

FAQs on Type Approval for Light Trailers

What does Type Approval mean? When a trailer is first manufactured it must pass all the necessary safety and quality standards before it can be sold or registered throughout European Member States – this is known as European Type Approval. Since 29 October 2012 all newly manufactured trailers must be type approved.

What is a light trailer?

A light trailer is a trailer which has EU category of O1 or O2;

- O1 – Trailer with a Gross Vehicle Design Weight (DGVW) of 750kg or less
- O2 – Trailer with a Gross Vehicle Design Weight (DGVW) over 750kg but not exceeding 3500kg

The DGVW is the weight of a vehicle or 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 is European Communities Whole Vehicle Type Approval (ECWVTA)? ECWVTA is certification that's issued to manufacturers of large quantities of the same type of trailer. Instead of having to obtain approval for each and every trailer, one model or prototype is used. If that one trailer is approved, then an EC Certificate of Conformity (CoC) will be issued to all trailers of the same type which means they can be sold/registered throughout Europe.

What is National Small Series Type Approval (NSSTA)? NSSTA is type approval certification for small batches of trailers (to a max of 250) intended for Irish/National use. When NSSTA is granted, the manufacturer can issue a Certificate of Conformity for each trailer of same type.

What is Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA)? IVA relates to new trailers manufactured in very small numbers or as individual vehicles. Each trailer is checked and on passing inspection at an NSAI Appointed Test Centre ([ATC](#)), an IVA Cert is issued.

Who is responsible for Type Approval in Ireland? The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) is the appointed approval authority in Ireland and is responsible for issuing all national approvals (IVA or NSSTA) for vehicles here. www.nsai.ie Tel. 01 8073800 or email info@nsai.ie.

I bought/imported a trailer and it has no Certificate of Conformity. What should I do? Please contact the original manufacturer who should be able to supply you with a CoC for your trailer. Alternatively you can contact the NSAI on 01 8073800 or email info@nsai.ie or visit www.nsai.ie.

My trailer is homemade. How do I get it type approved / certified? To obtain certification, please contact the [NSAI](#) on Tel. 01 8073800 or email info@nsai.ie.

Is UK type approval recognised in Ireland and vice versa? Yes, there is a mutual recognition of Type Approval / Certificates issued between the UK and Ireland. If you require additional information on this please contact the NSAI.

What should I look out for when purchasing a new light trailer? Any trailer built since 29th October 2012 should be type approved (by law) and have a certificate of conformity (CoC). This ensures that the design, lighting, braking etc. has met a European safety and quality standard. For more detailed information on trailer type approval please click [here](#).

Where can I find more general information on light trailers e.g. towing, licensing, braking etc.? The RSA has prepared a booklet which advises on light trailers. Please click [here](#) to view/download a copy.