

Maximum permitted weights and dimensions, goods transport United Kingdom

Height	1
Width	
Motor vehicle/trailer	2.55m
Refrigerated vehicle (minimum thickness of walls 45mm)	2.60m
Length	
Motor vehicle	12.00m
Trailer (provided it has four or more wheels and the drawing vehicle has a GVW of over 3.5t)	12.00m
Articulated vehicle	16.50m ²
Articulated vehicle with low-loader semi-trailer	18.00m
Road train	18.75m ³
Car transporter	
· empty	18.75m
· loaded	22.75m ⁴
Weight per axle	
two-wheeled axle	10.00t
two-wheeled axle, fitted with twin tyres (at least 300mm apart) or with wide tyres (not less than 300mm in width)	10.00t
two-wheeled axle, fitted with twin tyres (at least 300mm apart) or with wide tyres (not less than 300mm in width) and where this axle is the sole drive axle of the vehicle	11.50t
axle with more than 2 wheels	
· in the case of a vehicle manufactured before 1.5.83, where the wheels are on one axle of a group of two closely spaced axles (tandem)	10.17t
· in the case of a vehicle manufactured on or after 1.5.83	10.17t
· in any other case	11.18t
tandem drive axle with a distance between the two axles of	
· less than 1.00m	11.50t
· 1.00m to less than 1.30m	16.00t
· 1.30m or more	18.00t
· 1.30m or more and the drive axle is fitted with twin tyres and pneumatic suspension or equivalent, or each drive axle is fitted with twin tyres and the maximum weight per axle does not exceed 9.5t	19.00t
non-drive tandem axle, with a distance between the axles of	
· less than 1.00m	11.00t
· 1.00m to less than 1.30m	16.00t
· 1.30m to less than 1.80m	18.00t
· 1.80m or more	20.00t
triale axle with a distance between two neighbouring axles of	
· 1.30m or less	21.00t
· over 1.30m	24.00t
Maximum permitted weight	
Motor vehicle	
· with 2 axles	18.00t
· with 3 axles	25.00t
· with 3 axles, and the drive axle is fitted with twin tyres and pneumatic suspension or equivalent, or each drive axle has twin tyres and the maximum load per axle does not exceed 9.5t	26.00t
· with 4 axles or more	30.00t
· with 4 axles or more, and the drive axle is fitted with twin tyres and pneumatic suspension or equivalent, or each drive axle has twin tyres and	

the maximum load per axle does not exceed 9.5t	32.00t
Tractor	
· with 2 axles	18.00t
· with 3 axles or more	25.00t
· with 3 axles or more, and the drive axle is fitted with twin tyres and pneumatic suspension or equivalent, or each drive axle has twin tyres and the maximum load per axle does not exceed 9.5t	26.00t
Trailer	
· with 2 axles	18.00t
· with 3 axles	24.00t
Articulated vehicle	
· with 3 axles	26.00t
· with 4 axles (2+2)	36.00t
· with 4 axles (2+2) provided that the MPW of the tractor (18t) and of the two axles of the semi-trailer (20t) are respected, and that the drive axle is equipped with twin wheels and pneumatic suspension or equivalent	38.00t
· with 5 axles or more	40.00t
· with 6 axles (3+3) or more and the weight of each drive axle does not exceed 10.5t, and each axle of the trailer is fitted with pneumatic suspension or equivalent, and either each drive axle is fitted with twin tyres and pneumatic suspension or equivalent, or each drive axle which is not a steering axle is fitted with twin tyres and its weight does not exceed 8.5t; in addition, the vehicle must be fitted with a EURO 2 engine	44.00t
· with 5/6 axles (3+2/3) used in combined transport for the transport of a 40' ISO container	44.00t
Road train	
· with 4 axles	30.00t
· with 4 axles, and the distance between the last axle of the motor vehicle and the first axle of the trailer is not less than 3.00m	36.00t
· with 5 axles or more	34.00t
· with 5 axles or more, and the distance between the last axle of the motor vehicle and the first axle of the trailer is not less than 3.00m	40.00t
· with 6 axles (3+3) or more, and the distance between the last axle of the motor vehicle and the first axle of the trailer is not less than 3.00m, and the weight of each drive axle does not exceed 10.5t, and each axle of the trailer is fitted with pneumatic suspension or equivalent, and either each drive axle is fitted with twin tyres and pneumatic suspension or equivalent, or each drive axle which is not a steering axle is fitted with twin tyres and its weight does not exceed 8.5t; in addition, the vehicle must be fitted with a EURO 2 engine	44.00t

¹ Although Directive 96/53/EC specifies a maximum height of 4.00m, this is not compulsory for vehicles operating in the United Kingdom.

² The maximum authorised length is 16.50m on condition that for the semi-trailer:

- the distance between the axis of the fifth-wheel kingpin and the rear of the semi-trailer is a maximum of 12m;
- the horizontal distance between the axis of the fifth-wheel kingpin and any point at the front of the semi-trailer does not exceed 2.04m

Otherwise, the maximum authorised length is 15.50m.

³ The maximum distance from the foremost external point of the loading area behind the cabin to the rearmost external point of the trailer of the combination must not exceed 16.40m, and this distance, minus the distance between the rear of the drawing vehicle and the front of the trailer, must not exceed 15.65m.

⁴ The overhang (4.00m) must not exceed 2.00m to the front of the vehicle and 2.00m to the rear.

Sources: Transpo, No.183, April 2003
RHA, January 2001