

Stowford Campervans

VW T5 Completion Pack



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Legal Information, Requirements and Rules for Campervans DVLA

If you are converting a panel van into a campervan, you need to consider whether you want to re-register the vehicle as a 'motor caravan' with the DVLA.

It is not a requirement to re-register your campervan conversion and you may continue to use the vehicle as a campervan rather than a panel van assuming that you have adequate 'campervan' insurance. Whether you decide to re-register your vehicle or not, there are some differences that you need to be aware of:



- Cheaper Insurance – leisure vehicles such as campervans tend to be less expensive to insure than panel vans as they generally have fewer claims, do fewer miles and are not engaged for commercial use. However, your conversion can still be insured as a campervan without the need to re-register the vehicle.
- Speed – vans with an unladen weight of under 3050kg are restricted to 60mph on a dual carriageway; this increases to 70mph for vehicles registered as campervans. All other speed limits remain the same. Vehicles over this weight would have no change in their speed limits once re-registered. You can check legislation regarding speed limits at <https://www.gov.uk/speedlimits>
- Ferry Companies – travelling on a ferry is typically cheaper for campervans than for a commercial vehicle. However, few ferry companies will ask to view the DVLA log book classification to determine which price to charge.

Vehicle Classification

For a vehicle to qualify to the DVLA as a 'motor caravan', the following permanent fixtures must be present:

- There must be a *bed* with a minimum length of 180cm which must be an integral part of the living area and fixed directly to the vehicle floor and/or walls. The bed must be a permanent fixture or converted from seats which means that the bed can be folded away during the day.
- There must be a horizontal sliding *door* and an outward opening rear or side door.
- There must be a *seating area* for diners to sit around with a fixed or detachable *table*. The table mounting must be secured as a permanent feature. Seats must be secured directly to the vehicle floor or side walls.
- The vehicle must have at least one *storage cupboard*, locker or wardrobe which must be an integral part of the living area. It must be secured directly to the vehicle floor and/or side walls.

- The vehicle must have *cooking facilities* powered by fixed gas, electric hob or microwave oven which must be a permanent feature and must be secured directly to the vehicle floor or side wall. Electric or gas hobs must have at least two rings and microwave ovens must have a power source. Gas cooking facilities with remote fuel supplies must have the gas bottle and supply pipe permanently secured to the vehicle structure.
- The vehicle must have at least one *side window*. From the outside the vehicle must look like a motor caravan rather than a commercial panel van.

The DVLA do not state any requirements regarding water storage, however most insurance companies state that the water tank should be stored onboard or under the chassis.

How to Change the Vehicle Classification from Van to 'Motor Caravan'

The following is a guide only and you are advised to contact the DVLA and/or VOSA to confirm the rules regarding your vehicle.

1. You should change your V5C (log book) document and return it to the DVLA. You will need to change the vehicle body type to 'motor caravan' which is the term the DVLA use to classify campervans and motorhomes. If you need help with changing your V5 document then help is available on the [DirectGov](#) website.
2. Include a covering letter briefly describing what has been altered on the vehicle and include some photographs, between 10 and 20 is plenty. Ensure that you include a shot of the front of the vehicle clearly showing the registration plate, and the same of the back. Send your letter, photographs and log book to DVLA, Swansea, SA99 1BA.
3. Once the DVLA are satisfied they will send you a new V5C document. In some instances they may ask you to visit your local DVLA inspection office.

Sample Letter for Registering your Vehicle as a Motor Caravan

Your Name
Your Address

Date

Dear sir

I am writing to request that my vehicle, registration number _____, is reclassified as a "motor caravan". I am aware of your requirements for the vehicle to fit into the classification of "motor caravan".

Please find enclosed a series of photographs showing details of the vehicle.

1. Front of vehicle showing registration plate.
2. Rear of vehicle showing registration plate.
3. Interior detail showing seats and table in upright position. Please note that the table bracket is permanently and securely fixed to the vehicle body.
4. Bed in sleeping position. The bed base is permanently and securely fixed to the vehicle body. The bed is _____ long.
5. Cooking facilities. The hob is fuelled by gas and the piping is permanently fixed to the vehicle.
6. Storage cupboards.

I enclose my V5C document with section 7 completed (Changes to Current Vehicle).

I trust that the enclosed photographs provide you with sufficient evidence to make the necessary amendments to 'body type' classification. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Your Name

Enc. V5C, photographs

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