



# LEICESTER ROWING CLUB

## Trailer Towing



All drivers who passed a car test before 1 January 1997 retain their existing entitlement to tow trailers until their licence expires. This means they are generally entitled to drive a vehicle and trailer combination up to 8.25 tonnes MAM. They also have entitlement to drive a minibus with a trailer over 750kgs MAM.

Reference is made to the maximum authorised mass (MAM) of vehicles and trailers. This should be taken to mean the permissible maximum weight. The MAM of the lightweight trailer is 1200kg and the MAM of the heavy trailer is 2000kg

### **Drivers who passed their test after the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1997 who are entitled to drive a Category B vehicle can drive:**

Vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes MAM and with up to eight passenger seats with or without a trailer weighing no more than 750Kg

or

As above but with a trailer weighing more than 750 kg. The total weight of the vehicle and the trailer together can't weigh more than 3,500 kg. The weight of the trailer, when fully loaded, can't weigh more than the unladen weight of the vehicle.

Vehicle manufacturers normally recommend a maximum weight of trailer appropriate to their vehicle. Details can usually be found in the vehicle's handbook or obtained from car dealerships.

For example:

The lightweight trailer with a MAM of 1200kg could be driven by the holder of a category B entitlement provided that the unladen weight of the tow vehicle exceeds 1200kg and the total weight of the vehicle and trailer does not exceed 3500Kg. This is because the MAM of the combination does not exceed 3.5 tonnes and also the MAM of the trailer does not exceed the unladen weight of the drawing vehicle. If the tow vehicle is less than 1200kg unladen weight then the maximum load on the trailer will need to be reduced so that it does not exceed the unladen weight of the vehicle or the driver will need to pass the B+E test unless they originally passed their test before 1<sup>st</sup> January 1997.

The unladen weight of the heavy trailer is 1150kg so the maximum weight that can be carried on the trailer is  $2000 - 1150 = 850\text{kg}$

The unladen weight of the light trailer is 600kg so the maximum load that can be carried on the trailer is  $1200 - 600 = 600\text{kg}$



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Use the following to calculate the weight of the load:

8+ = 100kg

4+/-/x = 55kg

2-/x = 30kg

1x = 18kg

Allow 3.3kg for a sweep oar and 3.6kg for a pair of sculls. Don't forget to add for trestles, spare oars etc.

Load the trailer so that the nose weight is between 50 and 75kg. Use the scales to check the nose weight.

Check the tyre pressures (including the spare). Heavy trailer 39psi. Light trailer ????. Also check the tyre pressure of the tow vehicle. The pressure in the rear tyres will need to be higher than normal when towing a trailer. Check the vehicle handbook.

Check your vehicle insurance covers you for towing the trailer.

Obtain the Captain's permission to take the trailer.

You must take one passenger to assist with navigating and manoeuvring. Give them a high viz vest to wear when they are directing you. If you take more than one passenger you will need to reduce the maximum tow weight by the weight of your passengers.

The maximum overhang beyond the rear lights of the trailer is 3.05m. If the overhang exceeds 1.0m you need to fix a brightly coloured rag or similar to the end of the overhanging boat. If towing after dark you will need to use red lights instead of the rag. The lights need to be visible from the side as well as the rear.