




Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

A photograph of a white truck moving quickly on a road, creating a motion blur effect. The truck is in the foreground, and the background shows green trees and a blue sky with clouds.

**Speed limiter,  
speed limits and  
motorway driving  
laws are changing...**

**don't get caught out!**

## **Speed limiters**

**The range of vehicles requiring a road speed limiter is widening and will include:**

### **New vehicles**

Goods vehicles with a design weight over 3.5 tonnes and buses with more than 8 passenger seats (regardless of weight) registered on or after 1 January 2005, will be required to be fitted with a road speed limiter. The limiter will restrict the maximum powered speed to 56mph (90km/h) for goods vehicles, and 62mph (100km/h) for buses. A speed limiter will not be required until 1 January 2008, however for vehicles used **solely** on UK journeys and are either:

- a goods vehicle with a design weight not exceeding 7.5 tonnes, or;
- a bus with a design weight not exceeding 5 tonnes

### Older vehicles

Vehicles registered between 1 October 2001 and 31 December 2004 (inclusive), will also need a road speed limiter if they are:

- a diesel engined goods vehicle with a design weight over 3.5 tonnes, but not exceeding 12 tonnes, or;
- a diesel engined bus fitted with more than 8 passenger seats and has a design weight not exceeding 10 tonnes.

Vehicles used on international journeys need to be fitted with a speed limiter by 1 January 2006, while vehicles used **solely** on UK journeys will need a limiter by 1 January 2007.

### Use of the offside lane on motorways

The Department for Transport is consulting on the proposal to ban all vehicles, required to be fitted with a road speed limiter, from using the offside lane on 3 or more lane motorways.

If the proposal is adopted, the change will begin on 1 January 2005.

### Motorway speed limits

It is likely, once all the changes to vehicles requiring road speed limiters have taken place (after 1 January 2008), the national motorway speed limit for goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes and buses will be lowered.

Restricting all vehicles in these classes to the same speed limit will reduce any competitive advantage of older vehicles (which are not required to have speed limiters).

For further information, please contact the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) on:

**0870 60 60 440** or go to:

**[www.vosa.gov.uk](http://www.vosa.gov.uk)**

*An executive agency of the  
Department for  
**Transport***

VOSA/PSP/1097/Oct 04