Caravan Council of Australia Check-List - *Used* Caravans

You are making a big investment. Take your time. If needed, have an experienced technical person assist in the evaluation. If in doubt about any Compliance issues, consult ***VSB-1***:

http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/vehicle_regulation/bulletin/vsb1/index.asp

Vitally Important!

(a) Confirm the ownership of the caravan

(b) Confirm the Ratings - GCM /Towing Capacity; Maximum Ball-loading - of the intended tow-vehicle

(c) Confirm the Ratings & Actual Masses of the caravan… see drawings below; double-check!

(d) Obtain a certified weigh-bridge certificate, stating both the Tare Mass and (empty) Ball-Loading

Part "A": What Do You Want in Your Caravan???

Requirements & Preferences for a Used Caravan:

What is your Budget: $ ……..

When do you need it: ……

Number of Sleeping Berths: …….

Required Load-carrying Capacity (kg): …… (LCC = ATM Rating – Tare Mass)

(Do you *really* need to carry this much equipment and water??? Remember, water is included in the "Load", and *not* the "Tare Mass".)

Tare Mass (kg): …… (When the caravan - including tanks - is *completely* empty)

ATM Rating (kg): ……..

Maximum Overall Dimensions (m): Length: …….. Width: …… Height: ……

Maximum Ball-loading (when the caravan is fully-loaded in a typical manner) (kg): ……..

Axles: Single or Tandem: ……..

Suspension: Solid Axle or Independent: ……

Water Tanks: Number: Capacities: ……

LPG Cylinders: Number: Capacities: Location: ……

Styling: ……

Layout Details: Beds; Table; Chairs/Benches; Kitchen; all appliances, storage facilities, and fitments:

……

Features: Shower; Toilet; Other: ……..

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Appliances: Stove; Refrigerator; Microwave; Hot-water system; TV/Audio; Air-conditioner; Other:

……

Protection: Fire extinguisher; Alarms - Smoke-detector; CO-detector; Burglar; GPS: ……..

Awning: Brand; material; size: …….

Colours: External; Internal (walls, ceiling & timber); Curtains; Upholstery: ……..

Is an Electronic Brake Controller Required: YES / NO

Are Extended Mirrors Required: YES / NO

Is a Weight-distribution System and/or other Towing Aids Required: YES / NO

Spare Wheel(s) & Tyre(s): Number: Location: ……..

Suitable Approved Jack - with legal jacking points - provided: YES / NO

Batteries: Number: Type: Size: Capacity: ……

Solar Panels & Controller: ……

Battery Charger: ……..

Other Specific Requirements: ……...

Other Preferences: ……

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Part "B": Is the Caravan Compliant & Legal???

Is a Trailer/VIN/Compliance Plate fitted: YES / NO

Does it appear to be the original Plate: YES / NO

Is the 17 character VIN stamped into the caravan structure: YES / NO

Does the vehicle plate show at least the following information:

- Manufacturer's or Importer's Name: YES / NO ……
- Trailer Model: YES / NO ……
- Vehicle Identification Number: YES / NO ……
- Date of Manufacture: YES / NO ……
- Aggregate Trailer Mass Rating (kg): YES / NO ……..
- The Certification Statement: YES / NO

"This trailer was manufactured to comply with the Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989" YES / NO

Is all of the information correct and complete, eg. wheels & tyres: YES / NO

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Is the entire registration plate less than 1300 mm above the ground: YES / NO

Is the Tare Mass stated on the caravan or Trailer Plate: YES / NO …… kg

Is the GTM Rating stated on the caravan or Trailer Plate: YES / NO ..…… kg

Is a valid original VIN-specific Weigh-bridge Certificate available: YES / NO

Certificate No: & Date: ……

Tare Mass: …… kg

Ball-loading at the Tare Mass condition: …… kg

Lighting: Check VSB-1 for the legal requirements

Are the prescribed number of lamps and reflectors fitted: YES / NO

Most caravans will have:

