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Motorcycling Guides

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UPDATED

**CRIT'AIR -  
RIDING IN FRANCE  
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

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## Introduction

Several cities (and now areas) in France have introduced a scheme for controlling environmental pollution from vehicles.

This scheme is called Crit'Air and it applies to all vehicles (including British cars and motorcycles) wishing to use those areas

The purpose of the Crit'Air scheme is two-fold. First to stop people from using the most severely polluting vehicles and second to raise money to help pay for anti-pollution measures.

While some may see this as yet more French driving laws designed to frustrate the motorist, it is important that you understand what the new laws are, so you do not fall foul of them.

This document sets out what you need to know and do if you are going to be riding (or driving) in France.

It is very cheap and easy to do. We recommend that if you intend riding in France, you should get one of the Cri't Air stickers.

You could of course take the risk of not getting caught, but at the time of writing this guide (April 2018) to purchase a sticker costs just €4.21 so its probably not worth the risk.

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Driving laws in France can appear very confusing and a relatively new scheme to help reduce vehicle pollution is especially so. There are now an ever-growing number of cities and areas in France where you cannot drive a car or ride a motorcycle without risking a fine for not taking part in an environmental scheme called Crit'Air.

Under the 'Law on Energy Transition for Green Growth', local councils are allowed to provide benefits to less polluting vehicles, and Cri't Air stickers enable such vehicles to be identified. The system also allows urban areas to restrict the use of the more polluting vehicles, either at all times, or when pollution levels are high.

The Cri't Air scheme means you need to buy a sticker for your vehicle in advance if you intend to drive / ride in any of the places covered by the scheme. The number of areas covered are growing so quickly, it is almost impossible to keep checking to see what new areas have been added.

This map shows the current controlled zones as at April 2018....



## CONSEQUENCES / FINES

If you drive a car or ride a motorcycle in a restricted area when you should have a sticker to do so, the fine will be between €68-135. You will also need to leave the restricted area and not return.

These fines are not especially high, but you could be delayed while your details are taken and the fine is imposed, plus your holiday plans could need to significantly change as you will not want to return to the restricted area without a sticker.

## THIS IS WHAT I RECOMMEND YOU DO

No matter where you go in France, get yourself a sticker. They are so cheap, it really isn't worth the potential hassle of not having one.

This is not an annual sticker, you only need buy it once for your vehicle.

Purchasing the sticker does not necessarily allow you to enter a controlled zone during periods of high pollution (that depends on your vehicle type), but without it you could receive a fine for not having a sticker if you ride into one of the controlled zones.

Yes, I know having a sticker on your bike doesn't look good, so I have a solution for that too.

## HOW MUCH DOES A STICKER COST?

They are very cheap - at the time of writing this guide, they cost just around €4.21 (less than £4) each. Remember, this is a one-off purchase for the life of the vehicle.

## HOW DO I GET A STICKER?

Go to this website....  
[www.certificat-air.gouv.fr/en/](http://www.certificat-air.gouv.fr/en/)

Click on the menu item called "Applying for your certificate".

Click on the picture that says "Vehicles Registered Abroad", then follow the on screen instructions. To apply, you will need a scan or good quality photo of your vehicles Registration Document (called a V5 in the UK). The scan or photo must be in .pdf, .png or .jpeg format and must not exceed 400kB.

You will need a bank or credit card. The process to apply online is very easy. Everything is in English.

If you are going to be renting a motorcycle, contact who you are renting it from to ask them to provide the sticker on the bike.

## WHERE DO I PUT THE STICKER?

Ideally, they should be placed on the front of the bike, on the right side. They could go on the forks, or on the screen if you have one, but as a Brit, I really don't want mine stuck onto my bike all year round, so I use one of the old tax disc holders and bolt this other right side of my bike. Doing this means I can take the holder off when I am not in France.

