

Course Objectives:

To enable course members to:

- Understand the requirements of the Risk Assessment
- Understand the legal requirements for towing trailers on/off the road either at work or privately
- Appreciate the main causes of accidents and what can be done to avoid them
- Gain knowledge of the different types of hitches in use and what contributes to an ideal towing combination
- Couple / un-couple a trailer safely and in line with the recommended DSA test method
- Carry out all necessary checks prior to taking the unit onto the public highway
- Drive with the trailer through:
 - A restricted entrance
 - round 90° turns
 - across the DSA test layout
 - stop the unit safely within a given distance

Who is the course designed for?

Those wishing to update their skills in trailer handling and/or satisfy H & S legislation regarding the Safe Use of Trailers at work.
 Anyone required to take the trailer test for towing on the road.
 Anyone needing to tow trailers off-road as part of their work.

NB: Trainees must hold a full driving license (not provisional) with B entitlement

Duration: 1 day

Instructor/Trainee Ratio: Max 1:4 for 1 day with 2 vehicles

Equipment & Facilities:

- A clear yard area, with no other vehicle movements – large enough to lay out the reversing exercise i.e. at least 5 times the length of the vehicle/trailer combination
- A suitable room for theory sessions
- Concrete area if possible for coupling/un-coupling and checking nose weight
- A trailer with a MAM (maximum authorised mass) of at least 1 Tonne (a box type or stock trailer is required for the test (see note) but a flatbed could be used for training with a stacked and secure load to encourage the use of external mirrors).

Basic Trailer Handling



- The trailer should be fully road legal, have easily adjustable jockey wheel, good tyres and lights and current plating information.
- Suitable material to load (500kgs approx if possible)
- Suitable towing vehicle to seat 4 people, ideally with low range to reduce clutch wear (2 vehicles and trailers – one flat bed and one livestock – helps maximise practice time)
- Cones or drums to mark the course (these should be plastic type material to reduce vehicle damage)
- Bottle jack, bathroom scales x 2 or nose weight indicator plus good flat wooden blocks
- Wheel chocks
- 20/25 litre drums for adjustable ballast (water)
- Vehicle and trailer handbooks or photocopies of ones which detail towing capacities/weight limits etc...