

Speeding

Speed in excess of limits or the prevailing conditions is a major factor in road crashes, contributing to around one third of all fatal crashes in Western Australia .

Penalties for speeding have increased in line with the known risk of crashing from this type of behaviour. The biggest increase in penalty is for speeding by 40 km/h or more. The monetary fine for speeding at the lowest range (less than 10 km/h) has increased marginally, with no change in the number of demerit points incurred.

From 1 January 2007, there will be a differentiation between speeding penalties for heavy and light vehicles. A heavy vehicle is a vehicle (together with any trailer attached), other than a bus, that has a Gross Combination Mass of 22.5 tonnes or more. Under the new regime, heavy vehicles will incur a higher monetary fine than light vehicles. This change reflects the potential for greater harm in crashes involving vehicles of this size.

New penalties for speeding by light vehicles (cars, motorcycles and other vehicles less than 22.5 tonnes Gross Combination Mass):

Km/h over the speed limit	Fine	Demerit Points*	Previous Fine	Previous Demerits*
Less than 9 km/h	\$75	0	\$50	0
More than 9 but less than 19 km/h	\$150	2	\$100	1
More than 19 but less than 29 km/h	\$250	3	\$150	3
More than 29 km/h but less than 40 m/h	\$350	5	\$250	4
More than 40 km/h	\$1000	7	\$350	6

* Demerit points are doubled on long weekends and other prescribed holiday periods.

New penalties for speeding by heavy vehicles (vehicles with a Gross Combination Mass of 22.5 tonnes or more):

Km/h over the speed limit	Fine	Demerit Points*	Previous Fine	Previous Demerits*
Less than 9 km/h	\$150	0	\$50	0
More than 9 but less than 19 km/h	\$250	2	\$100	1
More than 19 but less than 29 km/h	\$350	3	\$150	3
More than 29 km/h but less than 40 m/h	\$500	5	\$250	4
More than 40 km/h	\$1000	7	\$350	6

* Demerit points are doubled on long weekends and other prescribed holiday periods.

Speeding by 45 km/h or more constitutes reckless driving and is subject to a Court imposed penalty of at least \$1000 and licence suspension of at least 6 months. Imprisonment for 9 months is also possible. Legislation is currently before Parliament which proposes the impoundment of vehicles of drivers caught exceeding the speed limit by 45 km/h or more.

Remember, this is a guide only and should not be relied on for legal purposes.

Full details of all traffic offences and penalties are contained in the Road Traffic Code 2000. Copies can be viewed at the Library and Information Service of Western Australia and are available for purchase from the State Law Publisher, 10 William Street, Perth WA 6000 or online at www.slp.wa.gov.au