



Information Sheet No 01

What is ACCEO ?

THE ASSOCIATION OF CARAVAN AND CAMPING EXEMPTED ORGANISATIONS

WHAT IS ACCEO?

The Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations is a group of over 200 caravan, motorhome and camping clubs (Member Clubs) all of whom hold a Certificate of Exemption.

The ACCEO Executive Committee is elected from members of Member Clubs to represent the combined interests of the clubs.

Currently almost 400 clubs hold Exemption Certificates although not all of them rally with caravans, motorhomes or tents. ACCEO represents over three quarters of those who do organise such rallies.

WHAT DOES THE ASSOCIATION DO?

ACCEO works closely with Government Departments and Authorities on behalf of its Member Clubs.

ACCEO is also able to provide both services and access to facilities which are not directly available to individual clubs.

CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION

In order to rally on land with more than one caravan and without the need to apply for a caravan site licence or local council planning permission, rallying clubs must hold a Certificate of Exemption.

There are three Certificates of Exemption that most rallying clubs will utilise in organising caravan rallies, two of these come under the "Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960" and the third under the "Public Health Act 1936: Section 269".

The Certificate of Exemption that most clubs would hold is a Paragraph 6 Certificate which enable caravan and motorhome clubs to rally on land without a caravan site licence for up to a maximum of 5 days (5 consecutive twenty-four hour periods).

A Paragraph 4 Certificate would enable caravan and motorhome clubs to rally for a longer period; but certificate holders have agreed to limit this to twenty-eight days.

In order for camping clubs to rally under the same conditions and for caravan and motorhome clubs to be able to allow tents and trailer tents on their rallies, they would also need to gain a "Public Health Act 1936: Section 269" Certificate of Exemption.

Although the Paragraph 4 Certificate of Exemption is mentioned again in the section "Extended Rallies", further information on all three certificates will be available in other ACCEO Information Sheets.

EXTENDED RALLIES

For organisations prepared to establish themselves with the legal status to take a lease of land, enter into such leases and participate in a consultation with the relevant local planning authority the opportunity exists for that organisation to apply for its own Paragraph 4 exemption certificate. However to make life easier for Member Clubs who would like to run extended rallies without going through that process, ACCEO can facilitate those rallies through the ACCEO Certificate of Exemption

RALLIES IN NATIONAL PARKS

Rallies in National Parks cannot be held without first being approved by the appropriate National Park Officer.

Approval is necessary some one year in advance and must be obtained through a 'clearing' procedure, which is not directly accessible to individual clubs.

ACCEO is a national clearing house liaising with all National Parks to co-ordinate an approved annual rally programme with the relevant authorities.

ADVICE TO CLUBS

ACCEO is able to give advice on matters of vital importance to clubs and issues a series of information sheets on specific subjects. Guidance and assistance is offered to Member Clubs when difficulties arise which may threaten their privilege to hold a Certificate of Exemption.

The Association Magazine 'ACCEO Matters' is published three times a year and keeps Member Clubs informed on matters of interest and importance.

The ACCEO website (www.acceo.org) is also used to keep Member Clubs advised and informed. Member Clubs should ensure that all of their members know how to access this increasingly important method of communication.

INSURANCE SERVICES

A range of specially designed insurance schemes is offered to Member Clubs and their members and to Personal Members. Most clubs are affiliated to the ACCEO Public Liability Policy for a very reasonable annual premium.

ACCEO RALLIES

The Association organises a National and AGM Rally each year, with the AGM being on the first Saturday in October.

The rally arrangements are made by a volunteer Host Club in conjunction with Officers of the Association. Personal Members of the Association as well as members of the Association's Member Clubs are able to meet like-minded ralliers and enjoy the organised entertainment.

Member Clubs are also able to run Invitation Rallies where the Association makes arrangements that permit the attendance of other Member Clubs.

HISTORY

After the Second World War, caravanning as a leisure pursuit was perceived by the governments of the time to be growing rapidly in an uncontrolled manner. This perception resulted in the "Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960" which is still operating over 50 years on and is the legislation under which your club was granted a Certificate of Exemption permitting you to hold rallies on unlicensed land.

In 1976 the government called a meeting at Beaulieu to ascertain how the Act was working. Arising from these discussions the Department of the Environment (*now "DEFRA" - Natural England*) issued in 1978 a Consultative Document which was to introduce a degree of control of caravan rallies to prevent over-use of popular sites and, in particular, the National Parks. The tone of this document caused some alarm amongst ralliers who, discerning a possible threat to their pastime, determined that clubs must group together to provide a single voice and thus be in a stronger position to guard their interests.

Two groups formed in 1979, firstly the National Federation of Caravan Owners' Clubs (NFCOC), which as its name suggests was composed mainly of Owners' Clubs, and shortly afterwards came the Confederation of Caravan and Camping Clubs (4C's) comprised of other Social and Works Clubs. Later there was an attempt to enlarge the group by including the Caravan Club and the Camping & Caravan Club, but the initiative failed.

Both groups continued to operate in parallel, each operating their own 'clearing houses' for rallies in the National Parks. This duplication was expensive in time, effort and money and eventually led in 1985 to a merger to form the Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations (ACCEO). The Department of the Environment was enthusiastic about the creation of ACCEO and granted the Association a Certificate of Exemption limited to 5 day rallies initially and some four years later, when the Association altered its Constitution to become a Recreational Trust, rallies of up to 28 days could be arranged as controlled by the 1960 Act.

AND SO!

Finally, ACCEO exists to protect the interests of ralliers in general and its Member Clubs in particular. It is totally independent and run by a committee of elected unpaid officers who are all experienced regular rallying caravanners, motorcaravanners and campers themselves.

The answer to the question "What is ACCEO?" is, then, "You are!" Each club forms approximately one 200th part of the Association and each Personal Member supports the work of the Association.

Details of Corporate and Personal Membership are available via contact links on www.acceo.org or by writing to the ACCEO main address.