

DRIVERS' LICENCES IN A NUTSHELL!

This leaflet is prepared as a Club service. The contents are believed correct at the date of publication but please raise any queries with the Club's Information office.

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TOWED OUTFITS AND RIGID MOTOR CARAVAN OUTFITS

CATEGORY B LICENCE OBTAINED PRIOR TO 1 JANUARY 1997 MAY DRIVE:

- a. *Towed Outfits* any outfit where the combined MAM (Maximum Authorised Mass) does not exceed 8,250kg. (over which weight would have required an additional test pre-1997) However Club recommendations on weight ratio between trailer and towing vehicle remain at 85%.
- b. *Rigid Motor Caravans without trailer* any rigid motor caravan without a trailer where the MAM does not exceed 7,500kg.
- c. *Rigid Motor Caravan with trailer* provided the total MAM of trailer and motor caravan does not exceed 8,250kg no further test is required, but Club recommendations on weight ratio between trailer and towing vehicle remain at 85%.

CATEGORY B LICENCE FIRST OBTAINED ON OR AFTER 1 JANUARY 1997 MAY DRIVE:

- a. *Towed Outfits* driver restricted to a combined MAM of 3,500kg **and** the trailer MAM must not exceed the unladen weight of the towing vehicle (85% ratio remains strongly recommended). If this MAM is to be exceeded an E Test pass is required. A list of B+E test driving instructors can be found in the Practical Advice section of The Caravan Club Website. The Driving Instructors' Association also has a list of qualified driving instructors that can tutor those wishing to take the B+E driving test - visit the Driving Standards Website on www.dsa.gov.uk, or telephone 0845 345 5151.
- b. *Rigid Motor Caravans without trailer* driver restricted to a MAM of 3,500kg until obtaining a pass of the LGV test, after which the driver is qualified to 7,500kg MAM.
- c. *Rigid Motor Caravan towing trailer* provided the trailer does not exceed 750kg and the combined MAM does not exceed 4,250kg no further test is required for this type of outfit. However if the trailer MAM exceeds 750kg then a. applies for a vehicle less than 3,500kg. Otherwise an LGV test plus an E Test is needed.

YOUR DRIVING ENTITLEMENT ON RENEWING AT THE AGE OF 70

On reaching the age of 70, drivers will retain their driving entitlement for Category B and Category B+E (provided Category B+E was held prior to the expiry date of their driving licence). Category B+E entitles drivers to drive a motor vehicle (ie car, van or 4x4) not exceeding 3.5 tonnes **Maximum Authorised Mass*** (MAM), drawing/towing any weight trailer/caravan within the prescribed maximum towing weight. The maximum towing weight will be specified in the technical data section of the vehicle manufacturer's handbook. However, Club recommendations on weight ratio between trailer and towing vehicle remain at 85%.

*The terms 'Maximum Authorised Mass', 'Gross Weight' and 'Permissible Maximum Weight' all have the same meaning, ie the weight of the vehicle plus the maximum load the vehicle may safely carry.

When drivers of any vehicle over a MAM of 3,500kg reach 70 years of age and their driving licence expires they must pass the D4 Medical Test and pass the required standard eyesight test at 20.5 metres/67 feet with glasses used when driving. This legislation became effective from 1 January 1998.

