TOWING ON THE HIGHWAY- THE BASICS

ENVIRONMENTAL UK

Towable with a payload?


Towable with a payload?


## TOWING A BOWSER ON THE HIGHWAY

Above is an example of a 2000 litre highway towable bowser, which may be legally towed on the highway with a payload as opposed to a site towable bowser (shown right), which can only be towed on the highway empty.

The bowser in all cases, must have a backboard with lights / indicators and a registration plate matching the towing vehicle.

The Highway variant features a break away system which in the event it should become unhitched from the towing vehicle, the mechanism engages the brake on the bowser to slow it to a halt.

Be aware that 2000 litres of water $=2$ tonnes in weight, plus the weight of the bowser which you will be towing ( 600 Kg in this case).

TOWING VEHICLE.
You should ensure the vehicle you are using to tow the bowser is suitable for these weights. A simple way of checking is either to review the manufacturer's handbook, or find the unique VIN plate (often found under the bonnet). The max gross weight of the towing vehicle plus the maximum laden weight of the trailer (bowser), must not exceed the maximum gross train weight of the towing vehicle which is shown on the VIN plate.


In the example shown to the left, the vehicle has a gross weight of 1945 kg and the laden bowser has a weight of 2600 kg . $2600+$ $1945=4545$. Therefore the vehicle featured on the VIN plate with a gross train weight of 3745 kg would not be legal to tow this bowser.

## THE DRIVER

The driver must have a valid licence with = E entitlement either by taking a trailer test, holding a class 1 licence or inherited *grandfather rights on class 1 and 2 licences as either C1E (107 restriction) or CE102 (102 restriction).

Or must have a valid CPC card / valid tachograph card.
If in doubt on any of these licence clauses, check with the DVLA.
Grandfather rights are those licence rights which pre date the clauses introduced by DVLA.

