

Frequently Asked Questions on Braking Laws for Light Trailers

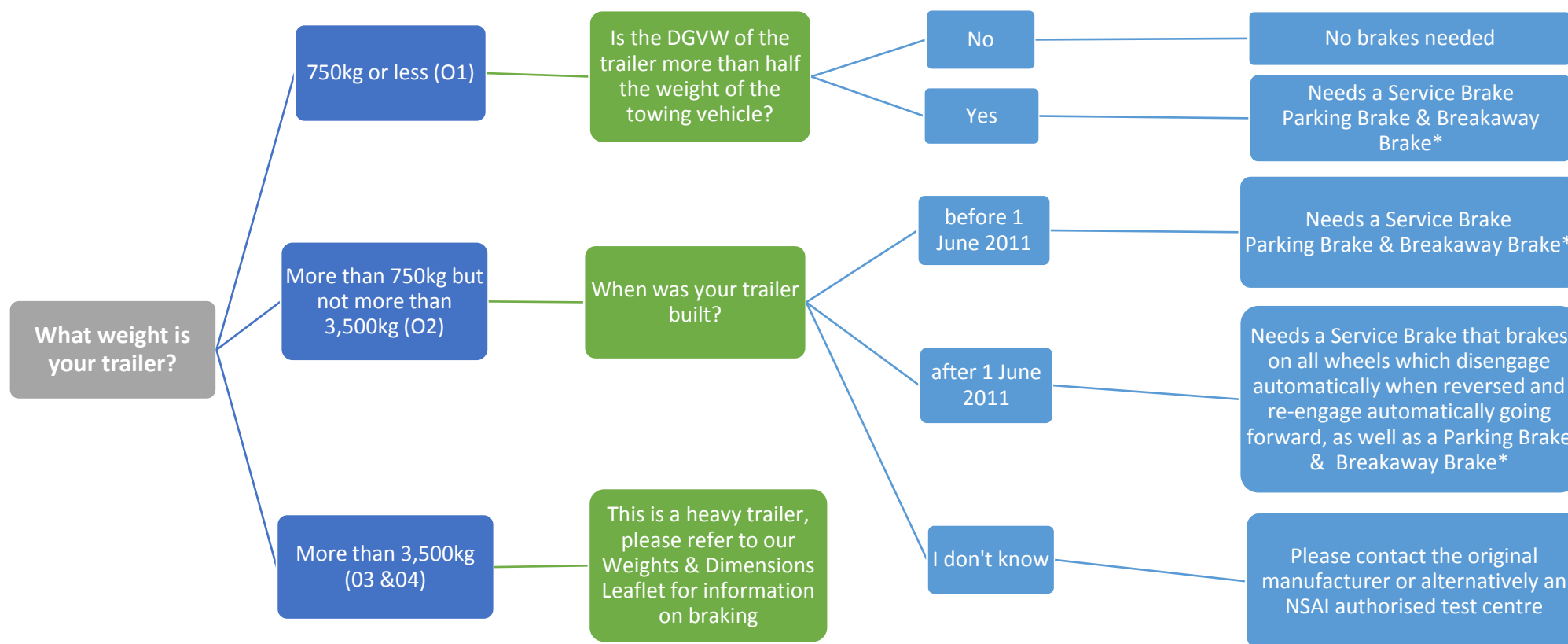
What is classed as a Light Trailer? A trailer with a Design Gross Vehicle Weight (DGWV) of no more than 3,500kg. The DGWV is the weight of a vehicle or trailer, including the max load it can carry, in accordance with the manufacturer's design specifications. To find your trailer's weight please refer to its plate or contact the manufacturer.

What is a Breakaway (runaway) Brake? This is a braking device that can automatically stop the trailer if it becomes detached from the towing vehicle while in motion.

What is a Service Brake? A service brake – or running brake – is a vehicle's main braking system which is used during normal driving.

What is a Parking Brake? A parking brake – or hand brake – is a mechanical braking system that is used to stop the vehicle from rolling when parked.

Does my trailer need brakes? This depends on the weight of your trailer. The type of brakes required depends on the age/speed. Please refer to the following diagram:



***Can a secondary coupling be fitted instead of a Breakaway Brake?** If your trailer's DGWV is 1,500kg or less, was manufactured before 1 January 2016 and cannot be drawn at speeds over 40km/hr (by design) then yes, a secondary coupling (e.g. a wire rope or chain) can be fitted instead of a Breakaway Brake. Otherwise, the trailer must be fitted with a Breakaway Brake which automatically stops the trailer if it becomes detached while in motion. For more info please refer to our [light trailer booklet](#).