

The “tacho”, the chronotachograph is an electronic device that records speed, driving time and activities (work, waiting time, etc.).



The system is based on a sealed recording device installed by sworn, approved staff. It should include a permanent, tamper-proof storage system and a printer. Data transfer is effected by smart cards, inter-operable amongst systems manufacturers and countries.

There are four types of card:

- **the driver's card, white**, it is strictly personal and records and memorises data concerning 28 days of activity, whatever the vehicle driven. The data stored on the card concern the driver's identity, the vehicles driven, driving times, work times and waiting times, driving status, distance covered, operating anomalies and breakdowns. This card has a maximum administrative validity of 5 years.
- **the company card, yellow**, it is used by the operator to download data contained in the Vehicle On-board Unit.
- **the control card, blue**, it fulfils the same function for the control authorities, as they also have specific IT equipment to recover all the data.
- **the workshop card, red**, it is used to calibrate and repair the chronotachograph in approved centres with appropriate equipment to calibrate the device.

Since May 1st 2006, it has been obligatory to install a digital chronotachograph in new, goods transporting vehicles of over 3.5 tonnes registered for road use after August 5th, 2005.

Regulations require the device to be verified every two years by a DRIRE (regional industry, research and environment executive) approved company.