

FAQs on Trailer Caravans

RSA

What is a trailer caravan? It is a light trailer which is considered a special purpose vehicle with a design gross vehicle weight not exceeding 3,500 kg.

Do trailer caravans require type approval? A trailer caravan is considered to be a special purpose vehicle which is a vehicle *'having specific technical features in order to perform a function which requires special arrangements and/or equipment'*. For further details on obtaining type approval for brand new unregistered vehicles only contact National Standards Authority of Ireland [NSAI](#).

Do trailer caravans require testing? No. There is no roadworthiness testing required on light trailer caravans under 3,500 kg. However Irish road traffic laws place an onus on the owner and driver of such a vehicle to ensure it is maintained in a roadworthy condition at all times and does not present a danger to any road user.

Do trailer caravans require registration? No.

What licence is required for towing a light trailer caravan? See link to [licence categories](#) or contact Driver Licensing Section at 1890 40 60 40.

What size caravan can I tow? You will need to refer to your owner's manual or contact the manufacturer or authorised distributor. Each vehicle has its own towing capacity or limit. For further information see the following:

- RSA booklet on [Towing Light Trailers](#)
- FAQs on Calculating the Towing Capacity of a Vehicle [here](#).

I am buying a trailer caravan. Where can I find information on requirements etc?

Motor caravans are defined as special purpose vehicles and a trailer caravan with a design gross vehicle weight of 3,500 kg or less is classified as a special purpose light trailer. [Type Approval certification](#) has applied to special purpose vehicles since 29 October 2014 therefore all *new* special purpose trailers sold after this date must be accompanied by a certificate of conformity (CoC) and must be plated. Light trailers in service prior to this date do not need to be plated.

Where can I obtain a certificate of conformity (CoC)? You will need to contact the original manufacturer or authorised distributor.

I tow a caravan but have no registration documents. How can I register it prior to NCT?

There is no roadworthiness test for a towed caravan however it is each vehicle owner's responsibility to ensure their vehicle is in compliance with the law and maintained in a roadworthy condition at all times.

My caravan is 7 m long towed with a long wheel base van with an overall length of 15.5 m. Are there any special requirements regarding long vehicle plates on the back? Is there a length restriction?

- Under [S.I. No. 5 of 2003](#) the overall length of a combination of vehicles should not exceed 18.75 m.
- Under lighting regulations where the combination of vehicles exceeds 13 metres in overall length one rear marking or **LONG VEHICLE** sign should be displayed.

Is there a registration system for light trailer caravans in Ireland?

No. There is no database in Ireland as it is not a legal requirement to register trailer caravans with a DGVW less than 3,500 kg.