



UK ROAD WEIGHT LIMIT

UK road weight limits are designed to minimise wear and tear on roads that aren't built to withstand use by heavy vehicles. They also help to avoid HGVs getting stuck on unsuitable roads and causing congestion on local routes.

Any vehicle weighing more than 7.5 tonne should not use a road if the 7.5t weight limit sign is displayed by a roadside, except for access. A weight restriction of less than 7.5 tonnes can only be imposed for structural reasons.

Weight limit orders are also enforced to prevent HGVs from driving on minor roads in areas that are unsuitable for their size or where they could pose a danger, often attempted as a short cut between main routes.

A penalty fine of £1000 may be imposed if a driver is found guilty of breaking a weight restriction order on UK roads.

HGV drivers should always plan their routes to ensure that they only use roads that are suitable for their weight. It is recognised that deliveries etc may need to be made on local, smaller roads but HGVs should only be driven on larger routes where possible.

It is also recommended that where HGV drivers use HGV specific sat nav systems to plan their routes and that these systems are regularly updated.

Many route planning apps don't have this function and can send HGV drivers on routes that are not suitable for large, heavy vehicles.



HGV CLASS WEIGHT LIMITS

CLASS 1 WEIGHT LIMIT

The HGV Class 1 weight limit includes C+E vehicles, which are essentially articulated or artic lorries weighing 7.5 tonnes or more with detachable cabs and trailers. HGV Class 1 lorries can carry loads of up to 44 tonnes.

The maximum HGV Class 1 weight limit does vary according to the number of axles a vehicle has. Read more about this in GOV.UK document 'A Simplified Guide to Lorry Types and Weights'.

CLASS 2 WEIGHT LIMIT

The HGV Class 2 weight limit includes rigid lorries with a cab and trailer that can not be detached. So called 'rigids' have a weight limit of over 7.5 tonnes and up to 30 tonnes.

ARTIC LORRY WEIGHTS

Artic or articulated lorries can weigh anything from 7.5 tonnes up to 44 tonnes including their load. These vehicles have a separate cab (or tractor) and trailer.

The maximum artic lorry weight will take a few factors into account. This includes the weight of the vehicle alone (also known as Gross Vehicle Weight or GVW), the weight of the vehicle and any trailer (Gross Train Weight or GTW) and Road Friendly Suspension (RFS), which comprises of air suspension or an equivalent system.

For an articulated lorry the maximum weight is limited to:

3 axles: 26,000kg

4 axles: 36,000kg

5 axles: 40,000kg

6 axles: 44,000kg