



Class B driving license for up to 4.25 ton for motor caravans and car/caravan combinations

The European Parliament has agreed in first reading to a revision of the driving license directive thus allowing holders of class B licenses to drive motor caravans and car/caravan combinations weighing up to 4.25 tons

Kriftel, March 7, 2005

The European Parliament has agreed in first reading to amend the European Commission's proposed third driving license directive. The EP wants to entitle holders of class B licenses to drive motor caravans and car/caravan combinations weighing up to 4.25 tons. The European parliament has thus sent a positive signal to the European caravan industry, whose products are currently subject to a 3.5 ton weight limit owing to class B license restrictions.

On Feb. 23 of this year, the European Parliament agreed in first reading to amend the third driving license directive that would entitle holders of class B licenses to drive motor caravans and car/caravan combinations weighing up to 4.25 tons under the following conditions:

- The car/caravan combinations must be for non commercial use only
- Prescribed weight limits for towed caravans must be adhered to
- The driver is required to take a training course for car/caravan combinations

The proposed directive for car/caravan combinations also applies to boat, horse and other types of trailers.

The following conditions apply to motor caravans weighing up to 4.25 tons that are driven by holders of class B licenses:

- The motor caravan must be for non commercial use only
- The vehicle pay load capacity must not exceed 1000 kg
- The driver is required to take a training course for motor caravans

“This directive is a milestone for the European caravanning industry,” noted Hans-Karl Sternberg, Secretary General of the European Caravan Federation (ECF). “There are two reasons for this. First, the new directive will make it possible for 92 percent of all car/caravan combinations and 90 percent of all motor caravans in Europe to be driven with a standard class B driving license. The other reason is that the driver training requirement will promote safe driving on the part of inexperienced motor caravan and car/caravan combination drivers.”

The envisaged one-day drivers training course will teach drivers how to deal with scenarios that commonly arise with car/caravan combinations and motor caravans. Drivers will not be tested. In recent years, European caravan associations have strongly advocated this proposed change in European driving license regulations. The changes were ultimately promoted by Members of the European Parliament of various nationalities.

The next step in the legislative process following passage of the proposed directive by the European Parliament is for the EU Council of Ministers to consider the EP’s first reading. The European parliament is expected to realize a second reading late this year. The directive will probably not be set into law on Community level until 2006, and if past experience in regard to adoption of Community directives by national parliaments is any guide, the new directive will become law in Europe by 2010 at the latest.

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