

Working To Save Lives



Circular RSA VI 06/11

12th September 2011

To all Vehicle Testing Authorised Officers and LGV Authorised Test Centres:

Test requirements for LGV axle weights & design gross vehicle weight

In section 4 of the introduction of the current LGV Testers Manual, it states that *"In the absence of a manufacturer's plate showing maximum permitted axle weights and design gross vehicle weight (DGVW), the owner / presenter must provide a letter from the manufacturer showing the VIN, axle permitted weights and DGVW"*. Some owners of vehicles that do not have a manufacturer's weight plate fitted have experienced difficulty in obtaining this information from the manufacturer.

To facilitate the owners of these vehicles and only where they have tried to obtain the required information from the relevant vehicle manufacturers, as from the date of this circular it will be acceptable for a tester to use comparable vehicle permissible axle weights and DGVW by establishing the heaviest weights listed for a similar model by the same manufacturer for which the specification is available. These comparable weights are only to be used for the purposes of establishing the test criteria to which the vehicle will be subjected during testing of its tyre load index during roadworthiness testing and to ensure that the vehicle is not significantly overweight when being tested. The comparable weights used by the tester for the purposes of testing the vehicle should not be interpreted as the maximum axle loads permissible when the vehicle is in use. It remains the legal responsibility of the vehicle owner and driver to ensure that the vehicle, and all components of that vehicle, is in such a condition that no danger is likely to be caused to any person and that the load carried by the vehicle will not exceed the reasonable and safe weight the vehicle is capable of carrying.

If a tester chooses to facilitate the customer in this way, he should complete and sign the attached declaration form listing the comparable weights and ensure that the owner / presenter of the vehicle also sign the declaration form. The completed and signed declaration form should then be retained by the test centre with the test records for that test. Please note, the tester is not obliged to establish comparable vehicle weights for a vehicle but may choose to do so.

If you have any queries in relation to this circular, in the first instance contact your local Authorised Officer for Vehicle Testing or the RSA Vehicle Inspector in your area.

Yours Sincerely,

Seán Breathnach

Senior Vehicle Inspector

LGV Permissible Axle Weights and Design Gross Vehicle Weight Declaration
Form

Test Centre & Number	
Owner's Name	
Vehicle Manufacturer	
Vehicle Model	
Registration Number	

Declared design gross vehicle weight	
Declared front axle maximum permitted weight	
Declared rear axle maximum permitted weight	

Tester Declaration

In the absence of the specification for the maximum axle permitted weights and the vehicle design gross vehicle weight, for roadworthiness testing purposes only I have listed comparable weights as per the table above by referencing the maximum weights allowable for a similar model by the same manufacturer. I declare that I am not aware of a similar model vehicle with higher weights than those listed above.

Tester Name (Block capitals)	
Tester Signature	
Date	

Owner / Presenter Declaration

As the owner / presenter of the above vehicle, I have contacted the manufacturer's representative for my vehicle and requested that I be supplied with the maximum permitted axle weights and the design gross vehicle weight. The manufacturer has not supplied me with this information and so I fully understand that the above declared weights have been established for my vehicle by referencing a similar model by the same manufacturer for which the specification is available and that I am not aware of a similar model with higher weights than those listed above. I understand that these weights are only for roadworthiness testing purposes and it remains my legal responsibility as owner/driver of the vehicle to ensure that it, and all its components, is in such a condition that no danger is likely to be caused to any person and that the load carried by the vehicle will not exceed the reasonable and safe weight the vehicle is capable of carrying.

Owner / Presenter Name (Block capitals)	
Owner / Presenter Signature	
Date	