

TAG Trailer Towing Training

Initial trailer visual safety checklist

It is important that before hitching the combination a number of safety checks and inspections are completed to avoid hitching an illegal or dangerous trailer. Before proceeding with the checklist ensure the handbrake is firmly on by physically applying the handbrake.

- Check the weight plate of the trailer to ensure it is within the 'Maximum Permissible Towing Weight' of the vehicle
- Ensure coupling head, breakaway cable and electric cable are not damaged
- Check all light lens covers and replace cracked lenses
- Check tyres for correct tread depth and ensure no cracks, bulges or tears
- Ensure trailer number plate matches towing vehicle and is yellow and correct font (**not handwritten**)
- Lift and secure all props or legs (if fitted)
- Ensure doors are closed and locked
- Know the height and width of the trailer and plan route to avoid low bridges and width restrictions too small for the combination
- Plan the route to avoid hills of 25% or higher gradients

On the public carriageway, the condition of the combination is the responsibility of the driver and any penalties will be recorded on the driver's license in accordance with the law.

Suggested emergency pack for UK trailer towing

- A set of replacement bulbs for the trailer
- Safety gloves for hitching and unhitching
- High-visibility vests for 'Banksman' and driver whilst hitching and unhitching, reversing and in case of breakdown
- Replacement breakaway cable
- Tyre pressure and tread depth gauge

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