

TOWING WEIGHT COMPATABILITY CHECK LIST

TOW VEHICLE

Max Towing Capacity See note 1.

_____ kg

Max Tow Ball Load See note 1.

_____ kg

TOWBAR

Max Towing Capacity See note 2.

_____ kg

Max Tow Ball Load See note 2.

_____ kg

Record the lowest figure from each line

A. _____ kg

B. _____ kg

1. This figure will be found in the tow vehicle owner's manual.

2. This figure will be found on the tow bar identification plate.

Trailer/Caravan

ATM See note 3.

C. _____ kg

3. This is the maximum weight of the fully loaded trailer/caravan. It will be found on the trailer/caravan Identification Plate

- The fully loaded trailer/caravan must always be weighed to confirm that it doesn't exceed its plated ATM.

Trailer/Caravan Ball Load See note 4.

D. _____ kg

4. Ball Load is the weight the fully loaded trailer/caravan applies vertically to the tow vehicle's tow bar.

- The Ball Load (figure D) will always need to be measured.
- Do not calculate Ball Load by subtracting GTM from ATM as this gives the theoretical Ball Load, not the actual Ball Load.
- If the trailer/caravan plate shows the "Maximum Ball Load", this figure must not be exceeded.
- If the plate shows "Ball Load at TARE", ignore the figure as this is the Ball Load when the trailer/caravan is empty.

Confirming suitability

Is "A" greater than or equal to "C"?

YES / NO

Is "B" greater than or equal to "D"?

YES / NO

If the answer to either question is NO, the combination is not acceptable

Determining if the combination is prudent

The above addresses the legalities of selecting tow vehicle / trailer combinations. However, the other aspect to consider is that the closer the ATM is to the vehicle's maximum towing capacity the harder it will be on the tow vehicle. It's generally undesirable to have the tow vehicle operating at or near its maximum towing capacity for extended periods. We generally recommend the ATM not exceed about 75% of the vehicle's maximum towing capacity.

Calculation

$$\% \text{ of Towing Capacity} = \frac{C \times 100}{A}$$

Example

Max towing capacity (figure A) = 2,500kg ATM (figure C) = 2,300kg $(2,300 \times 100) \div 2,500 = 92\%$

We would generally not recommend this for long term towing applications, however in some situations this may be unavoidable.