need to contact [Revenue](#).

**How do I obtain 'VIN specific certificates' which is required by the army before accepting these army vehicles for registration?** For information relating to registration contact [Revenue](#).

**Is there a requirement to have seat belts in the individual prisoner cells within the rear of the vehicle?** Prison vehicles are required to have seat belts fitted to the driver's seat and any front passenger seat. No other seat belts are required to be fitted, but where they are fitted, they must comply with the relevant technical provisions and will be tested at CVRT.

**Are seat belts required to be worn by members of the gardai and defence forces?** No. There is an exemption from wearing seat belts for the gardai and the defence forces but only when acting in their course of duty.