

Speed Limiters: Does your minibus need one?

Speed limiters restrict the maximum speed of a minibus to 100 kph (about 62 mph). All new minibuses from 1 January 2005 are required by law to have a speed limiter fitted. Some older minibuses (pre-2005) also need a speed limiter. Most should already have had them fitted by now. The requirement also applies to larger buses and coaches.

The requirement to fit a speed limiter depends on three factors:

- When the minibus was first registered
- Whether it is used only in the UK or also used on international trips
- Whether it runs on petrol or diesel.

Minibuses first registered 1 January 2005 onwards

All minibuses registered on or after 1 Jan 2005 require a speed limiter, whether petrol or diesel powered.

Minibuses first registered before October 2001

These minibuses do not require speed limiters, either for use within the UK or on trips abroad.

Petrol minibuses registered from 1 October 2001 to 31 December 2004

All **petrol** minibuses registered between these dates do not require speed limiters, either for use within the UK or on trips abroad.

Diesel minibuses registered from 1 October 2001 to 31 December 2004

Some **diesel** minibuses registered between these dates require speed limiters – those fitted with a Euro III or later type of diesel engine. Euro III refers to the European emissions regulations that the engine was designed to meet.

Minibuses of the same years, fitted with earlier Euro II engines or designed to an older EU Directive, will not require a speed limiter. VOSA, the government agency whose responsibilities include MoT testing and speed limiters, has stated that the following vehicles first used from 1 October 2001 to 31 December 2004 do not need a speed limiter:

- Citroen Relay 2.0 litre and 2.2 litre HDi engines
- Fiat Ducato – those models with 2.0 engines with engine code RHV
- Ford Transit – all models
- LDV – all models
- Peugeot Boxer 2.0 litre and 2.2 litre HDi engines

- Renault Master – those with F9Q engine
- Vauxhall/ Opel Movano with E,F,G,J,K,L,M,N,P,T or W as 9th VIN character (VIN = Vehicle Identification Number shown on V5C registration document)
- Volkswagen – most models (except those with the 2.5 or 2.8 litre 109/158 bhp engines codes AVR and AJH respectively – these do require a speed limiter).

If your minibus is not one of those listed above you will need to contact the service department at the local dealer to find out if a speed limiter is required. Have the V5C registration document to hand so that you can quote the chassis and engine numbers. Many dealers also find the requirements confusing so do not expect an instant answer!

Getting a speed limiter fitted

The work will usually need to be carried out by the dealer for your make of minibus. It normally involves re-programming the engine management computer to 'turn on' the speed limiter function. This should cost less than one hour's labour. For some engines, a new part is required. This will increase the cost to nearer £500.

Driving a minibus with a speed limiter

With a speed limiter, your maximum speed is 100 kph (**62 mph**). A few minibuses may have to be set to 90 kph (56 mph), where only a 90 kph module is available for that type of minibus. A speed limiter will affect your overtaking ability so drivers need to be aware that a speed limiter is fitted. You should ensure that there is a sign on the dashboard to indicate this. You should also inform your drivers.

On motorways with three or more lanes, minibuses with speed limiters are prohibited from the right hand lane.

What will happen if you do not fit a speed limiter?

If your minibus requires one but you don't get the work done by the deadline, you will be breaking the law and your minibus will fail its next MoT test.

For further information

If you need further advice about speed limiters, contact the Community Transport Team: Email community.transport@hants.gov.uk or Tel: 01962 845728.

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