

# ALKO ESC FAQs FOR EXISTING CARAVANS

## Key Considerations & FAQ for Existing Caravans

To make life easier for you, we have compiled responses to Frequently Asked Questions in this F.A.Q document.

### **Do you have a question not listed in this document?**

If you have a question about the AL-KO ESC that is not included in this F.A.Q document, please don't hesitate to contact us for a response.

**Note:** This document details responses specific to AL-KO ESC to Existing Caravans. A FAQ document with specific responses related to AL-KO ESC's fitment to New Caravans (AL-KO ESC installed during the manufacturing process) is also available.

## Price

### **Q. How much will AL-KO ESC cost for retrofit to my existing caravan?**

A. The average cost of fitting AL-KO ESC on to your existing caravan is approximately \$1,500 plus GST plus any costs associated with the wiring required for your tow vehicle.

Simply submit a free quote request to your local Certified AL-KO ESC Installer who will be able to confirm the actual cost to install AL-KO ESC to your van and tow vehicle configuration.

## Availability

### **Q. Can I have AL-KO ESC retrofitted to my existing caravan?**

A. Availability for retrofit to caravans with approved brake systems, axles and approved suspensions by specialist certified installers has commenced.

### **Q. Can I install AL-KO ESC myself DIY?**

A. No. AL-KO ESC must be installed by a certified AL-KO ESC installer.

### **Q. Can AL-KO ESC be fitted by my local mechanic?**

A. No. AL-KO ESC must be installed by a certified AL-KO ESC installer.

## AL-KO ESC Certified Installer Network

### **Q. Who are my local AL-KO ESC dealers/installers?**

A. Retrofit of AL-KO ESC is available only by certified AL-KO ESC installers. A list of the current members of the AL-KO ESC Certified Installer network is available on this website. To request an obligation free quote for the installation of ALKO ESC to your caravan, please submit a free quote request.

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**Q. What certification will my local ESC dealer/installer have?**

A. A certified dealer /installer has been trained by AL-KO. All certified installers/dealers have specific training on the installation of AL-KO ESC, brake and tow vehicle requirements.

**Q. How long does it take to install AL-KO ESC?**

A. Fitting of AL-KO ESC to an existing caravan should take between 1 and 2 hours. It is advised to allow a day for the installation however best discussed with your specific installer. AL-KO ESC must be fitted with approved brakes, axles and an approved suspension configuration.

## Tow Vehicle Requirements

**Q. What are the requirements for my tow vehicle wiring to allow installation of AL-KO ESC?**

A. The tow vehicle which will be used to tow your caravan or trailer fitted with the AL-KO ESC, must be fitted with an approved electric brake controller. A full list of approved controllers can be found below under “Electric Brake Controllers”. Additionally, a power supply for the ESC unit is required.

The power supply for the ESC must be wired directly to the tow vehicle’s battery and a 30 Amp fuse or circuit breaker fitted.

The AL-KO ESC should be connected to the tow vehicle using a standard 12 pin plug or 2 pin Anderson plug connector. For off road use it is recommended that the ESC is connected to the tow vehicle using a 2 pin plug such as a 50 AMP connector in order to allow the simple disconnection of the ESC unit for periods of extreme off road driving.

A 2 pin connector can be supplied by AL-KO if required (Part number: 350350).

The layout for a 12 pin plug varies between manufacturers so we suggest you contact the manufacturer of your caravan to confirm how your caravan is wired.

For more information regarding the wiring requirements for AL-KO ESC, please consult the AL-KO ESC user manual.

**Please Note:** Tow vehicle electrical work must be performed by an Auto Electrician.

## Electric Brake Controllers

**Q. Is my brake controller compatible with AL-KO ESC ?**

A. The tow vehicle should be fitted with an electric brake controller from the “Approved” list below.

The electric brake controllers listed in both the “Approved” and “Not Approved” lists below have been tested by AL-KO Engineers for their compatibility with AL-KO ESC. Brake controllers not featured on the list are deemed to be not compatible by default.

