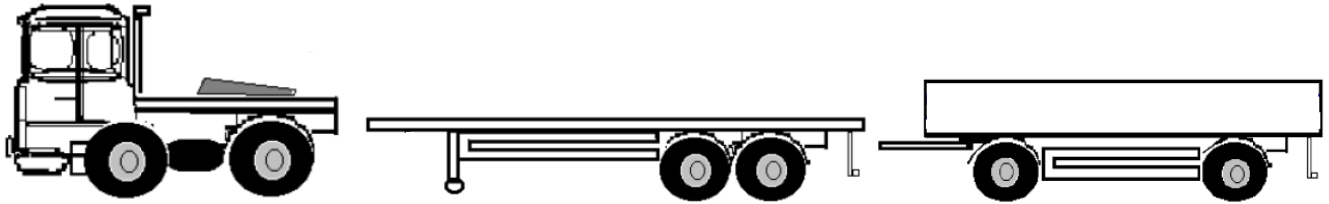


## FAQs on Heavy Trailers (03 and 04)

Heavy trailers can be classed into two types: trailers and semi-trailers (also known as articulated trailers). These are pulled by a road tractor or agricultural tractor.



Road Tractor unit

Semi-trailer

Trailer

### Which category is my heavy trailer?

**O3 Trailers:** DGVW = more than 3.5 but less than 10 tonnes.

**O4 Trailers:** DGVW = more than 10 tonnes.

*The Design Gross Vehicle Weight (DGVW) is the weight of the trailer, including the max load it can carry, as per the manufacturer's design specifications. It is also known as the Maximum Authorised Mass (MAM)*

**What are the maximum weight limits for my tractor and trailer?** Please refer to our [weights and dimensions leaflet](#) which outlines the maximum weights permitted under Irish Law for various tractor and trailer combinations. If your load exceeds this limit you may be able to get an [abnormal loads permit](#). For more information on this please view our FAQ on [Abnormal or Indivisible Loads](#).

**Where do I find information about my trailer's weight and what it can carry?** Please refer to the trailer's weights and dimensions plate (also called an authorisation plate). If your trailer doesn't have one, contact the original manufacturer (or their authorised distributor). If they are no longer in service, or the trailer brand is unknown, please contact the [NSAI](#) to enquire whether one of their authorised plating centres will plate it for you.

**Do heavy trailers need to be registered (licensed)?** If your heavy trailer is being used in a commercial capacity (i.e. for hire or reward) it needs to be licensed with the local motor tax office. Please contact your [local motor tax office](#) for more information on this or if you have any other queries in relation to registration / licensing.

**Do heavy trailers need to be roadworthiness tested?** This depends on what you use the trailer for. If your trailer is used purely for agricultural purposes then No, it does not need to be roadworthiness tested. However, if your trailer is used for hire or reward (e.g. agri-contractor) then you will need to contact our Commercial Vehicle Testing Section on (091) 872600 for clarification on whether it needs to be tested or not. It is important to note, regardless of whether your trailer needs to be tested or not, under road traffic law the owner/driver must ensure that the trailer is maintained in a roadworthy condition and is safe at all times when used in a public place. For more info on commercial testing please visit [www.CVRT.ie](http://www.CVRT.ie)

**Do all heavy trailers need to be fitted with a weights and dimensions plate?** Yes, even agricultural trailers. Please contact your trailer's original manufacturer (or authorised distributor) for more information. If they are no longer in service please contact the [NSAI](#) to enquire whether one of their authorised plating centres will plate it for you.

**I'm importing a heavy trailer. What documentation do I need?** Please contact your [local motor tax office](#) to enquire what documentation they require in order to register an imported trailer.

**I'm buying a heavy trailer, what do I need to know?** Since October 2012, all new trailers must be type approved and hold a certificate of conformity (CoC). This means that the trailer has met a European safety and quality standard.

**What driving licence do I need to tow a heavy trailer?** Please view our [licence categories](#) and if you are still unsure please contact our [Licensing Section](#) on 1890 41 61 41 or (096) 25000

**How do I know if my vehicle can tow a heavy trailer?** First find out your vehicle's towing capacity by either consulting your owner's manual or contacting the original manufacturer. Then find out the DGVW of the trailer (on the plate or contact original manufacturer) and ensure that this does not exceed the towing capacity of your vehicle.

**Should trailers with air operated brakes with a DGVW exceeding 3,500kg use safety chains?** No. In the case of air brakes, the emergency red line acts as a breakaway brake in the event of uncoupling of the trailer from the drawing vehicle.