

Registering a caravan in France

All trailers, caravans and mobile homes weighing between 500kg and 3,500kg must be registered in France and the registration number (*numéro d'immatriculation*) carried in the *carte grise*.

Process

The process may not be identical in each department but the key stages are listed below:

1. Gather together all the documentation you have for your caravan including purchase receipt, handbook, NCC certificate, CRiS plus as much technical information as you can from your manufacturer.
2. Take your caravan to the local *Bureau Véritas* who will run a check on the gas installation and issue a certificate.
3. Visit your local *Direction Régionale de l'Industrie et de la Recherche et de l'Environnement* (DRIRE), armed with all the paperwork.
4. Complete a form entitled *Demande de Réception à Titre Isolé* which will request make, model, chassis number and all other particulars of the vehicle.
5. The DRIRE will check the documents for conformity and you will be contacted with a date to present your caravan for inspection.
6. Once the caravan has been accepted by the DRIRE, and you have been issued with a registration number, visit your local *Préfecture* to apply for a *carte grise*.

Top tips

- Make the effort to speak French where you can – it will be appreciated and help to keep the ball rolling.
- Complete the *Demande de Réception à Titre Isolé* as best you can and send it back to the DRIRE with a copy of any manufacturer documentation.
- Locate the chassis number stamped on the frame before attending the DRIRE inspection.
- Keep your current insurance running as you will not be able to insure your caravan in France until you have the registration number.
- The information you are able to gather, and the information required by the DRIRE, will depend partly on the age of the vehicle and whether it was registered inside or outside the European Economic Area (EEA).
- The older the caravan, the less straight forward the process will be. Staff at the DRIRE will be able to advise you.
- Check to see if your caravan has been awarded the EC Whole Vehicle Type Approval (not compulsory for new touring caravans until October 2012); if so this may speed things up considerably.

More details, including where to find your local DRIRE, can be found at <http://france.angloinfo.com/countries/france/caravan.asp>.