

FAQs on Towing a broken-down vehicle

RSA

What licence is required to tow a broken-down vehicle?

See Table below.

B Licence	BE Licence
A trailer whose design gross vehicle weight is not more than 750 kg, or	A trailer whose design gross vehicle weight is not more than 3,500 kg, or
If the trailer's design gross vehicle weight is more than 750 kg but the design gross combination weight of the vehicle + trailer does not exceed 3,500 kg.	If the trailer's design gross vehicle weight is more than 750 kg and less than 3,500 kg but the design gross combination weight of the vehicle + trailer does not exceed 7,000 kg

Can I use my vehicle to tow a broken-down vehicle? Yes, but only to bring it to the nearest place of safety or repair.

What is the definition of drawbar? Any drawbar, chain or other towing device including any special fitting for the attachment of such drawbar, chain or towing device.

What is the definition of a broken-down vehicle? A vehicle which is being towed as a result of a breakdown. However, it should only be towed in the event that no professional towing service is available.

Can I legally tow a vehicle using a spectacle frame? Yes. The towed vehicle will be treated as a trailer. However regulations for lifting devices fall under the remit of the [HSA](#) and you should contact them for more information.

Is it legal to use a rope, wire rope or chain? There is no law against towing a broken down vehicle using a rope or chain, provided it is strong enough to withstand the demands of towing a vehicle and it is only used to bring the broken down vehicle to the nearest place of safety or repair.

What if there is no garage nearby? If the broken-down vehicle is blocking traffic or likely to cause an accident it should immediately be towed to the nearest place of safety or repair and contact a recovery operator who will transport the vehicle safely there.

Can a broken-down vehicle be towed if it is punctured? Yes, but the speed must not exceed 32 km/h. and only towed to the nearest convenient place of safety or repair.

Can I tow a broken-down vehicle on the motorway? We advise against this. If a vehicle breaks down on the motorway try to move it to the hard shoulder, switch on your hazard lights and contact a vehicle recovery operator.

Is there a speed limit for towing a broken-down vehicle? Any vehicle towing, whether it be a trailer or broken-down vehicle must not exceed 80 km/h. If a lower speed limit sign is posted this must be obeyed at all times.

Should lights and brakes be working on a broken-down vehicle? Legally, no because it is broken down.

Who do I contact regarding safe work practices when using a recovery vehicle? You can contact the Health and Safety Authority [HSA](#) or the National Standards Authority of Ireland [NSAI](#).