



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT

Directorate C - Land
C.2 - Road Safety

Brussels,
MOVE.DDG2/MB

Royal Norwegian Ministry of
Transport and Communications
Department of Public Roads
Urban Mobility and Traffic Safety
Mr Lasse Lager
Deputy Director General

Subject: Category B driving licence and motorhomes exceeding 3500 kg

Dear Mr Lager,

Thank you for your letter of 15 October 2018 (ref. 15/392) concerning category B driving licences and motorhomes exceeding 3500 kg.

The Commission is well aware of the Norwegian interest concerning the possibility of allowing regular private drivers of motorhomes for recreational or touristic purposes to drive those vehicles with a category B driving licence when exceeding 3500 kg. DG MOVE addressed this issue in its letter of 30 March 2016 to the Norwegian Ministry of Transport.

In particular, Norway is interested in making use of Article 6(4)(b) of Directive 2006/126/EC¹ (the Driving Licence Directive) to allow holders of a category B licence to drive motorhomes up to 4250 kg for recreational purposes.

In accordance with Article 6(4)(b) of the Driving Licence Directive, Member States may, after consulting the Commission, authorise the driving on their territory of vehicles of a maximum authorised mass exceeding 3 500 kg by holders over 21 years old of a driving licence for category B which was obtained at least two years before.

This is subject to several cumulative conditions:

- the main purpose of the vehicles is to be used only when stationary as an instructional or recreational area;
- the vehicles must be used by non-commercial bodies for social purposes; and
- the vehicles must have been modified so that they may not be used either for the transport of more than nine persons or for the transport of any goods other than those strictly necessary for their purposes.

¹ Directive 2006/126/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on driving licences (Recast), OJ L 403, 30.12.2006, p. 18.

Article 6(4)(b) of the Driving Licence Directive was not explicitly considered in the abovementioned correspondence as it is clear that the conditions set out in said Article are not met in the case of regular private drivers of motorhomes for recreational or touristic purposes, which hold a B licence. The exception provided by said Article does thus not cover regular private drivers of motorhomes for recreational or touristic purposes.

I therefore take this opportunity to confirm the assessment made by DG MOVE in its letter of 30 March 2016 on this issue, as the legal situation remains unchanged: extending the scope of category B driving licences for the driving of motorhomes exceeding 3500 is not possible under the Driving Licence Directive, that Norway is required to implement.

A change of scope in categories would require a legislative revision of this Directive, which has not occurred yet. However, there was a revision of the Directive in 2012 allowing MS to exempt motorhome drivers from certain specific parts of the driving test for category C1 (motorhomes with a load of over 3500 kg).

In the attached letter of the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Transport and Communications, Norway informs that Portugal has amended its road traffic legislation by adopting Decree-Law No. 138/2012 of 5 July 2012 based on Article 6(4) (b) of the Driving Licence Directive.

As a result, Article 21(a) of the Portuguese Driving Licence Regulation currently allows holders of a category B licence to drive motorhomes up to 4250 kg for recreational purposes as long as the driver is at least 21 and has minimum three years' experience with a driving licence in category B.

I was not aware of the Portuguese precedent based on Article 6(4) (b) of the Driving Licence Directive and will certainly examine this question, as it is not in principle compatible with the Driving Licence Directive in light of the assessment of the situation made by the Commission services in 2016 and in this letter.

I remain available if you should have any further questions regarding this matter.

Yours faithfully,



Fotini IOANNIDOU