Rear Position (Side) Lamps (Tail Lamps): 2 YES / NO

Rear Stop Lamps (Brake Lamps): 2 YES / NO

Direction Indicator Lamps (Turn Signals): 2 YES / NO

Rear Registration Plate (Number Plate) Lamp: 1 or 2 YES / NO

End-Outline Marker Lamps: 2 front & 2 rear YES / NO

Side-Marker Lamps: 2 or 3 YES / NO

Front (White) Reflectors: 2 YES / NO

Rear (Red) Reflectors: 2 YES / NO

Side (Amber) Reflectors: 2 or 3 YES / NO

Trailer & Tow-vehicle Wiring: Correct: YES / NO

Connector	Pin No:	Circuit	Colour
7 Pin	1	Left turn-signal lamp	Yellow
	2	Reversing lamp	Black
	3	Earth return	White
	4	Right turn-signal lamp	Green
	5	Service brakes	Blue
	6	Stop lamp	Red
	7	Position, side-marker & E-O lamp	Brown
12 Pin	8	Batter charger - winch	Orange
	9	Auxiliaries / battery feed	Pink
	10	Earth return	White
	11	Fog lamp	Grey
	12	Spare	Violet

If there is a 230-volt AC electrical system, does it comply with AS 3000/3001 (as verified by an approved electrician): YES / NO

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Electrical Certificate Details: …….

……

Braking:

Is the GTM Rating over 2.0 tonne: YES / NO

Is the prescribed braking system fitted: YES / NO Number of Brakes: ……..

Type of braking system: Drum / Disc Electronic / Over-ride Hydraulic / Cable

If required, is an approved break-away system fitted: YES / NO

If required, can the condition of the caravan battery reasonably be expected to be observable from the driving position of a tow-vehicle: YES / NO

Coupling & A-Frame:

Is there a compliance certificate for ADR 62 / VSB-1: YES / NO

Note: The assessment *must* include the strength of the welding, and state the grade of steel used, along with the sectional dimensions of the A-Frame members.

Engineering Certificate Details: ……

……

Are Safety Chains correctly marked: e.g. 4177-25 or 4177-35 YES / NO ……..

Are the correct number fitted: YES / NO Are they of the correct size: YES / NO …….. mm

Is the Coupling of the correct rating and design, and Approved: YES / NO

50 mm Ball Coupling:

Does the coupling comply with AS 4177: YES / NO

If not, does it comply with ECE R55: YES / NO

If the coupling is a 50 mm ball, is it designed to comply with the ADR 61/01 or ADR 62/02 height requirements of the ball height of the tow vehicle (350-420 mm or 350-460 mm): YES / NO

Tow Vehicle: Height of centre of ball when the vehicle is fully-loaded: …….. mm

Caravan: Height of centre of coupling when the vehicle is fully-loaded: …….. mm

Load Rating on Coupling: …… kg

Ball Diameter on Coupling: …… mm Provide details if an *imperial* size: …… “

If it is *not* a 50 mm ball-coupling, is it Approved and suitable for the tow-vehicle: YES / NO

Do the wheel (mud) guards provide the prescribed protection: YES / NO

Are the wheels Approved and marked with all prescribed information: YES / NO

Diameter: ……. ”; Width: ..…… mm; Profile: ……..… ; Off-set: + / - ……..

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Are the tyres Approved and marked with the Speed & Load Ratings: YES / NO ……

Tyre Placard:

Does the Tyre Placard information (usually shown on the Trailer Plate) advise the:

- manufacturer's recommended tyre size: ……..
- tyre load rating: ……..
- speed rating: ……..
- cold inflation pressures: …….
- either the statement: YES / NO

  'The tyres fitted to this vehicle shall have a speed category not less than 'L' (120km/h)':

Are recommended tyre pressures advised for both the Tare Mass & Fully-loaded conditions: YES / NO

Dimensions:

Does the overall length not exceed 12.5 metres: YES / NO

Does the rear overhang not exceed the lesser of 3.7 m, or the front load space: YES / NO

Does the maximum width not exceed 2.5 metres: YES / NO

Does the height not exceed 4.3 metres: YES / NO

Does the ground clearance exceed the minimum permitted requirements: YES / NO

If required, is there an outward opening or sliding door: YES / NO

If so, is it located on the left-hand side or at the rear: YES / NO

LPG:

If there is an LPG installation, is there a valid certificate of compliance with AS 5601 (as verified by a licensed gas-fitter): YES / NO

Gas Certificate Details: ……..

……

Is an approved fire-extinguisher fitted: YES / NO

Is an approved smoke-detector fitted: YES / NO Recommended

Is an approved CO-detector fitted: YES / NO Recommended

Is an approved fire-blanket fitted: YES / NO Recommended

Is the vehicle free of unduly sharp edges or projections: YES / NO

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Part "B": Is the Caravan in Good Condition???

