



**THE ASSOCIATION OF CARAVAN & CAMPING EXEMPTED ORGANISATIONS**

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**RALLY INFORMATION**

**18.1 CARAVAN RALLIES – WHAT’S IT ALL ABOUT?**

This section will be of special interest to members of ACCEO Exempted Clubs who have never attended a rally.

*Is that you?*

*Think you might like to try one?*

*You may be wondering what goes on?*

*A little bit apprehensive? Don't be ~ just read on and, hopefully, you will be reassured.*

Caravanning is an excellent leisure time activity, but it can be costly.

You may sometimes wonder about sites, which may be a long way off, the quality of facilities is unknown, and so on.

To put an end to this uncertainty and cost, Rallying could be the answer.

Firstly you need not concern yourself with the quality of the site, as one of the members of your club will have selected it for its suitability and will have inspected it before arranging the rally.

Secondly, the cost will be as low as possible; certainly cheaper than any commercial site or similar.

When you arrive you can be certain of a warm welcome and you will be among like-minded people from all walks of life.

The rally you have chosen may be a lazy weekend in the country, a Bank Holiday weekend or a two week holiday rally, but, regardless of the type of rally, one thing is always the same ~ the friendship.

You may feel you would like to join in some organised activities, (or perhaps you won't), like a country walk, sports, social, barbeque, etc. You can do as little or as much as you wish ~ a rally is whatever you want it to be.

All of this at just a fraction of the cost of a conventional holiday hotel.

Rallying can add a new dimension to your caravanning, and you'll find that you will probably use your 'van much more, forge new friendships and get more enjoyment from your leisure time. **SEE YOU ON THE RALLY FIELD!**

**18.2 ACCEO RALLIES**

ACCEO organises its National Rally to be held in October each year.

ACCEO asks for volunteers from member clubs to organise the rally.

Some clubs may be reluctant to volunteer for this task, feeling unable to cope, especially if they are a small club with little experience of larger rallies.

The misgivings sometimes voiced are not as difficult to overcome as many may think, the ACCEO Committee and the ACCEO National Rally Co-ordinator are available to help and assist at every stage.

Comprehensive guidelines are available, written to minimise concerns and to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

So, if your club is thinking about "volunteering" to run an ACCEO Rally, contact the National Rally Co-ordinator via the link on [www.acceo.org](http://www.acceo.org) >Contact us; or by writing to ACCEO at the address above NOW.

**18.3 THE COUNTRY CODE**

The Country Code as published by Natural England in 2014.

Respect Protect Enjoy

- Respect other people
  - Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
  - Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available
- Protect the natural environment
  - Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
  - Keep dogs under effective control
- Enjoy the outdoors
  - Plan ahead and be prepared
  - Follow advice and local signs



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### **18.4 THE COASTAL CODE**

The Coastal Code as published by the Marine Conservation Society in 2012

1. Explore responsibly: Leave animals where you find them. Carefully lift and replace any rocks you move and leave attached seaweed in place. Seashells nurture an interest in nature amongst children, so if you want to take a couple home only take empty open shells (like limpets and mussels) and leave the shells that can provide a home for hermit crabs (like whelks and periwinkles).
2. Watch with care: Watch quietly from a distance especially near birds and seals with pups. Control your dog and keep it on a lead near birds and seals.
3. Keep it tidy: Take your rubbish home – don't bury it or burn it. Poop scoop your dog's waste then bin it responsibly.
4. Mind your step: Keep to established paths and dune boardwalks. If you dig holes in the beach, please fill them up again. Don't climb up or go near the top or bottom of a cliff. Check tide times to avoid being cut off. Keep away from soft sand and mud, and beware of slippery rocks.

### **18.5 THE CARAVAN CODE**

Every member of every ACCEO member club should be familiar with and observe the following Code for Caravanning. These are all common sense rules, which are easy to understand.

#### **The Caravan**

- (a) Whether trailer or motor caravan, it is a vehicle specifically designed for caravanning. Its appearance and colour should be appropriate and do not offend public opinion.
- (b) It is regularly serviced so that it is safe in all aspects when touring on the road, and on the site.