**Approved for use with AL-KO ESC:**

- I “Tekonsha” Prodigy P2
- I “Tekonsha” Primus IQ
- I “Hayes” Energiser III
- I “Tekonsha” P3

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- | “Tekonsha” Prodigy
- | “Tekonsha” Voyager
- | “Hayman Reese” 06000 Compact IQ
- | “Hayman Reese” Guardian IQ
- | “Hayman Reese” Vintour
- | “Red Arc” Tow Pro Classic EBRHV2
- | “Red Arc” Tow Pro Elite EBRH-ACCV2
- | “Red Arc” Tow Pro Elite EBRH-ACCV3
- | “Red Arc” Tow Pro EBRH-ACC - Approved with manufacture date after AUGUST 2014 - [More Information](#)
- | “Red Arc” EB
- | “Red Arc” EBTM
- | “Hayes” Lemmerz Synchroniser
- | “Predator” DX2
- | “GSL Electronics” RBC-12-NG
- | “GSL Electronics” RBC-12 Remote with sticker R12R1 or RBCR12R1 - [More Information](#)
- | “GSL Electronics” EBC-12
- | “GSL Electronics” XLE-12T
- | “GSL Electronics” RBC-12NG
- | “Baxters” BCR-1000
- | “Baxters” BRHBC3
- | “Powercon” LV1409
- | “Baintech” BTTOW
- | “AME Products” Part No 04-989031 - 12 Volt Trailer Mount Electronic Brake Control
- | “Baxters” BRHBC – 12V Remote Brake Controller - with sticker BRHBC12R1 - [More Information](#)
- | “Low Voltage” LV1400 – 12V Electronic Brake Controller
- | “Low Voltage” LV1403 - 12 Volt Trailer Mount Electronic Brake Controller
- | “Low Voltage” LV1405 - 12V Remote Brake Controller - with sticker RBCR12R1 or R12R1 - [More Information](#)
- | “IRONMAN 4x4” - 12V Electric Brake Controller - RBCR121
- | “Elecbrakes” - ELB2000 Wireless Electric Trailer Brake Controller
- | “WiTi” - 326 Wireless Electric Brake Controller
- | “Bendix” - Bendix Part Number: ULTTOW12V
- | “Bendix” - Bendix Part Number: ULTTOW12-24V
- | “ROADPOWER”

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**Not approved for use with AL-KO ESC:**

- I “CM Trailer Equipment” – Mag Brake II - Not Approved
- I “CM Trailer Equipment” – Mag Brake 3 - Not Approved
- I “Compact” remote mount brake control - Not Approved
- I Hayman Reese “Sentinel” electric trailer brake control - Not Approved
- I “GSL Electronics” RBC-12 Remote without sticker R12R1 or RBCR12R1 - Not Approved - [More Information](#)
- I “Baxters” BRHBC – 12V Remote Brake Controller - without sticker BRHBC12R1 - [More Information](#)
- I “Low Voltage” LV1405 - 12V Remote Brake Controller - without sticker RBCR12R1 or R12R1 - [More Information](#)
- I “Red Arc” Tow Pro EBRH-ACC – Not Approved with manufacture date prior to AUGUST 2014 - [More Information](#)

**Q. How will AL-KO ESC work in conjunction with the manual override on my existing electric brake controller?**

A. The function of the brake controller will be unaffected by the ESC. In most critical situations the sway will be detected by the ESC before the driver has the opportunity to manually apply the caravan’s electric brakes.

## Tow Vehicle Sway Control Systems

**Q. How does AL-KO ESC interact with/ affect the tow vehicle’s existing trailer sway control/ stability control system?**

A. The AL-KO ESC operates independently of the tow vehicle’s stability and trailer sway control systems. AL-KO ESC will not have any detrimental effect on the operation of these systems.

## Caravan Configuration Requirements

**Q. Has AL-KO ESC been tested with independent suspension caravans**

A. Yes. AL-KO ESC has been tested and approved for use with independent suspension systems. However the caravan must be fitted with approved brakes.

**Q. My new caravan has Dexter 10” or 12” electric brakes. Is AL-KO ESC still compatible?**

A. To date AL-KO has tested and approved AL-KO ESC for use with 10” and 12” Dexter electric brakes.

**Q. My new caravan has AL-KO brakes fitted to a non- AL-KO axle and drum set. Is AL-KO ESC still compatible?**

A. Many alternative drums are compatible with AL-KO 10” and 12” brakes. To date AL-KO has tested and approved Vehicle Components, Melbourne Axle Sales and Simplicity Suspension brake drums when used with genuine AL-KO brakes as being compatible with the AL-KO ESC.

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**Q. Can AL-KO ESC be used with hydraulic brakes?**

A. Yes. 299mm disc and AL-KO hydraulic caliper when used with the AL-KO iQ7 or Dexter EH1600 actuator device.

## Approved Caravan Axle Configurations

**Q. Is AL-KO ESC suitable for single axle caravans?**

A. Yes, AL-KO ESC can be fitted to single axle caravans. It should be noted that different ESC models are required for each axle and weight configuration.

