



CAMPERVAN & MOTORHOME SPEED LIMITS

THE 3.05-TONNE RULE — EXPLAINED SIMPLY

THE KEY POINT-

For the special speed limits in Schedule 6, the critical figure is the vehicle's LEGAL **UNLADEN WEIGHT** — NOT its maximum permitted weight.

So what speed can you legally drive?

There is a lot of confusion about campervan and motorhome speed limits. The important distinction is whether the vehicle's statutory **unladen weight** is above or below 3.05 tonnes (3,050 kg).

ROAD TYPE	≤ 3,050 kg UNLADEN	> 3,050 kg UNLADEN*
Motorway	70 mph	70 mph
Dual carriageway	70 mph	60 mph
Single carriageway / other road	60 mph	50 mph

**This table is for a motor caravan not exceeding 12 metres overall length and not drawing a trailer.*

First: make sure your vehicle is a MOTOR CARAVAN

The Schedule 6 provision discussed here refers specifically to a “passenger vehicle, **motor caravan** or dual-purpose vehicle”. Check the body type/classification recorded on your V5C registration certificate.

The 3,050 kg test

Schedule 6 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 applies special lower limits to the relevant vehicle category when its **unladen weight** exceeds 3.05 tonnes.

REMEMBER

3,050 kg **UNLADEN WEIGHT** is the threshold.

A 3,500 kg or 3,700 kg maximum permitted weight does **NOT** decide which speed limits apply.



WHAT DOES “UNLADEN WEIGHT” MEAN?

It has a legal definition

Regulation 3 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 contains the statutory definition. In simple terms, it includes the body and parts necessary to, or ordinarily used with, the vehicle when working on a road.

The definition **excludes** the weight of water, fuel or propulsion accumulators used to supply power for propulsion, and also excludes loose tools and loose equipment.

UNLADEN WEIGHT IS A LEGAL DEFINITION

It is not simply whatever figure happens to appear on a manufacturer's specification sheet.

What is excluded?

- Water
- Propulsion fuel
- Propulsion accumulators (for example, propulsion batteries in an electric vehicle)
- Loose tools
- Loose equipment

Why this matters for motorhomes

Equipment that is necessary to, or ordinarily used with, the vehicle when working on a road forms part of the vehicle's unladen weight. That distinction can be particularly important with converted campervans and motorhomes.

⚠ Don't confuse these different weights

WEIGHT FIGURE	WHAT IT MEANS
Maximum Authorised / Permitted Mass	The maximum legal weight at which the vehicle may operate.
Unladen weight	The statutory figure used for the 3.05-tonne Schedule 6 speed-limit test. (It does NOT include the driver, fuel, water, tools)
Mass in Service / MIRO	A figure commonly shown on the V5C – which is the unladen weight PLUS 75kg for the driver, 60kg for fuel and 10kg for water and is used as the starting point for the example calculation below. None of these included weights apply to unladen weight – hence are deducted.



HOW TO WORK OUT THE FIGURE

The practical calculation

The Mass in Service figure shown on the V5C (sometimes referred to as MIRO) can be used as the starting point. You then deduct 75 kg for the driver, 60 kg for propulsion fuel and 10 kg for fresh water – (We deduct 75kg for the driver because the Mass In Service includes this, **Unladen Weight** does not)

WORKED EXAMPLE

Mass in Service: 3,081 kg (as shown on the V5 or Log Book)
minus Driver: 75 kg
minus Propulsion fuel: 60 kg
minus Fresh water: 10 kg
= 2,936 kg

What does that example mean?

On the calculation above, 3,081 kg – 145 kg = 2,936 kg. That is **below** 3,050 kg, so the vehicle falls on the ≤3,050 kg side of the threshold. Look at the chart on Page 1 and the 70,70,60 mph limits apply

DON'T JUST LOOK AT THE V5C MAXIMUM WEIGHT

A vehicle uprated to 3,700 kg or more can still be below the 3,050 kg unladen-weight threshold.

Conversely, a 3,500 kg vehicle could potentially have an unladen weight above 3,050 kg.

The important distinction

Maximum permitted weight tells you how heavy the vehicle is legally allowed to be when operating. It is **not** the number used for the 3.05-tonne speed-limit test described in Schedule 6.

If you are close to 3,050 kg...

Do not rely solely on an calculation from a V5C, MIRO or Mass in Service figure. Establish exactly what the relevant figure includes and, where necessary, obtain professional advice.



THE 12-METRE RULE & TRAILERS

Vehicles over 3,050 kg unladen

Schedule 6 contains a further distinction based on overall length. For the relevant motor caravan not drawing a trailer:

OVERALL LENGTH	MOTORWAY	DUAL CARRIAGEWAY / OTHER ROAD
Not exceeding 12 m	70 mph	60 mph / 50 mph
Exceeding 12 m	60 mph	60 mph / 50 mph

For vehicles over 3,050 kg unladen and not exceeding 12 metres, the Schedule 6 figures are 70 mph motorway, 60 mph dual carriageway and 50 mph other roads. If the vehicle exceeds 12 metres, the motorway limit becomes 60 mph; the dual carriageway and other-road figures remain 60 mph and 50 mph.

⚙ What if you are towing a trailer?

Be careful: the Schedule 6 table separately deals with vehicles “not drawing a trailer”. There are separate provisions for a motor caravan drawing a trailer.

IF YOU ARE TOWING

Do NOT automatically apply the 70 / 60 / 50 table. Check the separate Schedule 6 provision that applies to your vehicle and trailer combination.



THE LAW — IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 — Regulation 3

The statutory definition of “**unladen weight**” is the weight of a vehicle or trailer including its body and all parts necessary to, or ordinarily used with, the vehicle when working on a road, but excluding the weight of water, propulsion fuel or propulsion accumulators and loose tools and loose equipment.

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 — Schedule 6 (vehicles over 3.05 tonnes **UNLADEN WEIGHT**)

Schedule 6 for a passenger vehicle, **motor caravan** or dual-purpose vehicle not drawing a trailer with an unladen weight exceeding 3.05 tonnes.

For a vehicle **not** exceeding 12 metres overall length, the table gives 70 mph on motorways, 60 mph on dual carriageways and 50 mph on other roads. For a vehicle exceeding 12 metres, it gives 60 / 60 / 50 mph.

ONE-MINUTE CHECK

1. Is your vehicle recorded as a MOTOR CARAVAN?
2. What is its LEGAL **UNLADEN WEIGHT**?
 3. Is it ABOVE 3,050 kg?
 4. Is it over 12 metres long?
 5. Are you towing a trailer?
 6. Is there a lower signed speed limit?

If your vehicle is **BELOW** 3.05 tonnes **UNLADEN WEIGHT** (and you are NOT towing a trailer) – usual car speed limits apply (70, 70, 60 (Motorway Dual Carriageway, Other Road))

IMPORTANT

This fact sheet is an explanation of the legislation and is not legal advice. The driver is responsible for complying with the speed limit applicable to their particular vehicle and circumstances. A lower speed limit displayed by road signs always takes precedence.

Where a vehicle is close to the 3,050 kg threshold, the source material advises that you should establish exactly what the relevant figure includes and, where necessary, obtain professional advice.

CHECK YOUR V5C • CHECK YOUR WEIGHT • KNOW YOUR SPEED LIMIT

DRIVE SAFE • KNOW THE LAW • ENJOY THE JOURNEY

LASTLY – please remember these are speed LIMITS – not targets. Why rush? Enjoy the drive, enjoy the views, enjoy the scenery – arrive SAFELY.