

FAQs on Towing Light Trailers with/without Brakes

What does the term Braked Weight mean? What the vehicle can tow when the trailer has brakes and they functioning properly.

What does the term Unbraked Weight mean? What the vehicle can tow when the trailer has no brakes. This only applies to trailers up to 750kg as any trailer over that has to have brakes fitted.

Does my trailer require brakes? Please view our FAQ on [Braking Laws for Light Trailers](#).

How do I know if my trailer is braked or unbraked? Please contact your original manufacturer/authorised distributor.

Where do I find the braked/unbraked towing capacity of my vehicle? Please refer to our [FAQ](#) Note on Calculating the Towing Capacity of a Vehicle here.

Where do I find the weight of my trailer? You will find the Design Gross Vehicle Weight (DGVW), also referred to as MAM (Maximum Authorised Mass), on the trailer's plate or by contacting the original manufacturer/authorised distributor. The DGVW/MAM is the weight of the trailer, **including** the maximum load it can carry in accordance with the manufacturer's design specifications.

How do I calculate the maximum load my trailer can carry? You subtract the empty/unladen weight of the trailer from its DGVW/MAM. For example; if a trailers DGVW/MAM is 3,500Kg and its empty/unladen weight is 500Kg, your trailer can carry a load of 3,000Kg.

Where do I find the empty/unladen weight of my trailer? You can contact the original manufacturer or bring it to your local weigh bridge. Please contact your [local authority](#).

There is no plate on my trailer as it was a home-made (or the manufacturer is no longer in business) where can I get one fitted? You can contact an existing trailer manufacturer in your area and ask them to plate it for you. If this is not possible you can contact the [NSAI](#) who have approved test centres that may plate it for you.