Gas Cylinder(s) & Regulator Approved: YES / NO ……..

Residual Leakage Detector Operating: YES / NO

Lighting OK: YES / NO Brakes OK: YES / NO Coupling/Chains OK: YES / NO

Tyres & Wheels OK: YES / NO As per Compliance Plate: YES / NO …….

Wheel Size & Rating: …… Tyre Size & Ratings: ……

Wheel Nuts Torque Correct: YES / NO …….. Nm ……..

Inspect wheels, tyres (treads & side-walls), axles, springs for any damage. YES / NO

Recommended Tyre Pressures: Unladen: …….. kPa Unladen: …….. kPa

Final Manufacturer/Dealer signed-off Check-list provided: YES / NO
Handbook provided: YES / NO
Sufficient and clear information provided in the Handbook: YES / NO
Manuals for all equipment & appliances provided: YES / NO
All safety notices provided: YES / NO
All notices and labels securely and neatly affixed: YES / NO

Visual external appearance: Free from defects… scratches, rust, discolouration, bulges, etc.: YES / NO

Thoroughly inspect for water leaks and subsequent rotting of timber. Open all compartment doors and check all surfaces for water stains.

Chassis: Free of damage, cracks and rust: YES / NO

Underside: Free from damage, timber rotting, or unprofessional wiring and tubing/hoses. YES / NO

Ease of opening/closing compartment doors: ……

Ease of opening/closing windows & hatches: ……

Paintwork & surface finish: Free from damage or imperfections. YES / NO

Any defects… scratches, rust, discolouration, bulges, etc.: YES / NO ……

Evenness of gaps around panels: ……

Visual internal appearance: ……..

Fitment of appliances and accessories: ……..

Evenness of gaps around panels & appliances: ……

Test *all* appliances and systems properly… on gas, 230 volt AC, and 12 volt DC. Don't rush!

Allow sufficient time to ensure everything works correctly.

Inspect wiring size (gauge) and type of connectors.

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Check dc voltage available at appliances.

Inspect *all* doors for correct and neat fitment, and operation of latches and locks.

Check all windows and hatches for sealing effectiveness.

Inspect *all* upholstery, fly-screens and soft surfaces for any damage.

Check the awning for correct and easy operation.

Fill the water tank(s) using a hose at full tap pressure. Check all lines and connections for leaks.

Check water pumps for correct operation.

Flush the toilet a few times. Is the cassette easy to remove and install?

Conduct a reasonable water-leakage test with a hose, to simulate a heavy rain-fall on the roof and windows, and inspect inside for any water leaks.

Connect the combination. Are the vehicles level? Are the safety-chains, jockey-wheel and coupling working properly? YES / NO

Check all lamps for correct operation. YES / NO

Check the brake break-away system for correct operation.

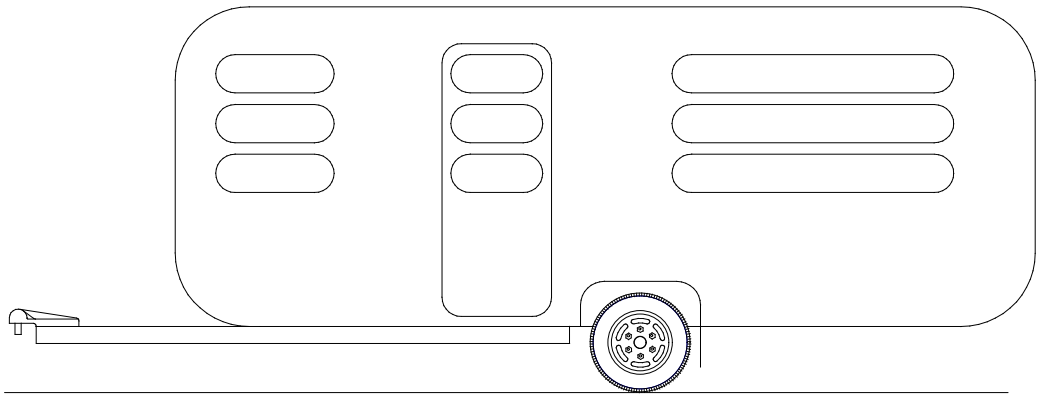
Is a battery-condition warning device required for your state/territory? YES / NO

Does the jack work correctly? YES / NO Are there prescribed jacking-points on each side? YES / NO

Ensure you have insurance for the new purchase. YES / NO

Test-drive the vehicle combination at reasonable speeds on various roads, to ensure handling and stability seem OK.

