

FAQs on Motorhomes, Motor Caravans and Camper vans

RSA

What is a motor caravan? It is defined in (EU) 2018/858 as 'a vehicle of category M with living accommodation space which contains the following equipment as a minimum:

- (a) seats and table;
- (b) sleeping accommodation which may be converted from the seats;
- (c) cooking facilities;
- (d) storage facilities.

This equipment shall be rigidly fixed to the living compartment. However, the table may be designed to be easily removable'.

Do motor caravans require type approval? Yes. From 29 April 2012 all **new** M1 special purpose vehicles must have type approval before Revenue will register the vehicle for use on Irish roads. For more details see [Information Note on Type Approval](#).

Do motor caravans require testing? Yes. If you own a motor caravan you will be required to pass a CVRT test regardless of whether it is taxed privately or used commercially. Test category is based on manufacturer's design gross vehicle weight (DGVW) and not unladen weight.

- Motor caravans whose DGVW is 3,500 kg or less will be tested as LCV.
- Motor caravans whose DGVW is more than 3,500 kg will be tested as HCV.

Do motor caravans require registration, tax and insurance? Yes.

All mechanically propelled vehicles must be registered, taxed and insured in order to be used on a public road. They must also comply with 'In-Use' Regulations and be driven by licensed drivers.

What licence is required to drive a motorhome or motor caravan?

For a breakdown of driving licence categories click [here](#).

Are seat belts required on motor caravans? See our [FAQ](#) on Seat belts in Motorhomes and Motor Caravans

What are the requirements for converting a vehicle to a motor caravan? See our FAQ on [Modifying or Converting a Vehicle](#).

I've modified my vehicle; how do I get my vehicle registration certificate (VRC) amended? You will need to contact your local [motor tax office](#).

I want to change my vehicle's category or reclassify it. What do I need? You will need to contact your local [motor tax office](#).

I've converted my vehicle and need to get tax relief or vehicle registration tax (VRT) rate changed? You will need to contact [Revenue](#) regarding payment or refund of VRT.

Do windows on motor caravans need to be e-marked? In the case of vehicles first registered on or after 01 January 1986 the windscreen must be made of laminated safety glass and marked accordingly. Acceptable markings are available in [CVRT Manuals](#). All other glass in side and rear windows must be marked as automotive safety glass.

What components are tested at CVRT? Most common issues that can be linked to stationary vehicles are listed below and further information on testing of special purpose vehicles can be viewed in [CVRT Manuals](#).

- Seizure of brakes, including handbrake
- Presence of surface corrosion on primary and secondary vehicle components e.g. chassis, door and side panels, bonnet.
- Premature deterioration of tyres e.g. sidewall cracks and loss of pressure
- Seizure of locks
- Drop in fluid levels e.g. antifreeze and brake fluid.

Like all other road users, and as set out in road traffic regulations motorhome and campervan owners are obliged to maintain their vehicles in a roadworthy condition at all times.

How to store my camper van? When not in use these vehicles should be cleaned thoroughly and dry including underbody before storing in a garage to prevent corrosion and damage to structure and components. It is recommended to inflate the tyres to maximum pressure recommended as air gradually releases and the weight of the vehicle presses them down resulting in flat spots when vehicle is stationary.