

For a copy of our guide to public weighbridges in Gloucestershire  
please contact:

Gloucestershire County Council  
Trading Standards Service  
Hillfield House  
Denmark Road  
Gloucester  
GL1 3LD

Tel: 01452 426201

Fax: 01452 426274

Email: [tradstds@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:tradstds@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Or visit our website at:

[www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/glos](http://www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/glos)



We can arrange to weigh your vehicle. For details of this service  
please contact:

Tony Freeman  
Road Traffic Enforcement Officer  
Tel: 01452 426209

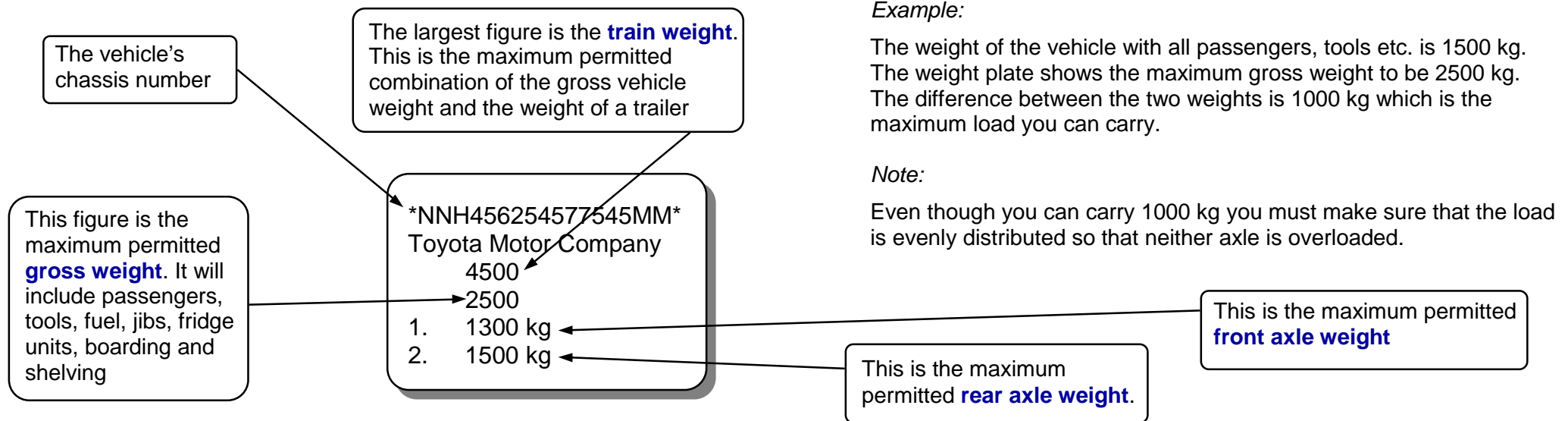
# Weight Limits



Trading Standards Service

# The Weight Plate

You can find this under the bonnet or inside the driver or passenger door of the vehicle. It may be a metal plate or a sticker.



You should have your vehicle weighed when empty to find the **tare weight** or **unladen weight**. When weighing make sure that you have a full fuel tank and that the driver and any passengers you normally carry stay in the vehicle. Also include any tools or equipment that you normally carry. Once you have established the tare weight you can deduct this figure from the maximum permitted gross weight and the figure left will be an indication of your **maximum payload**.

*Example:*

The weight of the vehicle with all passengers, tools etc. is 1500 kg. The weight plate shows the maximum gross weight to be 2500 kg. The difference between the two weights is 1000 kg which is the maximum load you can carry.

*Note:*

Even though you can carry 1000 kg you must make sure that the load is evenly distributed so that neither axle is overloaded.

## Overloading

Every vehicle, from a private car to an articulated lorry, has a maximum permitted weight. In the case of cars and small goods vehicles the maximum weight is specified by the manufacturer.

It is an offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 to use a vehicle in excess of its permitted weight. Both the driver of the vehicle and the owner or operator who permits its use on the road are liable.

Overloading can put excess stress on the component parts of vehicles including the engine, chassis, suspension, brakes and tyres. This can affect the handling of the vehicle making steering very light and the vehicle unstable when cornering.

The braking efficiency can also be affected, leading to increased stopping distances or, in extreme cases, brake failure. **Serious accidents can result.**

Last year, in England, there were 17,755 road accidents involving light goods vehicles (LGVs). 296 of these were fatal. In Gloucestershire alone 71 LGVs were involved in accidents, 2 were fatal.\*

It is for these reasons that the courts take overloading very seriously, imposing fines of up to £5000 per offence on both companies and drivers. Drivers may also be liable to 3 penalty points on their licence if the overloading is deemed to be dangerous.

\* Source: Accident Investigation & Prevention Team, Gloucestershire County Council Road Safety Unit