Ensure the brakes are working correctly.



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Tare Mass – GTM Rating – ATM Rating – Ball-loading

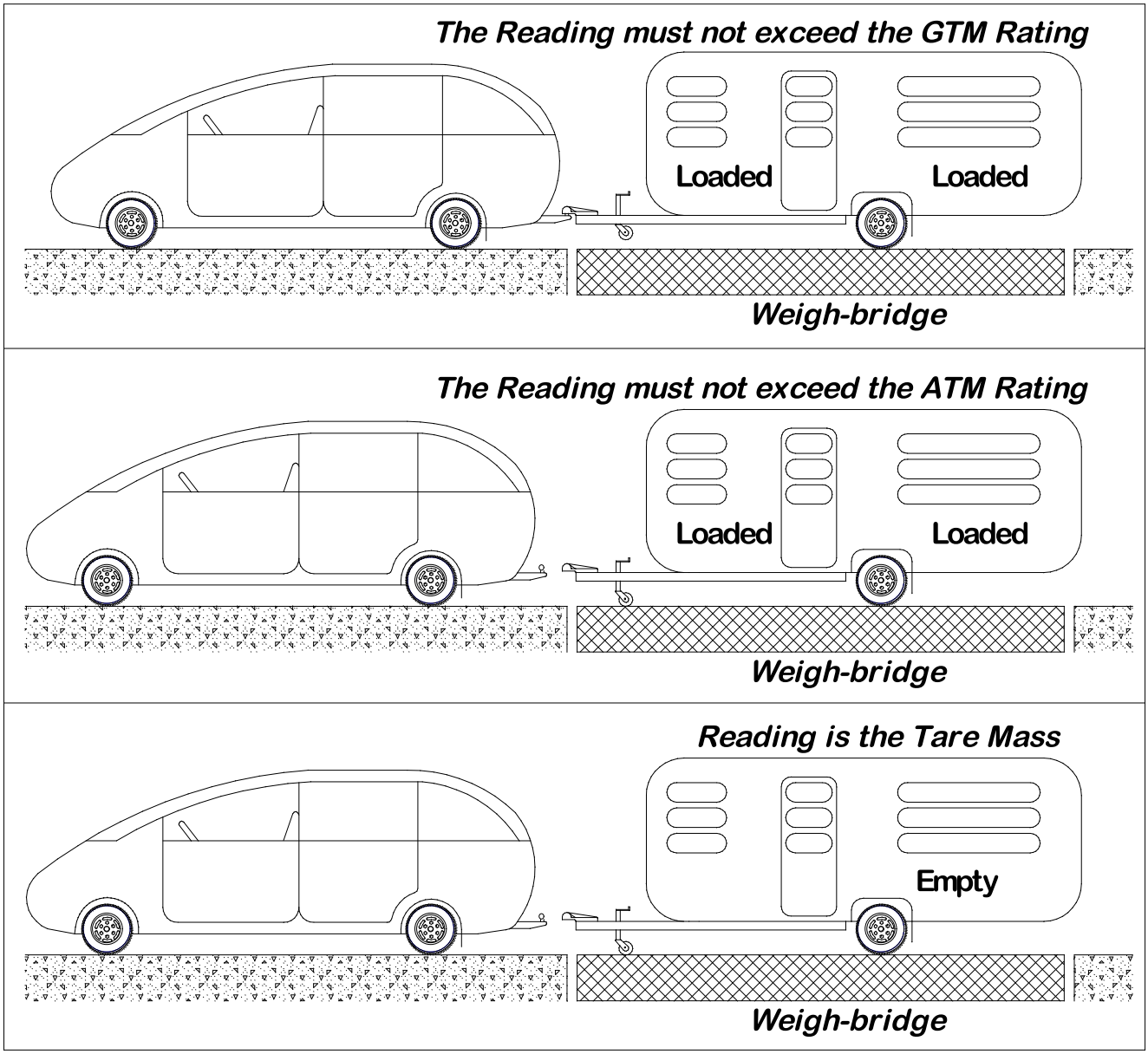
The GTM & ATM are *Ratings*… determined by the manufacturer

The Tare Mass and Ball-Loading are *Actual Masses*… that must be *measured*

The Tare Mass is the *actual measured mass* of the vehicle as it leaves the manufacturer.

