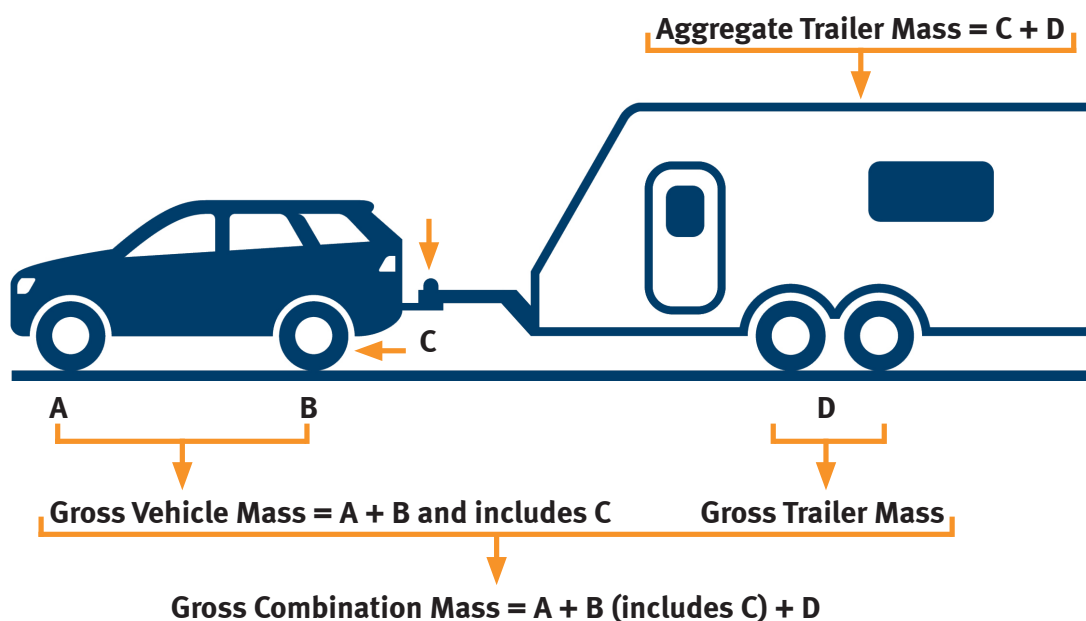


Safe caravan towing

Help with towing weights

To ensure you have a safe and enjoyable caravanning experience, you must load and tow your van appropriately. Having correct masses on the tow vehicle and van is an important part of any safe and legal tow set up.



Definitions

Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) is the maximum allowable total mass of a fully loaded motor vehicle, including vehicle mass plus the load (e.g. passengers).

Gross Combination Mass (GCM) is the maximum laden mass of a motor vehicle plus the maximum laden weight of an attached caravan or trailer. GCM is the rating provided in your tow vehicle's handbook and must not be exceeded.

Aggregate Trailer Mass (ATM) is the total mass of the laden trailer when carrying the maximum load recommended by the manufacturer. This includes any mass imposed onto the tow vehicle when the combination vehicle is resting on a horizontal supporting plane (e.g. gas bottles or water tanks).

Gross Trailer Mass (GTM) is the mass transmitted to the ground by the axle or axles of the trailer when coupled to a tow vehicle and carrying its maximum load uniformly distributed over the load bearing areas.

Maximum Tow Ball Weight is the maximum allowed weight of the coupling pressing down on the tow vehicle's towball. This rating is provided in your tow vehicle's handbook and must not be exceeded including when the vehicle is loaded.

More information about load and masses can be found on your caravan's vehicle plate and in your tow vehicle's handbook.



Weigh checks

If you are unsure about the mass of the trailer and its load, you can have it weighed at a public weighbridge (visit www.publicweighbridge.com.au) or caravan safety event near you.



Loading the caravan

It is unsafe and illegal to overload a caravan or trailer. Here are some ways to ensure your caravan is loaded safely and legally.

- Load heavy items over the axles.
- Place water tanks at the back of the caravan or over the axles.
- Avoid overloading the front of the caravan.
- Do not exceed the ATM specified by the caravan manufacturer.
- Do not exceed tyre, tow bar or tow coupling capacities.
- Make sure lights and number plates are visible and not obstructed by accessories like bike racks.



Heavy items Medium items Light items

Rear marker plates

If the combined length of your towing vehicle and caravan is 7.5 metres in length or longer, you may opt to fit a rear marker plate to the back of your caravan. It is only compulsory to display the “Do not overtake turning vehicle sign” if your vehicle and caravan is 7.5 metres or longer and needs to straddle lanes or turn from an adjacent lane in order to turn left or right at intersections. This can be either a separate sign located to the left hand side or incorporated in the left hand side marking plate.

Only vehicles 7.5 metres or longer are permitted to display a “Do not overtake turning vehicle” sign.



More information

For more information, visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au and search for ‘towing’.