



Weekly Rest Period Clarification for HGV driver's hours

A statement by the Advocate General of the European Court of Justice has advised that a 'normal' 45-hour weekend break cannot count as 'rest' for tachograph and EU drivers' hours regulations purposes if it has been taken in the vehicle. However, the 24-hour breaks which can be taken every other week, can still be taken in the vehicle's cab.

The regulations are specified in EC 561/2006.

The new Department for Transport (DfT) Simplified Guidance on EU drivers' hours and working time also confirms that only the shortened weekly rest can be taken in the cab. The guidance states "You can take your daily rest period or a reduced weekly rest period in your vehicle, provided the vehicle is stationary and is fitted with suitable sleeping facilities. However, you cannot take a regular weekly rest period in your vehicle."

The European Transport Workers' Federation said it would campaign further to ensure that if weekly rest was taken away from home, then it would have to be in a hotel or motel room with individual sanitary facilities and access to hot meals.

Speeding fines have increased

Fines for the most serious speeding offences are set to rise in order to better reflect the gravity with which the courts view them.

Currently the minimum penalty you can expect to receive for speeding is a £100 fine and 3 penalty points added to your licence, but from April 24, 2017, magistrates in England and Wales are being directed to apply a Band C speeding fine for the most serious offenders.

New speeding fines calculator:

Speed limit (mph)	Recorded speed (mph)		
20	41 and above	31-40	21-30
30	51 and above	41-50	31-40
40	66 and above	56-65	41-55
50	76 and above	66-75	51-65
60	91 and above	81-90	61-80
70	101 and above	91-100	71-90
Sentencing range	Band C fine (150% of relevant weekly income)	Band B fine (100% of relevant weekly income)	Band A fine (50% of relevant weekly income)
Points / disqualification	Disqualification for 7-56 days OR 6 points on your licence	Disqualification for 7-28 days OR 4-6 points on your licence	3 points on your licence

The speeding fine is to be capped at £2,500 for those caught speeding on the motorway, and £1,000 everywhere else. The imposition of a speeding fine is just one weapon in the magistrates' arsenal. They can still issue higher fines, impose a driving ban, or sentence you to a prison sentence.