

Where the hatched area has a solid white edge line on your side of the road you MUST NOT enter the area except in an emergency.



On single carriageway sections of the A9 arrows and signs indicating two-way traffic will be seen at frequent intervals.

#### **A9 The Weather Problem**

During the winter months the weather may sometimes deteriorate very quickly and particularly along the more remote sections of this route. Many drivers do not adjust their driving behaviour to suit the adverse weather conditions (ie heavy rain, fog, snow, ice) and as a result are liable to cause accidents.

Some drivers and their vehicles are not prepared for long journeys or for conditions that can occur.

#### **The Solution**

Check the weather forecast before setting out. If it's bad, ask yourself "is there an alternative route? Is your journey really necessary?" If it is necessary, allow more time for the journey – be patient.



#### **A9**



- Reduce your speed
- Always leave enough space between you and the vehicle in front to stop safely if required
- Brake gently in poor weather conditions
- Use DIPPED headlights in poor light or bad weather conditions
- Ensure your vehicle is properly serviced

At a number of locations along this route you will find "Snow Gates" – it is unsafe to proceed past closed gates.

Carry equipment that you could find useful in the event of an emergency:

- Protective warm clothing in bright colours
- Rug or blanket
- Ample supply of hot drinks and food (avoid alcohol)
- Pole with brightly coloured flag/handkerchief
- Torch, shovel and radio (if no radio in vehicle)

If stranded in winter conditions the following suggestions can be vital for survival:

- Remain in vehicle unless shelter is nearby
- Circulation can be maintained by movement
- Use pole to indicate location
- Switch off engine if exhaust cannot vent
- Ensure airway is maintained if snowed over

**Do not travel in severe winter conditions!**

#### **A9 The Driver Fatigue Problem**

Driving is a skill that demands a high degree of concentration. When driver fatigue sets in concentration and performance decline. Driving for longer than 2-3 hours can seriously impair judgement.

#### **The Solution**

**Take a break – get out and walk about!**

A number of new signs have been erected at various locations along the route to reinforce this message to drivers.



#### **A9 Services**

There are no roadside petrol stations along the A9. The availability of services is highlighted along the route by the bypassed community signs. The only 24 hour petrol station is at Aviemore.

#### **Useful telephone numbers:**

|                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Highland Roadline     | 0836 401363                   |
| AA Weather Watch      | 0345 500600<br>or 0336 401138 |
| RAC                   | 0345 333222                   |
| Northern Constabulary | 0463 239191                   |
| Tayside Police        | 0738 21141                    |



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE



**A9 The Problems**

The numbers of fatal and serious accidents on the A9 between Perth and Inverness give cause for great concern. Between June 1989 and May 1992 57 people were killed and 427 injured. Many of the injuries were of a serious nature.

Lapses of concentration, loss of control and inconsiderate and dangerous overtaking are just some of the major causes of accidents.

In the winter months the weather, light and road conditions may deteriorate very quickly. These conditions may well make driving difficult and even hazardous at times.



**A9 The Objective**

The objective of this leaflet is to reinforce the good driving practices that are detailed in the Highway Code and to advise drivers who use the A9 of the various features and/or conditions that may be expected along its length. The Scottish Office, Northern Constabulary and Tayside Police, in conjunction with Highland and Tayside Regional Councils, are all working together to improve road safety on this route.

**YOU CAN PLAY YOUR PART!**

**The Solution**

By taking the advice in the leaflet it is hoped that you as a driver will be more aware of the problems that can contribute towards accidents and adjust your driving behaviour accordingly.

**A9 The Speed Problem**

Excessive speed increases the severity of road accidents.

No matter how careful a driver you are, potentially hazardous situations can only be avoided by controlling your speed. This factor alone can reduce the possibility of an accident happening and the severity of any injury.

**The Solution**

**Reduce your speed!**

Remember the national speed limits apply on the A9:

- 60 mph (96kph) on single carriageways.
- 70 mph (116 kph) on dual carriageways.

These limits are the maximum permitted speeds for motor cars.

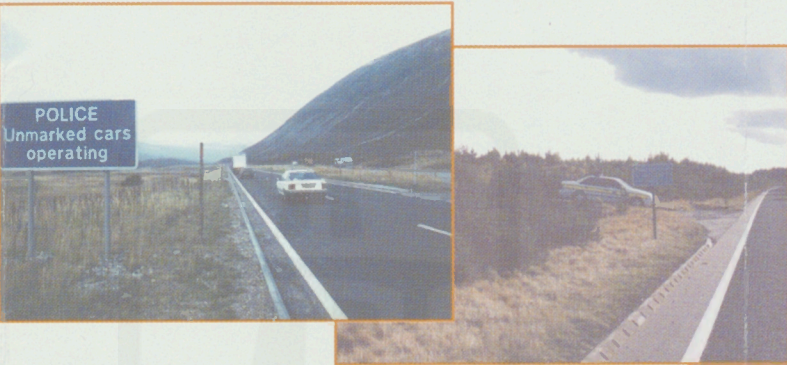
Different limits apply to other types of vehicles:

| Maximum Vehicle Speeds (mph)                                      |  | Single | Dual |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------|------|
| CARS<br>(including car derived vans and motorcycles)              |  |        |      |
| VEHICLES TOWING<br>CARAVANS OR TRAILERS                           |  |        |      |
| BUSES & COACHES                                                   |  |        |      |
| GOODS VEHICLES<br>(not exceeding 7.5 tons when laden)             |  |        |      |
| ARTICULATED GOODS VEHICLES<br>(not exceeding 7.5 tons when laden) |  |        |      |
| HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES<br>(exceeding 7.5 tons when laden)           |  |        |      |
| ARTICULATED GOODS VEHICLES<br>(exceeding 7.5 tons laden)          |  |        |      |

Drive at the appropriate speed pertaining to the weather and road conditions.

