

## Press Release

### **European Union driver's license reforms: Caravanning industry calls for swift and consumer-friendly implementation in Germany**

The 4th EU Driving Licence Directive raises the permissible total weight for motor caravans in driving licence category B to 4.25 tonnes. The CIVD considers the reform to be an important step forward and calls on politicians to implement it in Germany quickly, with minimal bureaucracy and in a consumer-friendly manner.

Stuttgart / Frankfurt am Main , 19 January 2026

**Caravanning is one of the most popular forms of holiday in Germany and is becoming increasingly popular, especially among young people. The 4th EU Driving Licence Directive now fulfils a long-standing demand from the industry: in future, holders of a Class B driving licence will be allowed to drive motor caravans with a total weight of up to 4.25 tonnes under certain conditions. The new regulation lays the foundation for making motor caravan holidays accessible to even more people.**

While holders of the old Class 3 driving licence are permitted to drive motor caravans with a gross vehicle weight of up to 7.5 tonnes, the Class B driving licence is currently limited to vehicles weighing up to 3.5 tonnes. The 3.5-tonne limit is quickly reached for a variety of reasons: modern motor caravans are safer and more environmentally friendly than ever before. However, they have also become heavier, not least due to the safety and environmental requirements largely prescribed by EU law. With the long-term goal of switching to alternative drives, vehicle weight is expected to increase further. For this reason, the CIVD and the European Caravan Federation (ECF) have been campaigning for decades to raise the weight limit to 4.25 tonnes. Raising the weight limit to 4.25 tonnes gives manufacturers more freedom in designing their vehicle range, offers customers greater scope in configuring their motor caravans and, at the same time, ensures that the advantages of mobile holidays will remain available for future generations.

### **What rules will apply in the future?**

The new driving licence regulation is included in the directive under the designation B.96.02 and allows motor caravans with a total weight of up to 4.25 tonnes and motor caravan-trailer combinations of up to 5 tonnes to be driven with a category B driving licence. This requires an additional qualification, such as a one-day training course or a test. The specific details are left to the Member States to decide. National regulations must be enacted by the end of November 2028, and practical application must be ensured by the end of November 2029.

### **Recommendation for implementation in Germany**

In view of the long preparation period, the CIVD is calling for swift and pragmatic implementation in Germany. 'Based on representative surveys and internal analyses, we assume that many motor caravan owners will want to obtain a driving licence extension as soon as possible when the new regulation comes into effect,' explains Daniel Onggowinarso, Managing Director of the CIVD. 'In addition, future new drivers and people who are new to caravanning will also want to actively take advantage of the option to upgrade their driving licence. In order to cater to this broad target group, lean, scalable procedures without additional bureaucratic hurdles are required.'

Specifically, the CIVD advocates a pragmatic and flexible application model based on existing, proven regulations. Digital services can make an important contribution to reducing administrative costs and easing the burden on existing systems. Easy access for consumers and efficient use of costs and resources should be key guidelines for implementation.

### **For further information about caravanning, please visit our web site:**

[www.civd.de](http://www.civd.de), where there are also photos available for downloading.

#### **Press contact:**

Marc Dreckmeier  
Director Marketing & PR  
Caravanning Industrie Verband e.V. (CIVD)  
Hamburger Allee 14  
60486 Frankfurt am Main, Germany  
Phone: +49 69 704039-18

#### **Press contact:**

Jonathan Kuhn  
Marketing & PR  
Caravanning Industrie Verband e.V. (CIVD)  
Hamburger Allee 14  
60486 Frankfurt am Main, Germany  
Phone: +49 69 704039-28

[marc.dreckmeier@civd.de](mailto:marc.dreckmeier@civd.de)

[jonathan.kuhn@civd.de](mailto:jonathan.kuhn@civd.de)

**About Caravaning Industrie Verband e. V.**

Caravaning Industrie Verband (CIVD) is the trade association for the industrial arm of the German caravanning sector. Our members include German and European caravan and motor caravan manufacturers, numerous caravan and motor caravan supply vendors and service providers, as well as public institutions and associations. Founded in 1962, CIVD represents the interests of the German caravanning industry for all matters of concern to its members, through lobbying and other communication measures directed at German and European political institutions and government authorities. The CIVD is also the ideal sponsor for Caravan Salon, the world's largest caravanning industry trade show. In this capacity CIVD plays a pivotal role in promoting the progress and development of the European caravanning industry.