

Towing the club boats

This document is intended to provide guidance to members who tow the club boats, either with the Shogun or their own vehicles, and it is essential that you read and understand it before towing the boats to ensure that you are both driving within the law and are insured.



Driving Licence

The first thing to consider is what your driving licence allows you to tow:

Licences issued from 1 January 1997 – Category B

The law about towing trailers with cars changed on 16 December 2021.

If you passed your car driving test from 1 January 1997, you're now allowed to tow trailers up to 3,500kg MAM (but the trailer still has to be within the towing weight limit of the vehicle – see below).

DVLA will update your driving licence record to show that you're allowed to tow trailers. You'll get [category BE](#) added to your driving licence when you get a new photocard driving licence. You do not need to contact DVLA for this to happen. It will be done automatically.

If you passed your car driving test before 1 January 1997, you are not affected by the change.

MAM is the limit on [how much the vehicle can weigh](#) when it's loaded (see below for more details on this).

You have to pass the [car and trailer driving test](#) if you want to tow anything heavier.

Licences issued before 1 January 1997 – Categories B+E and C1+E

If you passed your car test before 1 January 1997, you're usually allowed to drive a vehicle and trailer combination up to 8250kg MAM (C1E). If you only have B+E you can drive a vehicle up to a MAM of 3500kg and tow a trailer up

to the towing limit of the vehicle (within specified dimensional limits – see later) [View your driving licence information](#) to check.

You're also allowed to drive a minibus with a trailer over 750kg MAM.

If you passed your car test before 1 January 1997 you will normally keep your existing entitlements to drive a vehicle with a trailer, with a combined weight of 8.25 tonnes until your licence runs out at age 70. On reaching the age of 70, drivers will retain their driving entitlement for category B and Category B+E (provided Category B+E was held prior to the expiry date of their driving licence (and see note below regarding licence renewals)). If you want to keep your C1E entitlements after age 70, you will need to pass the D4 Medical Test and pass the required standard eyesight test (with glasses used when driving, if applicable).

However, something that has apparently caught out many long-term licence holders has been where a replacement licence has been issued if the original licence was lost or destroyed. Your new licence will not include the B+E element (see below). Those who have altered their licence due to name or address changes should find that their original entitlements are transferred. If you have a new photo style licence that has to be renewed every 10 years always keep a copy before sending it off as the previous entitlements do not always carry through to the replacement licence and you may need to be able to prove you had them!



Old style licence

13.	9. Cat.	10. From	11. To	12. Codes
14.	B	01-07-80	21-04-32	
	BE	01-07-80	21-04-32	
	C1	01-07-80	21-04-32	
	C1E	01-07-80	21-04-32	107
	D1	01-07-80	21-04-32	101
	D1E	01-07-80	21-04-32	101,119
1. Surname 2. Other Names 3. Date and place of birth 4. Licence valid from 4a. Licence valid to 4c. Issuing Authority 5. Licence number 6. Category 12. Information codes		tkinp 115,71		

New style licence

As a driver you must not tow more than your licence permits you to and you must not overload your vehicle or trailer.

Insurance

The Shogun insurance covers all drivers 25 or older provided they have the appropriate driving licence. However, if you have had any accidents or convictions in the last 5 years these must be declared to our insurers as you will need to be a “named” driver on the policy before you can drive it.

The Shogun insurance (there's a copy of the insurance certificate in the glove box, together with the breakdown cover) covers both vehicle and trailer when

it is being towed against damage caused to third parties. However, if you are using your own vehicle you should check that your insurance covers you for towing. This is something that easily gets missed, so check your policy or call your underwriters now while you think about it (damage to the boat and trailer is covered by the boat insurance). You should also check that any breakdown policy you have covers recovery of a trailer.

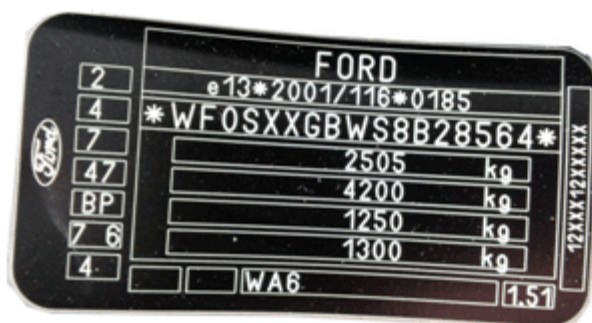
Please also be aware that the boat insurance requires that the trailer is immobilised with a wheel clamp when left unattended, unless placed in a locked secure building or compound.

