

A SIMPLIFIED GUIDE TO LORRY TYPES AND WEIGHTS

Recommended Description		Identifier	UK Maximum Gross Weight (tonnes)	Shape	
LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES		2 axles	3.5	no rear side windows 	
L O R R I E S	HEAVY	SMALLER 2-AXLE LORRIES	2 axles Over 3.5 7.5		
		BIGGER 2-AXLE LORRIES	2 axles Over 7.5 18		
	GOODS VEHICLES (Vehicles over 7.5 tonnes gross require a Heavy Goods Vehicle Driver's Licence)	MULTI-	3 axles rigid	25 26*	
			3 axles artic.	26	
			4 axles rigid	30 32*	
		AXLE	4 axles artic.	36 38*	
			Vehicle and draw-bar trailer 4 axles	30 36**	
			5 axles or more artic. See note (a)	40	
		LORRIES	Vehicle and draw-bar trailer 5 axles See note (a)	40**	
			6 axles artic. See note (b)	41*	
			6 axles draw-bar See note (b)	41* and **	
			5 or 6 axles artic. See notes (b) and (c)	44* and ***	
			6 axles draw-bar	44*,** and ***	
			6 axles artic. See note (b) and (d)	44*	
	6 axles draw-bar See note (b) and (d)	44* and **			

* If the driving axle, if it is not a steering axle, has twin tyres and road friendly suspension, or each driving axle is fitted with twin tyres and the maximum weight for each axle does not exceed 8.55 tonnes.

** Distance between the rear axle of the motor vehicle and the front axle of the trailer is not less than 3 metres.

*** If the vehicle is being used for combined transport.

(a) 5 axles or more artic and the 5 axles or more drawbar could alternatively have a 3 axle motor vehicle and a 2 axle trailer.

(b) Conditions:
 - each vehicle must have at least 3 axles.
 - drive axle has twin tyre and road friendly suspension and maximum of 10.5 tonnes, or each driving axle is fitted with twin tyres and has a maximum of 8.5 tonnes
 - trailer has road friendly suspension

(c) Conditions for operation on 5 axles:
 - must have 3 axles on tractor unit
 - single container 40ft in length conforming to standards laid down by the International Standards Organisation being carried only
 - vehicle being used for international journey.

(d) Powered by a low pollution engine.