

Trailer Towing Vocational Driver Coaching and Workshop

Replacing the car/van trailer towing driving test with effective competency-based training.

- Duration: One day
- Delegates: 1 or 2 drivers
- Price: Available on request
- Format: Workshop, practical exercises and on-road driving followed by competency assessment
- Vehicle: Any Category 'B' vehicle towing a trailer not exceeding the gross train weight



Overview

This combination of workshop, practical coupling and uncoupling exercises followed by on-road driver training and reversing skills with a trailer is designed to replace recent UK government changes to the Category 'BE' driving test.

From the autumn of 2021, Category 'B' licence holders no longer need to take a Category 'E' trailer towing test. However, drivers and businesses are encouraged to seek professional training to ensure they drive safely and within the law surrounding vehicle and trailer weights and restrictions applicable to this vehicle combination.



At the end of the course, drivers will be able to:



Explain speed limits and lane restrictions when towing



Demonstrate essential vehicle and trailer safety checks and importance of wearing the correct PPE



Demonstrate accurate and controlled reversing and manoeuvring with a trailer



Identify maximum trailer weights & vehicle gross weight capacities for category B licence holders



Demonstrate overall safe driving competence while pulling a trailer



Explain the importance of correct weight distribution for vehicle and trailer balance



Demonstrate how to undertake a dynamic risk assessment of the surrounding area prior to placement of a trailer



Demonstrate both knowledge and competency through assessment



Demonstrate safe coupling and uncoupling routines



Delivery method

The course is facilitated by a professional and highly experienced trainer.

The training delivery includes some initial theory content followed by 'hands-on' practical exercises including coupling/uncoupling, manoeuvring and pulling the trailer on public roads.

All finished with a knowledge and competency based assessment to a defined criteria and the DVSA National Standard for Driving Cars and Towing.



Who should attend?

Any category B licence holder who has never pulled a trailer and who needs to tow a trailer for their work or recreation.

While there is no formal driving test for drivers from the autumn of 2021, drivers and employers are encouraged to ensure they are both confident and competent to tow a trailer and be compliant with the road traffic law and their health & safety policy.

Some trailers e.g. water bowser jet washers or lighting towers may fall under the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER).



Coaching and workshop benefits



Reduce your drivers' risks

Coaching in trailer towing will bridge the gap in the government removing the need for a driving test, reduce driver risk, collision rates, fleet costs and develop safer confident drivers



Meet your duty of care and Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER)

Our courses are designed to help you meet your duty of care obligations when using trailer mounted work equipment



Improve your drivers' competence, knowledge and safety while using and towing a trailer

- Coupling and uncoupling
- Reversing and manoeuvring
- Safe and compliant driving



Coaching and workshop content outline

Introduction

Explain the course schedule and identify more detailed individual course requirements, including:

- The driver(s) experience with towing or using trailers
- Identify personal training requirements
- Link personal training requirements to the employers requirements and any specific driver policies
- Administration e.g. driving licence and eyesight checks

Module one – theory workshop

The workshop will introduce the driver(s) to:

- Towing trailers and the law around driving licence categories and weight limits
- Driving theory refresher, why driving is a high risk activity
- Requirement for use of PPE
- Identification of trailer component parts
- Applicable speed limits and lane restrictions
- Load and weight distribution on trailer
- Introduction to coupling and uncoupling

Module two – Hands on Coupling and uncoupling procedures

- Vehicle and trailer safety checks
- Safe coupling routine
- Safe uncoupling routine
- Placement of trailer: where, how and is it legal?
- Manual handling risks
- Reducing the risk of damage
- How to securely leave the trailer
- Best practice

Module three – Reversing and manoeuvring

Where possible undertake DVSA manoeuvring test exercise to practice:

- Reversing and manoeuvring in secure yard area, where possible and/or out on road
- Safe observant reversing
- Practice accuracy & speed control and no when to stop

Module four – on-road driver training

- Initial assessment and agree training objectives
- Bite-sized, driver-centred learning objectives with ongoing competency assessment
- Additional objectives to reach competency
- Recognition of ‘snaking’ and how to deal with it
- Recognition of speed limits for towing
- Recognition of applicable lane restrictions
- Define appropriate speed for vehicle combination
- Effective positioning when negotiating junctions

Module five – competency and knowledge assessments

- Confirm driver competence against defined criteria
- Assess driver knowledge with 10 multiple choice questions
- Re-take competency and knowledge assessment where possible
- Advice for ongoing development/improvement
- Training report and competency form completion



Logistics

Our delivery is facilitated in a classroom, in-vehicle and in a secure yard or compound. In order to facilitate the classroom element of this course we will require:

- A suitable room to comfortably seat all attending
- Flipchart and pens
- Suitable toilet facilities
- Access to refreshments

For in-vehicle on road training we will require:

- A suitable towing vehicle and trailer loaded with up to 600kg in weight e.g. normal company loads or 600kg ballast
- Drivers to be able to read a number plate from 20 metres in good day light with or without corrective vision
- Produce their driving licence or if they do not have it with them, agree to undertake a check with the DVLA
- All vehicle & trailer lights, warning instruments and breakaway cable to be in good working order
- All vehicle & trailer tyres have at least 1.6mm tread, correct air pressure and free from damage or deterioration from age
- All vehicle fluid levels at the appropriate levels e.g. oil & washer fluid
- Vehicle meets all Road Traffic Act requirements

For vocational vehicle training, we require:

- Access to a secure compound for coupling / uncoupling and manoeuvring exercises free from passing vehicular and pedestrian traffic



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Logistics – Covid-19 (Discuss with TTC Operations for latest advice)

Covid-19 precautions for classroom workshop

- Delegates recommended to undertake a lateral flow test prior to attending
- During Covid-19 restrictions, workshop sizes are limited to a maximum of 11 delegates (12 including the trainer)
- Room size should ideally allow for 2 metres social distance, or a minimum of 1 metre
- Face coverings are recommended if less than 2 metre social distance
- The customer will provide hand sanitiser for delegates and sanitised wipes for desktops and chairs before and after the session
- Customers will be asked if appropriate Covid-19 precautions are in place and if a risk assessment is available to view
- Any symptoms of illness or Covid-19 symptoms to be reported immediately to either party



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Logistics – Covid-19 (Discuss with TTC Operations for latest advice)

Covid-19 precautions for in-vehicle

- Both trainer and driver are required to wear appropriate face coverings and have access to hand sanitiser if the trainer debriefing is taking place indoors
- Inside of the vehicle to be cleaned before and after training by the driver
- Any symptoms of illness or Covid-19 symptoms to be reported immediately
- TTC Covid-19 policy and risk assessment available on request and subject to frequent updates



To book

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Developing safer driving behaviours to mitigate on and off road incidents

