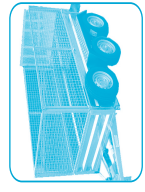


Twin Axle Trailer

The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment.



It is important to read all of this leaflet BEFORE you use the Twin Axle Trailer

- 1. Before driving the vehicle / trailer combination exceeds 3.5 tonnes and you are aware of the weight of the vehicle and trailer. Find out about the weight of the vehicle and trailer. Find out about the weight of the vehicle and trailer.
- 2. The Twin Axle Trailer is designed solely to carry goods up to its rated carrying capacity, being towed by a road legal vehicle on made up roads. It must not be used for any other purpose.
- 3. The Twin Axle Trailer must not be used for carrying passengers or livestock.
- 4. The Twin Axle Trailer must not be used for carrying goods that could cause damage or be damaged.
- 5. The following items of personal protective equipment is the minimum that must be worn: Safety Helmet when working on a construction site, strong gloves for handling wire ropes, Hi-Vis clothing when working on the public highway or construction sites.
- 6. Do not use the twin axle trailer unless authorised to do so and have an appropriate driving licence.
- 7. The twin axle trailer must not be used by minors or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- 8. The manual manoeuvring of the twin axle trailer should be carried by one or more able bodied adults. Anyone with either a temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using the trailer.

DRIVING LICENCE

- 1. A full driving licence must be held to tow any trailer. Most drivers who passed their driving test in 1997 or before will have a full licence to tow a vehicle and trailer combination weighing up to a combined weight of 8.25 tonnes.
- 2. With effect from 1st January 1997 the EC Directive on Driving Licences (81/439/EEC) came into effect, affecting new drivers passing their test after that date and HGV drivers who obtained their licence after 31st December 1991. These new drivers are only allowed to drive vehicle and trailer combinations in the categories listed below without taking a further driving test.

(Continued overleaf....)



Every effort has been made to ensure that the information given in this document and accompanying material is accurate and not misleading. HAE/EHA do not accept responsibility for any loss or liability perceived to have arisen from the use of any such document/material. Only Acts of Parliament and Statutory Instruments have the force of law and only the courts can authoritatively interpret the law.

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Website: www.hse.org.uk

- 1. To reduce the risk of serious or fatal injury from breathing toxic fumes, do not drive the trailer in the vicinity of a fire or other source of smoke, unless the area has good ventilation.
- 2. Select as firm a surface as possible to uncouple the trailer when loading or unloading, uncoupling or manoeuvring the trailer.
- 3. Keep children and animals away when loading, uncoupling or manoeuvring the trailer.
- 4. The loaded vehicle and trailer may become bogged down if parked or driven onto soft ground. Do not load the trailer beyond its rated capacity.
- 5. If the trailer is detached from the towing vehicle, apply the trailer handbrake, lower the jacks and the jockey wheel and if necessary check the wheels.
- 6. A twin axle trailer is heavy; seek assistance to manoeuvre it into position, especially on uneven ground. Do not attempt to move it by hand. Do not attempt to move it by hand. Do not attempt to move it by hand.
- 7. If driving off road, assess the route for soft ground. Do not attempt to move it by hand. Do not attempt to move it by hand. Do not attempt to move it by hand.
- 8. Seek assistance when reversing or manoeuvring the towing vehicle and trailer. The trailer will reduce the rear view vision.

OPERATORS

- 1. The driver of the towing vehicle has the responsibility for the safe operation of the towing vehicle and trailer.
- 2. The driver of the towing vehicle must ensure that the trailer is properly loaded and that the trailer is properly secured.
- 3. The driver of the towing vehicle must ensure that the trailer is properly secured and that the trailer is properly secured.
- 4. The driver of the towing vehicle must ensure that the trailer is properly secured and that the trailer is properly secured.

TWIN AXLE TRAILER

- 1. Check the twin axle trailer thoroughly. If anything is found to be damaged, do not use the trailer. Contact the hire company immediately. Ensure the trailer hitch is compatible with the towing vehicle. It will be damaged if the trailer is not properly secured.
- 2. If the trailer is to be detached from the towing vehicle, always apply the handbrake, lower the jockey wheel and support legs. It may also be necessary to check the wheels in some circumstances.
- 3. If the trailer is left unattended ensure it is properly secured and that the trailer is properly secured.
- 4. The Driver of the Towing Vehicle should carry out the following checks each time the trailer is used. It will have been supplied in good condition and ready for use. The driver of the towing vehicle should ensure that the trailer is properly secured and that the trailer is properly secured.
- 5. Are all the lights undamaged?
- 6. Is the correct number plate fitted? (both

Before Starting Work...

- 1. The driver of the towing vehicle must have at least the following items of personal protective equipment:
 - Safety Helmet when working on construction sites
 - Strong Gloves for handling wire ropes
 - Hi-Vis clothing when working on the public highway or on construction sites
- 2. Anyone who is assisting the driver of the towing vehicle will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
- 3. The driver of the towing vehicle must have at least the following items of personal protective equipment:
 - Safety Helmet when working on construction sites
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For guidance on managing construction health risks go to www.hse.gov.uk/construction

- On other roads the speed limit is 50 mph on a single carriageway and 60 mph on dual carriageways and motorways for vehicles over 7.5 tonnes, articulated vehicles and other unusual vehicles, check the speed limit for the vehicle before driving.
- Do not drive on the right-hand lane of a motorway with three lanes or more.
- Drive at a speed that is well within the capabilities of the vehicle, the driver and to the road and weather conditions.
- Should the trailer start to snake or swerve (usually caused by excessive speed) reduce speed gradually.
- Reversing will require practice but always get out of the vehicle to check any blind spots or seek assistance.
- 4. If the maximum authorised mass (the capacity of towing vehicle and trailer) exceeds 3500 KG and the vehicle is used for hire or reward for the commercial carriage of goods or for the commercial use of the driver of the towing vehicle in the UK and Europe. These rules can be obtained from the Goods Vehicles in the UK and Europe. Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (www.vosa.gov.uk).
- 5. The trailer does not park properly do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.

