

Real Total Mass

From January 19 2013, certain vehicles presenting for a driving test will be required to meet a minimum real total mass. Real total mass is the term given to the actual weight of a vehicle. The following are the list of categories to which this applies:

- BE (Car and trailer)
- C (Rigid trucks/large vans)
- CE (Articulated trucks or combinations of Category C & trailer)
- C1E (Larger vans/light truck, and trailer)
- DE (Bus and trailer)
- ED1 (Minibus and trailer)

This affects all tests which are conducted on and after the 19th January 2013. Please note that some vehicles by virtue of their own weight may not need to be loaded to meet the requirements.

Currently it is possible to undergo a driving test with a completely unladen vehicle. However, if the person undergoing the test obtains a full driving licence, they may then fully load the vehicle, without having shown competence to drive the laden vehicle. The new requirement of real total mass allows for testing in a vehicle closer to the everyday situation the driver will be licenced to drive in, should they pass the driving test.

In order to meet the requirements of real total mass for the vehicle presenting for the driving test, the RSA has developed guidelines to driving test applicants who are presenting for their test on how they can go about proving at the test that their vehicle meets the minimum requirements.

[The information below in FAQ format should help to answer most of your questions.](#)

[Table of real total mass requirements for the driving test.](#)