

ASK YOUR CLUB

The Club's technical team answers your pressing questions

Taxing issues



Q Will motorhomes be charged the 'additional rate' of £310 per annum when car tax changes in April 2017?

A Vehicle Excise Duty (VED), or car tax, as it's commonly called, changes from 1 April 2017. New first-year rates will be introduced based on a vehicle's CO₂ emissions. Rates for 'M1' vehicles (passenger cars) are outlined in the chart below:

After an initial year at these rates, all cars will be charged at a flat fee of £140 per annum, except those with a zero CO₂ emission rating, which will continue to be exempt.

However, owners of cars which have a list price of more than £40,000 when new pay £310 per annum on top of the standard rate for five years. Those buying premium cars and larger 4x4s will need to take note.

M1 Vehicle Excise Duty

CO ₂ emissions (g/km)	First year rate
0	£0
1-50	£10
51-75	£25
76-90	£100
91-100	£120
101-110	£140
111-130	£160
131-150	£200
151-170	£500
171-190	£800
191-225	£1,200
226-255	£1,700
Over 255	£2,000

CAN YOU HELP?

Many Club members contact DVLA with driving licence queries. We're currently working with DVLA to ensure the advice given in relation to towing or motorhome driving is as helpful as possible. If you contact DVLA's advice service, please note the first name and 'team number' of the person you speak to. If you have any concern over the advice given, let us know at Technical Advice (technical@caravanclub.co.uk or 01342 336611).

Where does this leave motorhomes, which are classified as variations of cars ('M1 Special Purpose')? The good news is that most motorhomes will be charged at the flat rate, and will not be subject to the additional £310, even if their list price exceeds £40,000.

The reason for this is fairly involved. Motorhomes are usually built in two (sometimes three) stages – base vehicle, conversion to motorhome and possibly chassis modification in between. At base vehicle stage, a CO₂ figure will be quoted. When converted, however, this figure is not usually transferred to the Type Approval documentation for the finished motorhome. If there's no CO₂ figure on the vehicle's Certificate of Conformity, the flat rate of £140 applies, and the additional rate is not added even if the price of the motorhome exceeds £40,000.

A minority of motorhomes do have a CO₂ figure on their Type Approval documentation – in these cases, graduated VED rates do apply in the first year, as do the subsequent additional rates if their list prices exceed £40,000.

For example, a smaller converter may buy a road-registered van to convert, and fail to re-register it as a motorhome afterwards. In addition, owners of factory-built motorhomes that are made in a single stage (eg VW Californias) could be charged the graduated rate and additional rate. It's always best to check with the retailer before purchase, just in case, although there shouldn't be any concerns with coachbuilt and A-class models.

Please address your questions to:

Technical Information,
The Caravan Club,
East Grinstead House,
East Grinstead, West Sussex
RH19 1UA

...and quote your membership number

 [caravanclub.co.uk/
advice-and-training](http://caravanclub.co.uk/advice-and-training)