

The Key to Ratings & Masses

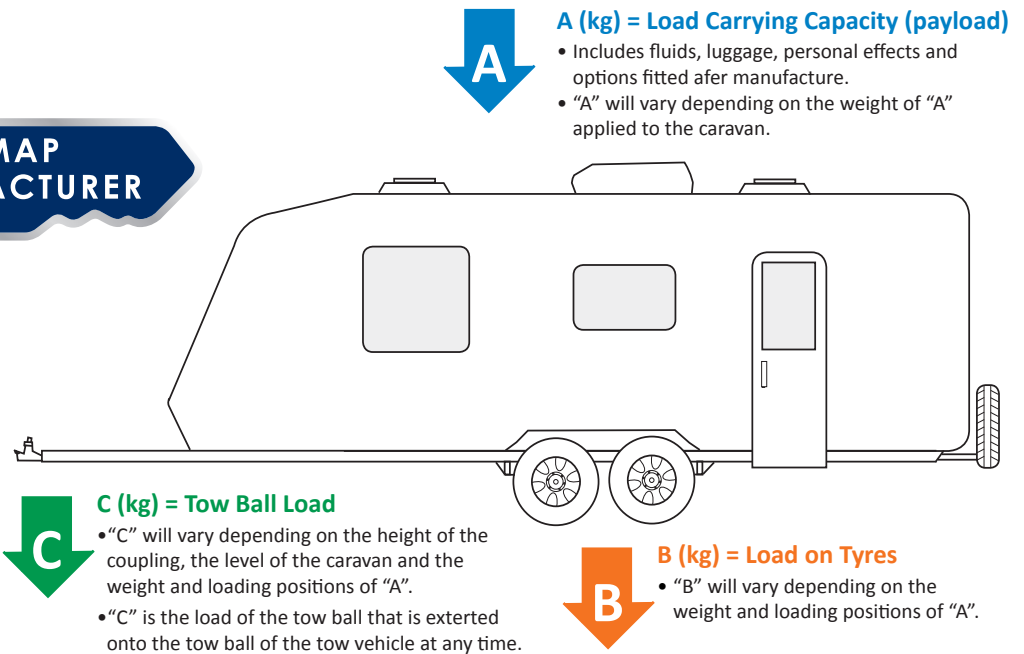
The key to safe and enjoyable caravanning is to match your van to the right tow vehicle and to load your van appropriately. Getting the ratings and masses right will make your tow setup safe and legal.

The relevant information can be found on the caravan's vehicle plate and in your tow vehicle's handbook.



$$\text{TARE (kg)} = B + C$$
$$\text{GTM rating (kg)} = A + B$$
$$\text{ATM rating (kg)} = A + B + C$$

- Vehicle plate GTM, ATM, load carrying capacity and maximum tow ball weights must not be exceeded.
- "C" will vary between tare and ATM depending on the design & loading of the caravan.



CARAVAN RATINGS & MASSES

Tare Mass (TARE) B + C – Rating specified by the caravan manufacturer for the total weight of the caravan (load on tyres plus tow ball load) with all options and fittings as supplied by the manufacturer, with empty water tanks, gas bottles, and no fluids not essential for operation on public roads, and without luggage or personal effects. This is also known as 'Dry Weight' when supplied by the manufacturer with no water, gas, fluids, etc.

Aggregate Trailer Mass (ATM) rating A + B + C – Rating specified by the caravan manufacturer for the total maximum permitted mass of the caravan (load on tyres plus tow ball load) when carrying its maximum payload, including fluids, luggage and personal effects.

Gross Trailer Mass (GTM) rating A + B – Rating specified by the caravan manufacturer for the total maximum permitted axle load of the trailer (excluding tow ball load) when carrying maximum payload including fluids, luggage and personal effects.

Load Carrying Capacity (Payload) A – Difference between TARE and ATM. It is the maximum load specified by the caravan manufacturer permitted in the caravan including fluids, luggage, personal effects and any after-market fittings/equipment. If fittings or equipment is added after manufacture, actual empty weight (TARE) will be more than the TARE specified on the vehicle plate, and the payload will be reduced accordingly.

Tow Ball Weight (Tow Ball Load at TARE) C – Actual load (or force) specified by the caravan manufacturer exerted on the towbar when the trailer is at TARE. When any fluids, luggage and personal effects or after-market fittings/equipment are added, the tow ball load will vary from tow ball at TARE specified on the vehicle plate.

Maximum Tow Ball Weight (Max Ball Loading) – Maximum load (or force) specified by the caravan manufacturer that can be exerted on the towbar at anytime. This load (or force) must not be exceeded when loading or towing the caravan.

TOW VEHICLE RATINGS

Towing Capacity – Maximum ATM that the vehicle can tow legally. The maximum for an unbraked caravan is much lower than for a braked caravan.

Tow Ball Weight (Tow Ball Loading) – Maximum load (or force) permitted on the tow ball of the vehicle, which must also not exceed the rated capacity of the towbar itself.

Gross Combination Mass (GCM) rating – The rating provided by the tow vehicle manufacturer. The maximum laden mass of a motor vehicle plus the maximum laden weight of an attached caravan is not permitted to exceed the GCM rating.

LOADING THE VAN

As a general rule, heavy items should be loaded low down and towards the middle, or axle line, of the van. Move items forward or back to adjust the **Tow Ball Weight C** unless otherwise specified by the caravan manufacturer.