















A Guide to Haulage & Courier Vehicle Types & Weights

Description		Axle Identifier	UK Maximum Gross Weight (tonnes)	Shape	
LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES		2 axles	3.5		
LORRIES	SMALL 2-AXLE LORRIES	2 axles	3.5 – 7.5		
		LARGE 2-AXLE LORRIES	2 axles	7.5 – 18	
	LARGE GOODS VEHICLES Vehicles over 3.5 tonnes gross require a LGV driver's Licence	MULTI-AXLE LORRIES	3 axles rigid	25 – 26*	
			3 axles artic	26	
			4 axles rigid	30 – 32*	
			4 axles artic	36 – 38*	
			Vehicles and draw-bar trailer 4 axles	30 – 36**	
			5 axles or more artic see note (a)	40	
			Vehicle and draw bar 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 ***				

*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 9500kg.

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

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

- (a) 5 axles or more artic and the five axles or more draw bar could alternatively have 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 40 foot in length
 - conforming to standards laid down by ISO (The International Standards organisation)
 - vehicle being used for international journey