



Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

Light Goods Vehicle Trailer Weights

This memo is to clarify the requirements of weighing small vehicles and trailer combinations. Not to rely on the gross plated weights to ascertain the actual weight of the vehicle and vehicle combination.


It is perfectly acceptable for a goods vehicle to be used with a maximum plated train weight of less than the combined plated gross weights of the vehicle and trailer, as long as the trailer isn't actually loaded to the extent that its actual weight would exceed the maximum threshold of the towing vehicle's maximum plated train weight.

For example, a towing vehicle with a plated gross weight of 3000 Kgs and a plated train weight of 5000 Kgs, could feasibly tow a trailer with a maximum gross weight of 3500 Kgs. However, if both the vehicle and trailer in the combination were loaded to their respective maximum gross weights, then the combination's maximum train weight would be exceeded by 1500 Kgs.

It's the actual weight of the vehicle and load which is important in determining a vehicle's compliance with legal weight thresholds, not the potential carrying capacity. When such a vehicle combination is encountered then it is imperative that the vehicle combination is weighed.

Andrew Ball
Senior Traffic Examiner
18/03/2011

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