



SAFE TOWING

Manager's Fact Sheet

Why is this important?

- It is illegal to tow a trailer without having the correct driving entitlement.
- Towing a trailer without the correct driving entitlement can invalidate motor insurance.
- Towing a trailer changes the way a vehicle handles.
- Speed limits change when towing a trailer. Generally, the speed limits reduce by 10 mph for road under the national speed limit.
- Trailers becoming detached from the towing vehicle, or loss of goods from a trailer can cause safety concerns and disruption to other road users.
- Issues, such as overloading or a road traffic incident with a 3,500 kgs vehicle and trailer, can impact on the companies Operators Licence if one is held.

What are the legal requirements?

- The correct driving licence entitlement must be held to tow a trailer.
- Once a vehicle exceeds 3,500 kgs Maximum authorised mass, the driver will be subject to EU Drivers Hours rules, and the vehicle must be fitted with a tachograph.
- The driver of a vehicle exceeding 3,500kg will need to use a digital tachograph card to record their duty and rest periods.
- Managers should ensure they understand the differences between GB Domestic and EU Drivers hours rules.
- Drivers should be given adequate training to ensure compliance with Drivers' Hours and tachograph use, is applicable.



SAFE TOWING

Manager's Fact Sheet

What are the legal requirements? *(continued)*

- Penalties for overloading and drivers' hours can be issued against both the driver and company, with maximum fines of £1,500.
- Graduated fixed penalties are upwards of £50 per offence and can also attract 3 penalty points for multiple offences.
- All trailers must display the number plate of the towing vehicle.

What is best practice?

- Additional training provided to those employees who tow trailers.
- Checks in place to ensure any towing vehicle is within its maximum permissible weight limits to tow the required trailer/plant.
- Trailers should be subject to first use checks and planned maintenance inspections.
- Signage in the vehicle reminding drivers of a change in speed limits when towing a trailer.
- All goods, tools and equipment in the trailer must be securely fastened down.
- Load securing equipment in use should be appropriate for the trailer and goods on the trailer.
- Checking the height and width of the trailer and to bear these in mind when planning routes, avoiding any restrictions.
- Checking that breakdown/rescue services used will include recovering a trailer.

Where can I find further information?

[DVSA Roadside penalties](#)

www.gov.uk/guidance/new-rules-for-towing-a-trailer-or-caravan-with-a-car-from-autumn-2021

www.gov.uk/tachographs/tachographs-in-light-vehicles

www.drivingforbetterbusiness.com/resources/search-results/?search=towing