USING THE TWIN AXLE TRAILER

- 1. The addition of a loaded trailer to a vehicle will inevitably have a very serious effect on the vehicle's performance:
 - Reduced acceleration
 - Reduced braking, particularly on hills will be more difficult
 - Stopping can take longer distances
 - Cornering and negotiating sharp bends requires extra care
 - The rate of acceleration will be reduced
 - The rate of deceleration will be reduced
 - Driving style will need to be modified. The reduced performance mentioned above will require:
 - Greater concentration
 - The additional length will require greater care when overtaking and cornering
 - Increased distances between overtaking distances required when overtaking
 - The effect of side winds will be more noticeable
 - The slipstream and suction effect of large commercial vehicles can affect the towing vehicle
 - Do not exceed the speed limits – these are maximum speeds allowed and are not necessarily safe speeds.
 - 30 mph limit applies on all roads with reduced lighting unless signs show otherwise
- 2. The driver must check the correct operation of the following trailer lights:
 - Two red sidelights
 - Correct operation of directional indicators
 - Number plate illumination (a light)
 - Two brake lights
 - One high intensity red fog light (a legal requirement on trailers over 1.3m wide)
 - In addition the trailer must have:
 - Two red reflective triangles

Please store this leaflet safely. It may be required for further information

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EYE COUPLING

- 1. Apply the trailer handbrake and check the slacken the clamp, and lift the complete jockey wheel unit to the fully raised position and securely tighten the clamp. Check it is not fouling the brake mechanism.
- 2. Attach safety breakaway cable onto the tow bar, ensuring it cannot foul the towing hitch. Ensure the cable has enough slack for corner but does not touch the ground. The cable will apply the hand brake should the trailer become detached while towing.
- 3. Insert the tow bar into the socket situated close to the tow bar, use the one with the black cover flap. The plug will only fit one way, with the keyway and groove at the bottom.
- 4. The driver must check the correct operation of the following trailer lights:
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 - In addition the trailer must have:
 - Two red reflective triangles

BOTH COUPLINGS

- 1. Wind the jockey wheel completely up, slacken the clamp, and lift the complete jockey wheel unit to the fully raised position and securely tighten the clamp. Check it is not fouling the brake mechanism.
- 2. Attach safety breakaway cable onto the tow bar, ensuring it cannot foul the towing hitch. Ensure the cable has enough slack for corner but does not touch the ground. The cable will apply the hand brake should the trailer become detached while towing.
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LOADING THE TWIN AXLE TRAILER

- 1. Great care should be taken when loading the trailer; poor loading can cause significant risks including:
 - Overloading the rear of the trailer will lighten the front of the trailer and the rear of the towing vehicle causing loss of stability and likely to cause snaking.
 - Overloading the front of the trailer will lighten the rear of the trailer and the front of the towing vehicle causing loss of stability and likely to cause snaking.
 - Overloading the side of the trailer will lighten the other side of the trailer and the side of the towing vehicle causing loss of stability and likely to cause snaking.
 - Overloading the top of the trailer will lighten the bottom of the trailer and the top of the towing vehicle causing loss of stability and likely to cause snaking.
- 2. The weight of the load must be evenly distributed across the length of the trailer. The weight must be positioned to keep the nose weight (the downward weight on the tow bar) within the recommended limits (typically between 50 and 100 KG). Refer to the towing vehicles handbook for the correct weight limits.
- 3. If uneven loads have to be carried, ensure that individual wheels / axles are not overloaded. It may be necessary to reduce the overall load to achieve this.
- 4. The tailgate of the trailer can be extremely heavy; seek assistance when raising or lowering it.

LOADING A FREE STANDING TWIN AXLE TRAILER

- 1. When loading a free standing trailer consider that it will be considerably more difficult to move when fully loaded. Place it where it can easily be moved or where the towing vehicle can easily reverse it to the hitch.
- 2. Apply the handbrake. In addition it may be necessary to check the wheels on slopes.
- 3. An unhitched trailer can seasaw, pivoting on the wheels during loading. To prevent this from happening lower the jockey wheel to a position where the trailer is level and then firmly apply the clamps.
- 4. When a trailer is required to be moved manually, raise and securely clamp the rear support legs leaving the jockey wheel down. A twin axle trailer is heavy; ask for assistance when moving it. To improve the manoeuvrability of a twin axle trailer lower and wind down the jockey wheel until the wheels of the front axle are clear of the ground. Do not pull beyond your own capabilities; ask for assistance.

(Continued overleaf....)

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- 1. Any damage caused to property belonging to third parties as a result of an accident is the responsibility of the hirer. If in any doubt about insurance cover, check with the hire company or insurer immediately.
- 2. The driver of the towing vehicle must have at least the following items of personal protective equipment:
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