Towing weight limits

Details of the towing capacity for your vehicle that are found in the owner's handbook, the manufacturer's website and on other websites should only be taken as a guide.

The actual, exact and only towing capacity figure that should be used for your vehicle is the one that is stamped on the Vehicle Identification Number Plate, VIN Plate (this is usually found in the engine compartment).

The VIN Plate



A - 2505kg
B - 4200kg
C - 1250kg
D - 1300kg

The VIN plate will display either 3 or 4 sets of weights, it is these weights that VOSA or the other vehicle authorities use to determine whether your vehicle is towing or being driven within the law.

- The top figure 'A' is the gross vehicle weight, the Maximum Allowable Mass (MAM) of the vehicle including occupants, fuel and payload.
- The second figure 'B' is the gross train weight, this is the combined maximum allowable mass of the vehicle and trailer.
- The third and fourth figures 'C' and 'D' are maximum axle loads front and rear respectively.

The manufacturer's recommended maximum towing capacity for your vehicle is the gross vehicle weight subtracted from gross train weight. (4200kg – 2505kg = 1695Kg)

The gross train weight is the weight of the fully-loaded car plus fully-loaded trailer and must not be exceeded.

If your VIN plate doesn't list a train weight, you should not use your vehicle for towing.



Above is the Shogun VIN plate as an example of what to look for.

The plated gross vehicle weight or MAM for the trailers can be found on the manufacturer's plate, which is usually found on the drawbar of the trailer, as shown below:



The table below shows the measured and plated weights of the club boats and trailers:

<u>Boat</u>	<u>TD1 orange)</u>	<u>TD2 (red & black)</u>
Total weight (approx.)	1265 kg	1480 kg
Plated MAM of trailer	1265 kg	1800 kg

Note: The weight for TD1 is for all 3 fuel cans under the console and a shot weight – if you take additional spare fuel cans you may exceed the plated weight.

To put this into context:

The Shogun has a kerb weight of 2125 kg and a gross vehicle weight of 2810 kg. The VIN plate specifies a maximum train weight of 6200 kg, giving a maximum trailer MAM of 3390 kg. However, the Mitsubishi website recommends that the weight to be towed should not exceed 85% of the “kerb weight” of the towing vehicle, where “kerb weight” is defined as the weight of the vehicle plus a full tank of fuel and 75 kg, which equates to 1806 kg for the Shogun (note, this is the actual weight of the boat and trailer, NOT the MAM), which is fine for the 1250 kg actual weight of TD2.

For comparison, a Ford Mondeo 2l estate has a recommended maximum braked towing weight of 1600-1800 kg (depending on model). A Vauxhall Zafira 1.4 has a recommended maximum braked towing weight of 1300 kg.

As the Shogun has a gross vehicle weight of 2810 kg anything above 690 kg would give a combined MAM is over the 3500 kg limit. **This means in practice that in order to tow either of the TSAC RIBs with the Shogun you must either have a pre-1997 licence or pass the additional test.**

Dimensions

The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 give the following limits for towing vehicles with a permissible gross weight of 3.5 tonnes or less:

Length of trailer must be less than 7m (excluding the trailer drawbar/A-frame.

The trailer **width** must be less than 2.55 metres.

Both our boats have an overall beam of 2.28m so when towing TSAC boats you do not need to worry about this.

Height is not limited by law.

Anything **overhanging** the trailer must be covered so as not to endanger anyone. The engine propeller is the main thing in our case so make sure the prop cover is in place before you set off.

Speed

Local speed limits permitting (such as in urban areas), **maximum** towing speed is 60mph on motorways and dual carriageways and 50mph single carriageways.

Lane restrictions

When towing, you are not permitted in the outside lane of motorways with 3 or more lanes **at any time** unless other lanes are blocked.

More Information

If you'd like to know more on towing and trailers, the National Trailer and Towing Association's "Guide to Safe & Legal Towing" which can be found on their website at www.ntta.co.uk/law/ is very informative as is <https://www.gov.uk/towing-with-car>

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