



**RHA – Guide to Speed, Speeding
and Speeding offences**

Road Haulage Association

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RHA Guide to Speed, Speeding and Speeding Offences

The facts¹

- Speed is one of the main factors in fatal road accidents
- The risk of death is approximately four times higher when a pedestrian is hit at 40mph than at 30mph
- Fatal accidents are four times as likely on rural “A” roads as urban “A” roads

The difference of a few miles per hour can mean the difference between life and death. The faster someone is driving, the less time they have to stop if something unexpected happens.

If you kill someone while speeding, you will have to live with the long-term emotional consequences.

Speed limits are there for a reason.

Remember... Don't speed - Avoid a speeding ticket the possible consequences for HGV Drivers are – Loss of Job

Do not exceed legal speed limits - they are there for a reason

Remember that speed limits are a maximum not a target - often it is more appropriate to drive below this speed

Set realistic journey times

Don't be pressured to speed by other drivers

Be aware of vulnerable road users

Adjust your driving to suit the conditions that may be weather or location (schools for instance)

Check your speedometer as frequently as you would your mirrors - it could save your licence

Don't be distracted by passengers or use a mobile phone while driving

You are a Professional Driver therefore be an ambassador for driving within the legal speed limits - if you comply the chances are that the driver behind you will too.

The Consequences

New speeding fines could potentially cost drivers thousands of pounds as they become calculated on their weekly income under the new system which has now been introduced. Previously the penalty you could expect to receive for speeding was a £100 fine and 3 penalty points on your licence, but from **24th April 2017**, magistrates in England and Wales are being directed to apply a Band C speeding fine for the most serious offenders.

A **three band system** shown below will determine the severity of an offence to different charges.

What does that mean if I'm caught speeding?



BAND C SPEEDING FINE

A Band C speeding fine means that anyone speeding at 51mph or above in a 30mph limit for example, or over 101mph, faces a fine equivalent to 125-175% of their weekly income, 6 penalty points on their driving licence or disqualification from driving for up to 56 days. If disqualified for 56 days or more the driver will be required to apply for a new licence.

BAND B SPEEDING FINE

A Band B speeding fine would apply for someone caught doing between 41-50mph in a 30mph zone, in which case a fine equivalent to 75-125% of their weekly income would apply, with 4-6 penalty points on their licence, or disqualification from driving for up to 28 days.

BAND A SPEEDING FINE

A Band A speeding fine would be imposed for anyone caught speeding between 31-40 in a 30mph zone, who would then expect to receive a fine equivalent to 25-75% of their weekly income and 3 penalty points on their licence.

Additionally, if you are a first time offender you **may** be offered the chance to take a speed awareness course which will allow you to dodge the penalty points. This however will not be extended to repeat offenders.

Is there scope for variation in the new speeding fine system?

Yes, the Sentencing Council has issued a selection of factors which courts must take into account that can increase the seriousness of the offence, or provide mitigating circumstances.

Examples of factors which might aggravate the offence to 175% include speeding while towing a caravan or trailer, speeding near a school or with a high level of traffic or pedestrians nearby.



Factors **increasing** seriousness

- Previous convictions, having regard to
 - a) the nature of the offence to which the conviction relates and its relevance to the current offence; and
 - b) the time that has elapsed since the conviction
- Offence committed whilst on bail

Other **aggravating** factors:

- Offence committed on licence or post sentence supervision
- Poor road or weather conditions
- **Driving HGV's – Be Warned this could be reported to the Traffic Commissioners.**
- Towing caravan/trailer
- Carrying passengers or heavy load



- **Driving for hire or reward**
- Evidence of unacceptable standard of driving over and above speed
- Location - near school
- High level of traffic or pedestrians in the vicinity

Factors **reducing** seriousness

- No previous convictions or no relevant/recent convictions
- Good character and/or exemplary conduct
- Genuine emergency established

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 (125-175% of relevant weekly income)	Band B Fine (75-125% of relevant weekly income)	Band A Fine (25-75% of relevant weekly income)
Points/Disqualification	Disqualification for 7-56 days OR 6 penalty points on licence	Disqualification for 7-28 days OR 4-6 penalty points on licence	3 points on licence

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¹ <http://think.direct.gov.uk/speed.html>