

## French Speed Limits (Last updated July 2010)

We have now received confirmation from the legal department of Automobile Club de France (ACF) regarding speed limits in France which are kilometres per hour:

	Motorway	Dual carriageway	Single carriageway
Vehicle towing a caravan/trailer where the vehicle has a gross train mass of under 3.5 tonne – or a motorhome that has a gross vehicle weight under 3.5 tonne*	130**	110**	90**
Motorhome which has a gross vehicle weight over 3.5 tonne*	110	100	80
Vehicle towing a caravan/trailer where the vehicle has a gross train mass over 3.5 tonne	90	90	80

*\*Motorhomes without a trailer, if the motorhome has a trailer then the speed limit will be based on the gross train mass in the same way as a car towing a caravan. Motorhomes travelling solo do not need to display any speed stickers.*

*\*\* In adverse weather conditions or rain these limits reduce to 110/100/80*

**Gross vehicle weight** – the weight of the vehicle when fully loaded with luggage, and passengers etc to its maximum permitted capacity.

**Gross train mass** – This information can normally be found in your owner's manual, on a plate or sticker fitted to the vehicle or by contacting the manufacturer of your car. In general terms the GTM is the gross vehicle weight of your car plus its towing limit. (There are exceptions to this rule, if in any doubt please contact your car manufacturer.)

### Example

Honda CR-V 2.2 i-CTDI SE

Gross vehicle weight - 2160kg

Towing limit - 2000kg

Gross train mass - 4160kg

If you tow **any** trailer/caravan behind this car you will need to tow at the lower speed limits regardless of how much your trailer weighs. If the Honda is towing a caravan weighing 1000kg (total weight of 3160kg) the lower speed limits will still apply, because the gross train mass is over 3500kg.

The French highway code stipulates that 80 and 90 stickers must be displayed by vehicles required to drive at the lower limits. The Legal Department of the Automobile Club de France said that UK registered caravans did need to display the stickers, the French Ministry of Transport changed their minds three times: the first reply said no, the second reply said yes and the third and final reply is below:

*We have checked with several Government Departments and Ministries (Interior, Gendarmerie, Industry and Transport) and we have concluded that the stickers are not mandatory but the speed limits are applicable*

The third and final reply was received with the help of the Directorate General for Mobility & Transport, Road Safety of the European Commission.

Even though we have now received what we think is the definitive answer, we are not in a position to guarantee that Club members will not encounter problems if they travel in France without displaying the speed stickers, if the French Ministry of Transport have struggled to confirm the correct information, it is likely that the French Police may also be unsure of the correct law.

The feedback that we have received so far indicates that no-one (including the French) are complying with the speed sticker requirement, and we are not aware of anyone being fined for non-compliance. However, if you feel that you wish to attach the stickers they can be purchased from [www.speedstickers.co.uk](http://www.speedstickers.co.uk) telephone: 0800 988 7329 (between 10.00 – 14.00)

Please note that the stickers must be a minimum of 15cm in diameter. The speed limit must be written in black numbers on a white background. The sticker with the lowest speed must be attached to the back of the outfit on the bottom left hand side, any further stickers must be put to the right of the first one (if horizontally aligned) or above the first one (if vertically aligned).