

## **WATCH OUT FOR FORGED DOCUMENTS!**

### **CRiS warns consumers and dealers to watch out for forged documents**

CRiS, the Caravan Registration and Identification Scheme, is urging caravan dealers and consumers to be extra vigilant and safeguard against accepting fraudulent registration documents as proof of ownership. This follows a spate of forged registration documents being submitted to CRiS by caravan keepers.

Alan Bishop, Leisure Sector Director at HPI, comments: "The success of CRiS has made caravan buyers more aware of the need to see and obtain a CRiS registration document – so thieves are increasingly trying to invest plausible alternatives, to make the vehicle appear legitimate at first sight. It is quite distressing to have to advise somebody that although they asked for the CRiS registration document at the time of purchase, what they received is in fact a forgery and their caravan is stolen. Criminals are employing more sophisticated methods to disguise their activities and providing forged documents is the latest technique."

However, there is some good news. All the forged documents submitted to CRiS so far have been very poor quality and therefore relatively easy to spot if you follow some simple steps.

Alan Bishop continues: "If a document looks unprofessional, then it probably is. Poor reproduction of logos, misalignment of paragraphs and spelling mistakes on photocopier quality paper are obvious signs. By taking the time to look for these simple mistakes, dealers and buyers can save themselves a lot of heartache and protect themselves from the fraudsters."

ENDS

December 2004

## NOTES TO EDITORS

Before buying a caravan always check with CRiS first to ensure that the seller is the registered keeper. The CRiS Check costs just £3.60 (+VAT) for trade and £9.95 for consumers and will also tell you if the caravan has outstanding finance recorded against it, been written-off by an insurance company and whether it is currently recorded as stolen.

To make a CRiS enquiry call 01722 411430 between 8.00am - 8.00pm Monday to Saturday and 10.00am - 5.00pm on Sunday.

**For press enquiries please contact: Claire Foster, Antonia Connolly or Justine Hoadley, HSL. Tel: 020 8977 9132 or e-mail [hsl@harrisonsadler.com](mailto:hsl@harrisonsadler.com)**

### **About CRiS**

The National Caravan Council (NCC) and HPI established CRiS in 1992, to provide touring caravan keepers with an organised national registration system, similar to the DVLA for cars. CRiS gives caravan keepers access to a vital register that can help protect the security of their caravans and help the police in returning stolen caravans to their rightful owners.

Visual markings of the unique CRiS VIN make the caravan less likely to be targeted by thieves and support the police with any "spot checks" they conduct. In addition, since July 1997 all new caravans have been fitted with electronic tags, containing the caravan's VIN, during manufacture.

CRiS has over 300,000 touring caravans registered, and records of some 100,000 changes of ownership. Details are held of more than 10,000 stolen caravans, provided by the police, insurance companies, members of the public, The Caravan Club and the Camping and Caravanning Club.

### **About HPI**

Originally established in 1938, HPI is the UK's primary source of vehicle information for the UK motor industry and motoring consumer. Today, HPI Group is an independent organisation, encompassing both the HPI database of all UK road registered vehicle descriptions and histories, and the National Mileage Register with nearly 80 million mileage records.

Together, HPI and NMR represent the UK's largest and most authoritative independent vehicle information source, combining and interpreting data from government agencies, industry bodies, private organisations, the police and the general public. Registering with HPI allows companies to protect their financial interests in motor vehicles and a wide range of other mobile assets. HPI Checks give purchasers instant confirmation of whether vehicles are correctly described, known to be subject to outstanding finance or serious accident damage, or recorded as stolen or "clocked".

**When deciding whether a car is safe to buy, more companies and consumers turn to HPI than any other information source**