The vehicle is fitted with everything that was stated on the *Purchase Contact*.

The vehicle is empty. The gas cylinder(s) and the water tanks(s) must be empty.



The legal Load-carrying Capacity = ATM Rating – Tare Mass

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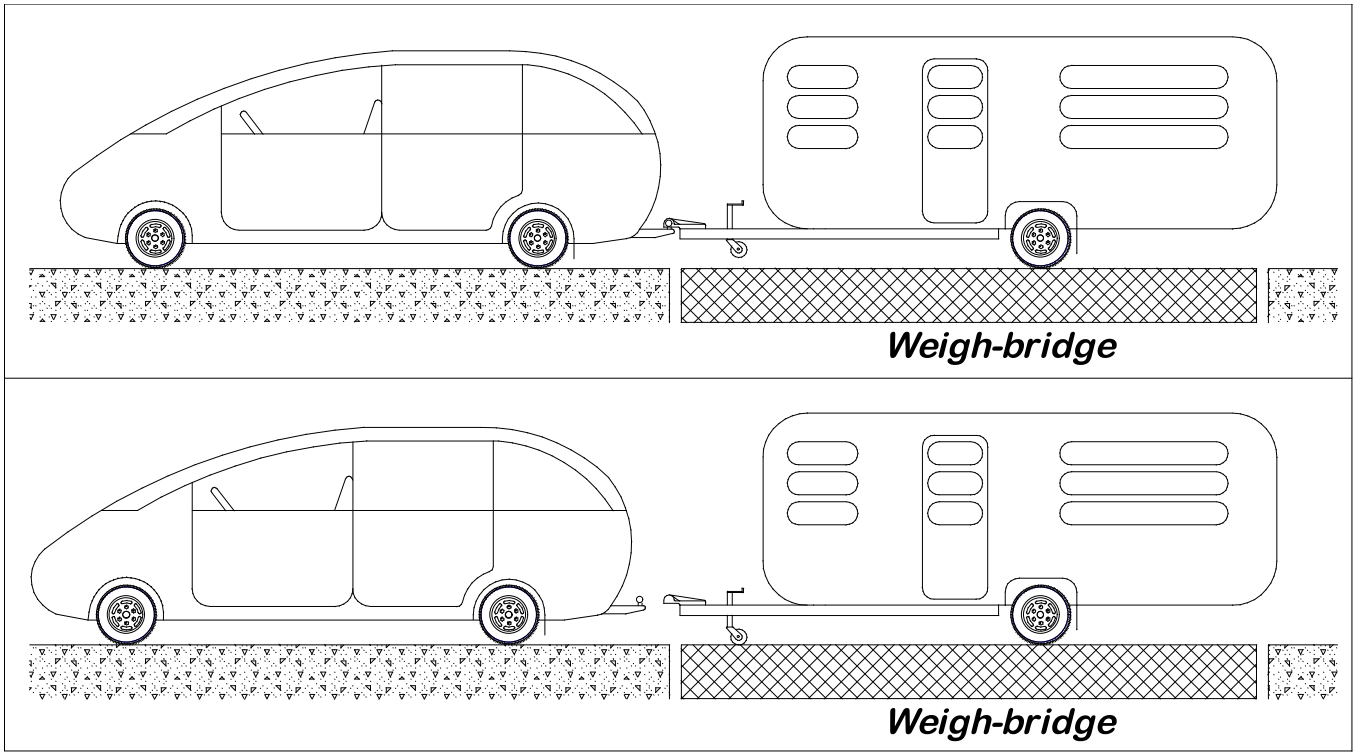

The Ball-loading is the *difference* between the two readings

ATM: Aggregate Trailer Mass (Rating)

GTM: Gross Trailer Mass (Rating)

The GTM Rating must not exceed the lowest of the "Axle-Group" Ratings.

The "Axle-Group" comprises the:

- **Wheels & Tyres**
- **Suspension Structure**
- **Springs**
- **Axles & Wheel-Bearings**

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