



## **CL OPERATIONAL RULES**

The Caravan Club is one of only 4 recreational organisations legally able to issue annual certificates to CL owners and the Club's network, established over 50 years, is by far the largest. Our powers stem from the 1960 Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act and these impose certain legal obligations on the Club which, together with other rules we apply, govern the way CLs operate.

There are 8 basic rules of operation:

### **Rule 1: Visitors to your CL must be members of the Caravan Club (Club Rule)**

This is a condition of your certificate, breach of which could also put your cover at risk should a claim arise under your public liability insurance. All members carry a membership card, renewed annually on the anniversary date of joining, so please ask to see this as evidence of current membership. Check the expiry date and note the member's name, address, telephone number and membership number in your booking-in diary, just in case any queries arise. Quite a lot of members complain to us that owners do not ask to see their cards. They like to know that CLs are for their exclusive use!

Whilst visitors to your CL must be current Club members, non-members do occasionally ask to stay, they must, however, join the Club before arriving on site. Joining the Club is very simple and we would be grateful if you could explain this to potential members who, after all, could become regular visitors! They can call the Club on 0800 328 6635 or join on-line at [www.caravanclub.co.uk](http://www.caravanclub.co.uk); they will be given their membership number, making them immediately eligible to use the Club's services, including your CL. Their membership card and Sites Directory will be sent to them very quickly. If a new member wishes to stay before receiving their membership pack it would be acceptable to take the membership number alone which can be checked with head office.

We do not supply application forms to CL owners as experience has shown that they are not used very quickly and can become out of date. This can be misleading, for example, when subscription rates change.

### **Rule 2: No caravan may stay for more than 28 days at a time (Club Rule)**

This reinforces the touring philosophy and status of our Club's CLs and also prevents one member monopolising a pitch and denying it to others.

**Rule 3: CLs are for recreational use only (1960 Act)**

Visitors should be on holiday and caravans should not normally be left unoccupied overnight or used for permanent residential purposes.

**Rule 4: You may only take 5 caravans at a time (1960 Act)**

Arguably the most important condition, formal planning permission and a site licence are required for more than 5 pitches and your site would no longer qualify for CL status. By far the majority of complaints the Club receives (including those from members and other CL owners) involve excess numbers and this is clearly a major concern for the Club.

All complaints about excess numbers will be investigated. Normally an informal word will resolve most problems. However, if persistent and substantiated complaints of excess numbers are received after a formal written warning from the Club, your Certificate is unlikely to be renewed on its expiry and may, in serious cases, be withdrawn at short notice.

**Rule 5: Caravans should not be left unoccupied overnight (predominantly a Club Rule)**

It is not uncommon to find caravans left unoccupied for varying periods of time. Clearly there will be exceptional circumstances when brief periods (a night or two) can be accepted. However, regular or lengthy periods effectively constitute 'storage', which almost invariably requires separate planning permission.

**Rule 6: CL owners must have public liability insurance cover for not less than £2 million against any proven claims made by members suffering damage to property or personal injury (Club Rule)**

Considerable legislation (e.g. The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974) has increased public awareness of the right to seek compensation from site operators if visitors are involved in accidents or become ill through pollution. It is therefore necessary for CL owners to insure themselves against possible claims and we require owners to sign a declaration to this effect, which is a continuing obligation so long as the CL operates. Proof of PLI insurance is required annually on the date of renewal.

**Rule 7: CL owners using a private (non-mains) water supply must have it tested annually by a competent authority (Club Rule)**

Such owners are required to sign a declaration to this effect and provide copies annually of the relevant paperwork

**Rule 8: CL owners providing electric hook-ups must have the facility inspected annually and a satisfactory certificate issued by a contractor approved by the National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting (NICEIC) or by a member of the Electrical Contractors' Association (ECA) or SELECT (Scotland) (Club Rule)**

Owners providing this service are required to sign a declaration to this effect and provide copies of test certificates.