#### **On the Road**

- (a) Selection of trailer caravan and towing vehicle allows adequate performance in line with the towing code, namely:
  - i) The actual laden weight of the caravan should be kept as low as possible and should never normally exceed 85% of the kerb weight of the towing vehicle;
  - ii) The vehicle engine is powerful enough to keep the outfit at a speed, particularly on hills, that does not impede other traffic;
  - iii) The caravan is carefully loaded to provide good balance and avoid instability.
- (b) The caravan complies with all Road Traffic Acts and other relevant legislation & regulations, in particular that there is an adequate view to the rear of the caravan.
- (c) Where the caravan is a trailer towed by a vehicle, it is insured against third party risks. This must cover not only the caravan when attached to the towing vehicle, but also when detached.
- (d) Particular attention is paid to those sections of the Highway Code relevant to trailer caravans.
  - i) To cause the minimum inconvenience to other traffic to the rear and to ensure that every opportunity is offered for other vehicles to overtake. This includes the need to always allow space in front of the outfit for faster traffic to pull in with safety (never have two or more outfits bunched together) and on narrow roads to pull in and halt at a safe place to allow following traffic to overtake.
  - ii) To carry out normal road manoeuvres with increased care to take account of the length of the outfit, the vehicles reduced acceleration and its greater stopping distances when braking. This requires greater anticipation, early signalling of intentions, and a very careful watch of overtaken traffic, particularly cyclists, before pulling in.

#### **On Any Site**

The Member;

- (a) Pitches on private land only with the express permission of the land-owner;
  - (b) Places the caravan where it will not interfere with the convenience or enjoyment of others;
  - (c) Avoids damage to turf by digging holes only when absolutely necessary, replacing turf where possible and by considerate use of the vehicle;
  - (d) Disposes of any rubbish only by the means provided on site. If no receptacles are provided, as on some small farm sites, rubbish is taken home for disposal or to any other recognised disposal point that has space;
  - (e) For touring other than on sites equipped with toilets will carry his/her own sanitary equipment (usually chemical closet and approved related fluid) and dispose of the contents only at the point



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provided for that purpose. If burial is necessary, as perhaps on private property, this will not be done in the vicinity of any water course, (See **18.6**)

- (f) Allows no waste water from the caravan to foul the ground, ensures that suitable receptacles are connected to the waste pipes to collect the waste, and the receptacles emptied as necessary. In the few instances where no disposal point is provided, a minimum fouling is achieved by distributing the water over a considerable area, as along a hedge;
- (g) Allows neither children nor animals to spoil the enjoyment of others, by keeping them under control;
- (h) Drives slowly and quietly when on site;
- (i) Respects the privacy and peace of others at all times by keeping to a minimum mechanical, instrumental or vocal noise

### **18.6 DISPOSAL OF ELSAN, THETFORD OR OTHER PROPRIETARY BRAND TOILET WASTE.**

Guidelines regarding disposal are contained within The Water Authority Resources Act 1963 (Now administered by The National Rivers Authority):

Where "Soak away" pits are concerned (The fairly common method used when direct access to sewers is unavailable) there are no universally published guidelines available, but ACCEO believes this is an important health issue and therefore publish some guidelines, produced by Severn Trent Water, which ACCEO recommends are used until such time as formal legislation is produced.

"Soak away" Disposal Pits Should Be Sited: -

- At least 30 metres away from the nearest River, Stream, Brook or other watercourse.
- At least 250 metres away from any well, borehole or spring.
- Away from any area used to gather water for supply purposes.

Additionally: -

- No refuse or dry waste to be emptied into the pit.
- The pit should be backfilled and have at least 1 metre of earth as cover.

**If in any doubt, consult the appropriate River Authority.**

### **18.7 RALLIES ON OR ADJACENT TO CERTIFIED SITES OR LOCATIONS OPERATED BY THE CARAVAN CLUB AND THE CAMPING & CARAVAN CLUB.**

Rallies on these sites are to be avoided, as are rallies in fields adjacent to these sites where any possibility of any nuisance to the occupants of the sites or neighbouring accommodations may occur.

Nuisance may include excessive noise at any time, unusually high traffic movements, high usage of water points interfering with occupants requirements, and so on.

One must be mindful that people use these unsophisticated sites particularly at weekends to "get away from it all". They do not expect a caravan rally to appear on Friday afternoon, no matter how good natured and friendly the rally goes may be. It is difficult to state that under no circumstances should rallies take place on such sites, as the field may be enormous with no contact between occupants and ralliers. Also the landowner may be very keen for the business and extra income.

THE BASIC INSTRUCTION HOWEVER, IS, NO RALLIES ON OR ADJACENT TO CERTIFIED SITES OR LOCATIONS.

### **18.8 ORDERLY APPEARANCE OF THE SITE**

An increasing number of Member Clubs are becoming Caravan & Camping Clubs and indeed the very name of the Association includes camping. However, we must be mindful of the often-negative perception the general public has of caravanning. Whilst no one would wish to segregate caravanners & campers on rallies in any way, Rally Stewards should make every effort to site all units in an orderly and not unsightly fashion, preferably, in straight rows.

There should be a minimum of 6 metres (app' 20ft) of clear space between each complete unit in any direction (**For further guidance on unit spacing, please see ACCEO information Sheet N<sup>o</sup> 11**)