**Q. Is AL-KO ESC suitable for tandem axle caravans?**

A. Yes, AL-KO ESC can be fitted to tandem axle caravans. It should be noted that different ESC models are required for each axle and weight configuration.

**Q. Is AL-KO ESC suitable for 5th wheeler caravans?**

A. To date this has not been evaluated, so we must answer no.

## Weight Distribution Bars

**Q. Are weight distribution bars still required if I have AL-KO ESC installed?**

A. AL-KO ESC is an additional safety system and does not replace the need for the caravan to be setup correctly. The caravan must always be loaded correctly with the recommended ball weight and weight distribution bars fitted if required.

## AL-KO ESC For Off-Road Use On Corrugated Gravel Roads.

**Q. Is AL-KO ESC suitable for corrugated gravel and unpaved roads?**

A. AL-KO ESC is suitable for use and will operated as designed on corrugated gravel and unpaved roads. Unlike other systems on the market, AL-KO ESC doesn't deactivate in these conditions and will continue to operate effectively, keeping you safe.

## AL-KO ESC For Extreme 4x4 Towing Conditions

**Q. Is AL-KO ESC suitable for extreme 4WD conditions such as 'rock-hopping' or driving down river beds?**

A. Extreme 4WD off-road use (E.G. "rock hopping") may at times cause the ESC to inadvertently activate the brakes because of the severe tilting of the trailer and bumps experienced during severe off-road driving.

For vehicles intended on experiencing severe off road conditions, it is recommended that the ESC is connected to the tow vehicle using a separate 2 pin connector rather than the normal 12 pin connector. This enables the user to disconnect the ESC during periods of serious 4WD off road use.

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**Q. Has AL-KO ESC been tested on a large tandem axle All Terrain van on a wet dirt road?**

A. Many and various combinations of single and tandem axle caravans have been tested in wet and dry conditions on both sealed and un-sealed roads.

## AL-KO ESC Operation

**Q. Is AL-KO ESC designed to eliminate all minor caravan sway associated with side winds or buffeting from trucks?**

A. AL-KO ESC is designed as a safety technology for “critical incidents” and activates in a scenario where you could possibly lose control such as in an emergency avoidance manoeuvre. This is similar to ESC in a car - you would not expect it to activate unless you are in an emergency situation. In most cases the AL-KO ESC will not activate in situations where you experience smaller levels of general sway such as side winds or buffeting from trucks going past, however when combined with other factors such as wet roads these situations may result in the caravan reaching the critical point of lateral movement required to activate the ESC.

**Q. Does AL-KO ESC apply the brakes independently to each wheel?**

A. No. AL-KO ESC applies all the brakes on the caravan simultaneously.

**Q. Do the brake lights illuminate when AL-KO ESC is activated during a sway?**

A. No, the ESC applies the brakes on the caravan to correct alignment rather than to stop the combination, so stop light illumination is not appropriate.

**Q. Is AL-KO ESC the same on all caravans?**

A. No, AL-KO ESC is pre-set to suit each caravan. The ATM (Total maximum loaded free standing rated weight of the caravan), number of axles, brake size & wheel size all affect the ESC's factory settings.

## Additional Benefits of AL-KO ESC Installation

**Q. If AL-KO ESC is installed on my caravan, will my insurer offer me a reduction in my premium?**

A. Some insurers may offer price reductions for caravans fitted with the AL-KO ESC. Please contact your insurer for further details.

## General Questions

**Q. Could the AL-KO ESC unit be transferred from our caravan to another, if we choose to eventually upgrade?**

A. It depends on the details of the old and the new caravans. If both caravans have exactly the same ATM, number of axles, type of brakes and wheel size then it may be possible for you to transfer the AL-KO ESC from one van to another. As improvements and upgrades occur to most well engineered products over time it would be better to use the existing AL-KO ESC as a selling benefit and have a new/latest version of AL-KO ESC fitted to your new caravan.

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**Q. Is AL-KO ESC suitable for marine use?**

A. The ESC has successfully completed waterproof testing.

AL-KO ESC is approved for use with 299mm disc, AL-KO hydraulic Caliper when used with the AL-KO iQ7 or Dexter EH1600 actuation device.

If the marine trailer is fitted with electric drum brakes then this may be possible, but it would need to be clarified at the time of proposed installation