

Speed limits in France - update

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We have now received confirmation from the legal department of Automobile Club de France regarding speed limits:

Vehicle type	Motorway	Dual carriageway	Single carriageway
Vehicle towing a caravan/trailer where the vehicle has a gross train mass of under 3.5t - or a motorhome that has a gross vehicle weight under 3.5t*	130**	110**	90**
Motorhome which has a gross vehicle weight over 3.5t*	110	100	80
Vehicle towing a caravan/trailer where the vehicle has a gross train mass over 3.5t	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 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, however we have been contacted by various members who live in France advising us that this requirement is being ignored, and the French police are not interested in enforcing it.

Nevertheless it is a legal requirement and the stickers can be purchased from 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).