

What are Vehicle Towing & Trailer Rules?

Worksheet

Towing regulations require trailers to meet technical standards (proper coupling, functional brakes, lights, mirrors) and limit towed weight based on the towing vehicle's engine power. Violations can result in fines, point deductions, and vehicle impoundment.

$$\text{Max Towed Weight} = \text{Towing Vehicle MTOW} - \text{Vehicle Kerb Weight}$$

MTOW = Maximum Towed Operating Weight (manufacturer spec) (kg)

Kerb Weight = Vehicle weight without load (kg)

Questions

1. A car with MTOW 2500 kg and kerb 1500 kg. Max drawbar weight?
A) 1000 kg
B) 1500 kg
C) 2500 kg
D) 4000 kg
2. A trailer brake light is not working. Can you tow?
A) yes, in daylight only
B) no, this is a safety violation
C) yes, if you drive slowly
D) yes, with hazard lights on
3. A trailer weighs 900 kg. Coupling fails mid-journey. What prevents disaster?
A) the safety chain
B) brake pedal pressure
C) speed limiting
D) side mirrors
4. You tow a trailer without adjusting side mirrors. Hazard?
A) low speed only
B) you cannot see trailer sides — blind spot risk
C) trailer is lightweight so ok
D) fuel consumption increases
5. A car has MTOW 3200 kg and kerb weight 1800 kg. What is the max drawbar weight?
6. A towing vehicle (MTOW 2800 kg, kerb 1600 kg) tows a 1500 kg trailer. Is this legal?
7. What must you check before towing?
8. Define: What is 'max drawbar weight'?
9. Define: What must trailer brake lights do?
10. Define: Is towing without functional trailer brakes allowed?

Answer Key

1. A) 1000 kg — $\text{Max drawbar} = 2500 - 1500 = 1000 \text{ kg}$.
2. B) no, this is a safety violation — All brake lights must work — trailers are towed with no independent visibility.
3. A) the safety chain — Safety chain is the backup — it keeps trailer attached if coupling fails.
4. B) you cannot see trailer sides — blind spot risk — Mirrors must show both flanks of the trailer — legal requirement for safety.
5. $\text{Max drawbar} = \text{MTOW} - \text{kerb weight}$ $\text{Max drawbar} = 3200 - 1800 = 1400 \text{ kg}$ The trailer can weigh up to 1400 kg.
6. $\text{Max drawbar} = 2800 - 1600 = 1200 \text{ kg}$ Trailer weighs 1500 kg, which exceeds 1200 kg max. This exceeds the limit — ILLEGAL.
7. 1. Coupling lock pin is secure. 2. Trailer brake lights work. 3. Mirrors adjusted to see trailer sides. 4. Trailer weight $\leq$ max drawbar. 5. Tire pressure on trailer correct.
8. The maximum weight a towing vehicle can legally pull; calculated as $\text{MTOW} - \text{kerb weight}$.
9. Activate when the towing vehicle brakes; must match brake light color (red/amber).
10. No — trailers above 750 kg must have functioning brakes. Below 750 kg, no brakes required but coupling must be secure.

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