

# Calculating the Towing Capacity of a Vehicle

**What is DGWV or MAM or laden weight?** Design Gross Vehicle Weight or Maximum Authorised Mass is the weight of a vehicle or trailer including the **maximum** load it can carry in accordance with the manufacturer's design specifications.

**What is DGCW or Combined MAM?** the combined weight of the vehicle and trailer including the maximum load each can carry in accordance with the manufacturers design specifications.

**What is unladen weight?** the weight of the drawing vehicle or trailer when not carrying a load.

**What is towing capacity/towable mass?** the maximum weight that a vehicle can tow in accordance with the manufacturer's design specifications.

**My trailer is homemade and has no plate. Where can I find its DGWV?** You can contact an existing trailer manufacturer in your area to plate it for you. If this is not possible contact [NSAI](#) authorised plating centres.

**Where do I find the braked and unbraked towing capacity of my vehicle?** Refer to Owner's Manual or original manufacturer/authorised distributor or can be calculated from the vehicle's plate as shown in picture below.

**Where do I find towing capacity of my vehicle?** You will find the DGWV, also referred to as MAM in the Owner's Manual, on the statutory plate (inside passenger door or under the bonnet) or by contacting your original manufacturer/authorised distributor.

**Where do I find the gross weight of my trailer?** You will find the Design Gross Vehicle Weight (DGWV), also referred to as Maximum Authorised Mass (MAM), on the statutory place fixed to your trailer or by contacting your trailer manufacturer/authorised distributor. This is the weight of a vehicle or trailer, including the maximum load it can carry, as per the manufacturer's design specifications. You can also view [drawing light trailers](#) and our FAQ on [Towing Light Trailers](#).

**Can I tow a trailer that is heavier than my vehicle's towing capacity, even if the trailer is unloaded?** No. If the DGWV of a trailer (as specified by the manufacturer and displayed on the plate) exceeds the towing capacity of a vehicle, it is against the law.

**Where can I weigh a trailer to find its weight?** You should contact your [Local Authority](#) for a list of approved weighbridges.

**How do I calculate the towing capacity of my vehicle?**

## Check its plate

6	e13*2001/116*0144
L	*WPOPXDWPDP9P88888*
W	FIGURE 1 1820 kg
LW	FIGURE 2 2930 kg
KN	925 kg
36	1005 kg
7	DA3



**FIGURE 2 minus FIGURE 1 = Towing Capacity**