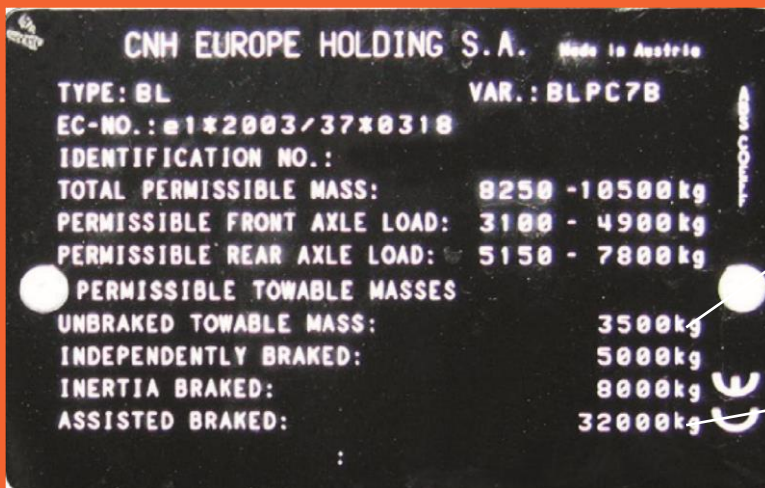


# Agricultural Tractors and Trailers – Towing Rules

RSA

## What can my vehicle tow?

Check its manufacturer's plate as follows:



CNH EUROPE HOLDING S.A. Made in Austria	
TYPE: BL	VAR.: BLPC7B
EC-NO.: #1*2003/37*0318	
IDENTIFICATION NO.:	
TOTAL PERMISSIBLE MASS:	8250 - 10500 kg
PERMISSIBLE FRONT AXLE LOAD:	3100 - 4900 kg
PERMISSIBLE REAR AXLE LOAD:	5150 - 7800 kg
PERMISSIBLE TOWABLE MASSES	
UNBRAKED TOWABLE MASS:	3500kg
INDEPENDENTLY BRAKED:	5000kg
INERTIA BRAKED:	8000kg
ASSISTED BRAKED:	32000kg

If trailer is not fitted with brakes – tractor can tow a maximum weight of 3,500 kg.

If trailer is fitted with an assisted braking system i.e. hydraulic or pneumatic – tractor can tow a maximum weight of 32,000 kg.

Manufacturer's Plate

**Where is the manufacturer's plate located on my tractor?** It is usually located in the cab under driver's seat or over the brake pedal but this may vary depending on the manufacturer.

**Which weight applies if a tractor is fitted with a manufacturer's plate and trailer with an authorisation plate?** You must adhere to the lesser of the two weights.

## What can a tractor legally tow if it does not have a manufacturer's plate?

You are limited to towing a trailer with a DGWW of not more than three times the tractor's unladen weight as specified by the manufacturer. Alternatively you can contact the manufacturer or authorised distributor to have one fitted. You must always adhere to the lower weights declared on the manufacturer's plate on the tractor or the authorisation plate on trailer.

**What can a trailer carry?** You can find trailer's unladen or empty weight and subtract from its maximum permitted as shown below. If you are unsure as to which limits apply to your vehicle(s) contact vehicle manufacturer or authorised distributor.

Name of Manufacturer	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	
Type Approval Number (If applicable)	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	
Vehicle Identification Number	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	
Maximum Design Speed (Kilometers per Hour)	40 Km/h	
Tyre Size	445/65/22.5	
Load Speed Index	166 D	
Single or Twin (S/T)	Single (S)	
Inflation Pressure for Weights Specified in Column (1)	130 P. S. I	
	(1)	(2)
	Weight Not to be Exceeded in Ireland (kg)	Weight Not to be Exceeded in Ireland (kg)
Maximum Permitted Laden Weight (Including Drawbar)	19,000 kg	kg
Foremost Axle	8,000 kg	kg
Axle 2 Weight	8,000 kg	kg
Axle 3 Weight	— kg	kg
Axle 4 Weight	— kg	kg
Maximum Drawbar Loading	3,000 kg	kg
Vehicle Length (Including Drawbar)	8,500 mm	mm
Vehicle Width	2,500 mm	mm

Load calculator

Max. weight → 19,000 kg  
 Empty weight - 5,000 kg  
 Load it can carry = 14,000 kg

Authorisation Plate

**Where is the authorisation plate located on a trailer?** On the side of the drawbar near front of trailer.

## I have no means of weighing trailers when laden. How can I comply with the weight limits?

- Find the unladen weight of your trailer from manufacturer or distributor or have it weighed and its volumetric carrying capacity.
- Multiply the volumetric carrying capacity by the density of the crop being carried. Contact your local agricultural adviser who will assist with various crop densities.
- Add the figure to the trailer's unladen weight.
- This will give an estimate of laden weight of trailer in kgs.

For example:

A 20ft (6.096 m.) tandem axle grain trailer with a volumetric capacity of 23 cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>) and an unladen weight of 5,200 kg would weigh 22,450 kg when level-loaded with wheat :

Unladen weight + (carrying capacity x crop density) = loaded weight.

$$5,200 \text{ kg} + (23 \times 750) = 22,450 \text{ kg.}$$

**Where can I weigh a trailer?** You can contact your local authority to find the nearest weighbridge to you.

## How do I calculate volumetric carrying capacity?

Multiply the length x width x height of the goods-carrying area of the trailer in metres.

## What are the laws on plating agricultural tractors and trailers?

- All agricultural tractors and trailers first registered on or after 01 January 2016 must have a manufacturer's plate fitted.

For further details see our FAQ on Plating of Agricultural Vehicles [here](#) or our booklet on Revised Standards for Agricultural Vehicles [here](#).

## **Do tractors or trailers manufactured or first registered before 01 January 2016 also need to be plated?**

They will only need to be plated if:

- the agricultural tractor has a maximum design speed of more than 40 km/h or is being used to draw a tandem or tri-axle rigid drawbar trailer with a laden weight over 19 tonnes for tandems and 22.5 tonnes for tri-axes.
- the agricultural trailer is capable by design of being drawn at speeds over 40 km/h or is operating at laden weights exceeding 19 tonnes for tandems and 22.5 tonnes for tri-axes.