**Watch your speed!**

The police patrol the A9 on a regular basis using both marked and unmarked cars which are equipped with video and speed detection equipment.



The police will stop and charge motorists who exceed the speed limit or are guilty of other driving offences, such as dangerous overtaking.

As part of the Speedwatch Scotland Campaign the enforcement level has been increased.

The undernoted penalties are now applicable:

**Exceeding the speed limit:**

A fine of up to £1,000, obligatory endorsement, discretionary disqualification and 3 to 6 penalty points.

**Careless and inconsiderate driving:**

A fine of up to £2,500, obligatory endorsement, discretionary disqualification and 3 to 9 penalty points.

**Causing death by dangerous driving:**

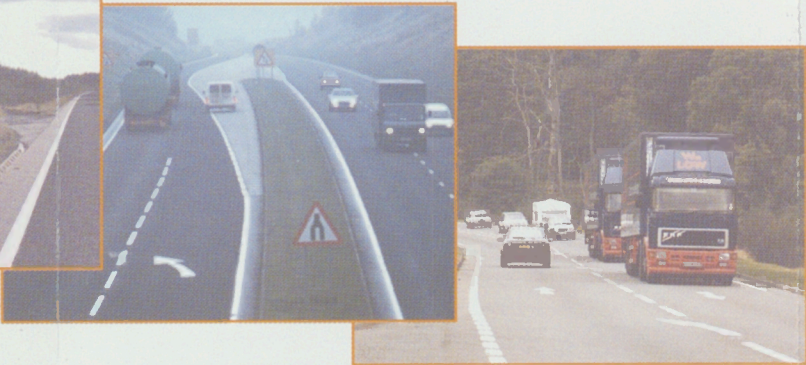
An unlimited fine, imprisonment of up to 5 years, obligatory disqualification, obligatory endorsement and 3 to 11 penalty points.

**Don't speed!**

**A9 The Overtaking Problem**

Inconsiderate and dangerous overtaking on this route is one of the causes of accidents.

Drivers often start an overtaking manoeuvre, especially in a convoy, without ensuring that there is a gap available in front of the vehicle that they are overtaking.



**The Solution**

Observe and act on the warning signs and road markings that are present. They have been installed for a reason.

There are three basic rules for overtaking on single carriageways:

- Never cause the overtaken vehicle or approaching vehicle to alter speed or course.
- Avoid making a third line of vehicles abreast, either travelling in the same or opposite direction.
- Always ensure that there is a space available in front of the vehicle you are overtaking to ensure that you are able to move back into the nearside lane in plenty of time.

Your judgement of speed and distance is crucial to overtake safely, especially if you are in a convoy of traffic. Only overtake when you are sure you can do so without endangering others or yourself.

Do not hold up a long queue of traffic unnecessarily. You should pull into the next convenient lay-by to allow the following traffic to pass. This advice applies not only to heavy goods vehicles and car and caravan combinations but also to cars.

If you are travelling in a convoy of traffic leave enough space between yourself and the vehicle in front to allow an overtaking vehicle to pull in safely.

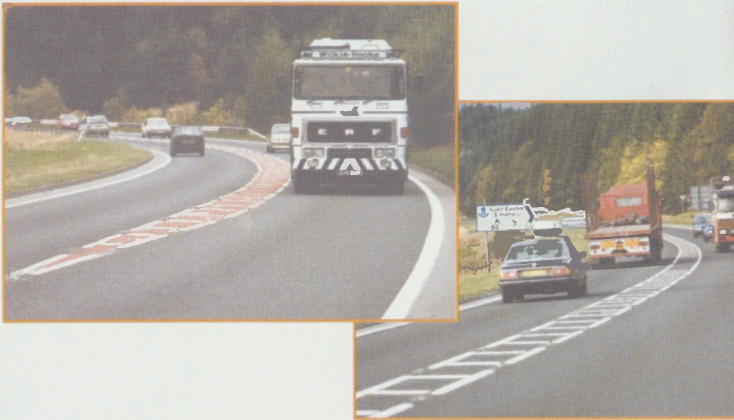
**If in doubt do not overtake!**

**A9 The Signs and Markings Problem**

Understanding the meaning and obeying road markings and signs is an important element in road safety. Most drivers are aware of their purpose. They are explained in the Highway Code. In some cases extra emphasis is required to warn of overtaking dangers.

**The Solution**

The use of hatched markings in the middle of the carriageway will be seen at different locations along the route. These markings are to separate traffic streams liable to be a danger to each other or to protect traffic turning right. Some of these areas have been highlighted with a red surface treatment.



Do not drive over hatched areas if you can avoid doing so!