

Car trade-in grant and bonus for green cars until end of the year

The *prime à la casse*, the government measure to encourage motorists to drive green and scrap their polluting cars, will be gradually phased out over the coming years. Already the second half of this year sees different conditions of entitlement to the grant.

If you ordered a new car between July 1 and December 31, 2010, with CO₂ emissions not exceeding 155g/km you can still benefit from a €500 grant for sending your old car to the breakers.

To be entitled to the *prime à la casse* you must:

- be resident in France;
- apply for the grant before March 31, 2011.

The car must be:

- destroyed by a breaker approved by the *préfecture*
- at least 10 years old, counting from its first registration (the *date d'immatriculation* on the *carte grise*)
- insured on the day it is sent for destruction and with a *carte grise* for at least the past six months.

The car dealer will usually apply for the grant on your behalf or you can apply yourself, to the CNASEA.

Documents to submit with the application:

- a receipt from the breaker (*récépissé de prise en charge*);
- a copy of the order form and invoice for the new car;
- a copy of the registration card (*certificat d'immatriculation* or *carte grise*);
- valid insurance certificate for the old car valid at the date of handing to the breaker or of the invoice date of the new car;
- proof from the *préfecture* that the old car is not tied into a loan contract: *certificat de non gage*, dated within the month before the old car is handed to the breakers;
- proof of residence in France dating back no more than three months (utility bill, for example);
- bank or post details (RIB).



Bonus écologique

You can also apply for the extra 'ecological bonus' of up to €2,000 if you buy a new car running on natural gas, GPL or a combination of electricity and petrol or diesel, provided its CO₂ emission does not exceed 125g/km.

Find out the CO₂ emission and amount of bonus applying to each make of new car on <http://www2.ademe.fr/servlet/KBaseShow?sort=-1&cid=13712&m=3&catid=16173> or <http://tinyurl.com/5v6ndz>

You must apply for the bonus within the six months following the date of invoice for the car.

The car dealer will often apply for the bonus on your behalf at the time of the sale. The bonus and grant can be applied for together as many of the same documents are required.

If not, fill in the application form, Formulaire Cerfa n°13621*03, available from your *préfecture* or downloadable at

https://www.formulaires.modernisation.gouv.fr/gf/cerfa_13621.do or <http://tinyurl.com/2wxmd35>

Send it to:

Fonds d'aide à l'acquisition de véhicules propres,
Agence de services et de paiement,
2, rue du Maupas
87040 Limoges Cedex 1,
Tel: 05 55 12 00 00, Fax: 05 55 12 05 24
Email: info@asp-public.fr

Documents to enclose:

- a copy of the invoice, which should mention the name and address of the buyer, the exact specifications of the car, the type of energy used, date of purchase and date of order
- a copy of the *certificat d'immatriculation*
- proof of residence in France dating back no more than three months (utility bill, for example)
- bank or post details (RIB)

Conversion to GPL

You can also apply for the €2,000 bonus if you have your petrol car converted to GPL (LPG) by an approved professional. The car must be registered and insured and not more than three years old, emitting less CO₂ than 155g/km. You should apply within six months of the date of the professional's invoice.

The same documents are required as for the *bonus écologique*, except that the invoice will be from the professional who converted the car, and should mention the date of completion, description of the conversion, name and address of owner, with a copy of the *certificat d'immatriculation* with the code EG.

The application form is Formulaire Cerfa n°13635*03, from your *préfecture* or downloadable at: https://www.formulaires.modernisation.gouv.fr/gf/cerfa_13635.do or <http://tinyurl.com/3yac4t>

◆ Mediator finally banned

The French regulatory body for medicines (Afssaps) is finally removing from sale of the drug Mediator used to treat slimmers and diabetics. A study has shown that over 33 years 500 people may have died from using it. It is feared that a number of patients could still be at risk even after stopping using the drug. An immediate examination can reduce the risk of heart trouble.

As reported here in Issue 15 the drug was withdrawn from the market in 1997 in the United States and in 2005 in Spain and Italy. This is embarrassing for the French health authorities, alerted early in 2008 to the problem by a lone doctor Irène Frachon.

Socialist *député* and heart specialist Gérard Bapt raised the question: "Is someone trying to protect the interests of the French pharmaceutical company Servier that makes the drug?" He added, "I have the feeling that certain experts at Afssaps are too close to this laboratory. The medical authorities must call in everyone who has been taking it."

◆ Advice for flooded home-owners

On February 27 and 28 this year, the Xynthia flooding cost the lives of 65 people and did immense damage to part of the Atlantic coast. The Ministry of Ecology website has a downloadable guide for flooded homeowners, with advice on health hazards to those returning home, precautions and repairs. The guide is available at the *préfectures* of the Vendée, Loire-Atlantique and Charente-Maritime or you can go to <http://www.logement.gouv.fr/> and then click on the sixth item in the middle column and download it. The third item in the same column gives advice to victims of the more recent flooding in the Var. The site is in French only.

◆ Identity theft: a tip

Identity theft is a fast-growing crime. If you are a victim, you will have to prove that it was not you bouncing cheques or exceeding the speed limit 1,000km away. As well as filing bank and post office documents, pile all your bills and receipts in a box as you get them and leave them there. If you are falsely accused of some crime or financial misdemeanour you have an instantly available paper trail to prove where you were. A simple supermarket checkout slip, garage bill, restaurant bill or bank machine slip will show the date, time and place of the transaction undertaken, proving where you were on the day or days in question.

France has until recently lagged behind other countries in offering insurance for ID theft, because of the vagueness of the law as to what defines *usurpation d'identité*. FW

Technically speaking with Marcus Williamson

The basics of *bas débit* – dial-up

Q "Having signed up with France Telecom/Orange I am finding it very expensive. Broadband is not available in our village (La Chapelle-Gaudin) so dial-up networking is the only way to use email/internet. What options would be open to me? I need to use the internet on a regular basis."

For people concerned about cost and in an area not yet served by broadband, then using *bas débit* (dial-up) might be your best option. This type of connection offers a maximum speed of 56 kilobits per second (around 5,000 characters per second) and requires a conventional analogue modem (*modem bas débit*), instead of a broadband router. Although mainstream Internet providers now concentrate on broadband, a number of providers still offer dial-up access

by the minute. These are:

Aricia

€50 a year plus €0.021 per minute. Includes email.

<http://www.aricia.fr/aricianew/>

FreeSurf Accès Libre

€0.02 per minute, with no contract. Includes email and 100MB of web space. <http://www.freesurf.fr/>

Gamboo Accès Libre

€0.02 per minute, with no contract. Includes web-based email.

<http://www.gamboo.com/>

Micso Internet Libre

€0.02 per minute, with no contract. Includes email and 200MB of web space.

<http://www.micso.fr/>

No-log accès libre

€0.02 per minute, with no contract. Includes email.

<http://www.no-log.org/>

Orange accès libre

€0.10 per call plus €0.02 per minute, with no contract. Includes email and 100 MB of web space.

<http://abonnez-vous.orange.fr/residentiel/bd/bdaccesslibre.aspx>

Avoid traffic jams

If you're using dial-up, consider switching off 'update' traffic which slows down your access. This includes updates to Windows and any other programmes, apart from virus checkers which should be allowed to update as required.

Of course, if you can afford it, a satellite system offers higher speed but is much more expensive to set up and run.

Email your technical questions to: cointechno@french-week.com

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