

REVIEW OF THE FUEL COUPON RATION

Following a review of the Fuel Coupon System and discussions with the garrisons, the fuel ration is to be given a 21st century makeover.

On the 1st November 2011, a new fuel allowance is being introduced which will affect all entitled drivers of BFG vehicles. In order to reduce the administration costs of the coupon and to simplify the system, the allowances will change from 12 different types of ration to just 3. For most people this will see the ration more than double, with this increase being balanced by ***no longer being able draw fuel up to 3 months in arrears.*** Combined with these measures, a ***minimum purchase of 4 coupons, (40 litres)*** will also be introduced.

The Fuel Coupon Account is a self-funding system and has to repay the cost of its administration to the tax-payer. With reducing troop numbers in Germany, there is a risk that fewer coupons will be sold. This could lead to coupons becoming too expensive and uncompetitive compared to the German pump price. The new measures being introduced will have the benefit of cutting back on some of these costs. More measures will have to follow in the future, but these ones being taken now are an excellent start to ensuring the BFG motorist gets the best deal.

Almost everyone will enjoy a larger ration under these changes, which have been guided by provisions within German law. Regretably, one exception will be owners of larger motorbikes who will experience a reduction in their ration.

How these changes finally took shape was guided by the Truppenzollgesetz (Forces Customs Law) which came into force in 2009, and was supplemented by the Truppenzollverordnung (Forces Customs Ordinance) the same year. Taken together, these two pieces of German legislation implement into German law the special customs privileges enjoyed by foreign NATO forces under the NATO SOFA and the Supplementary Agreement.

Previously, people have been able to apply for additional rations should they be participating in a BFG motor sport, for compassionate use or for commuting purposes, however, the new rations are in all cases now at the maximum the German law allows. There is no scope to be able to draw any additional allowances in the future.

The Fuel Coupon System is a privilege that is enjoyed by the BFG community and it is one that must be vigorously protected against fraud and abuse. Extensive audits are conducted by the British and German authorities every month and people who are identified as having broken the rules are dealt with. Whilst the increase in the ration is to a large extent balanced by the ending of the ability to draw previous months allowances, additional scrutiny is being put in place to prevent fraud and to preserve our reputation with the German authorities.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT ME

Cars and Vans	Old Allowance (Litres)	New Allowance (Litres)
Up to 1000 cc	110	200
1001 – 1300 cc	140	
1301 – 1600 cc	160	400
1601 – 1900 cc	170	
1901 – 2200 cc	180	
2201 – 3000 cc	210	
3001 – 4000 cc	230	
4001 cc and over	300	
Rotary Engines		
Up to 43kw	Based on insurance cc rating	200
44 kw and over	Based on insurance cc rating	400
Motorcycles and Mopeds		
Up to 125 cc	40	80
126 - 450 cc	70	
451 - 850 cc	90	
851 cc and above	110	

WHEN DO THE CHANGES COME INTO EFFECT

From 1st November 2011, all personnel will be able to draw the new ration and will be limited to drawing a minimum of 4 coupons. This date will also mark the end of the ability to draw a back-dated ration. BFG Registration Cards (BFG Form 73) will eventually carry the new ration, but no action is required by people as Coupon Selling Point staff will automatically switch to the new quantities.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION

Base Administration Offices and Fuel Coupon selling points have more details of the changes, and were involved in the drawing up of the new rules. British Forces (Germany) Standing Order 3213 will be updated to reflect the changes in the near future.