

Changes to payloads explained

What is my touring caravan's user payload?

The user payload of any caravan is the difference between the MTPLM and the MRO.

What are the MTPLM and the MRO?

The MTPLM is the Maximum Technically Permitted Laden Mass. This is the **maximum** weight that the caravan can be loaded to. The MTPLM can be found on a plate fixed to the caravan, usually near the door.

The MRO is the Mass in Running Order. This is the unladen weight of the caravan before loading any personal effects into the caravan.

Why are the payloads changing?

This is being done in advance of European type approval, which is planned for 2012. It will apply to all vehicles sold throughout Europe.

What are the changes?

European type approval regulations do not take into account some things that are currently included in the user payload (e.g. leisure batteries and water in the water heater). As a result the user payload for a typical 4 berth caravan, with European type approval, would be 50kg less than a similar UK specification caravan on sale today.

How will a UK caravan payload be different?

The UK caravan industry has decided to keep UK caravans **safe** and **useable** by maintaining the user payload levels we're accustomed to. A UK specification caravan will have broadly the same user payload allowance for 2011 as in 2010, but this may not apply to an imported European caravan (unless it's NCC approved). So a model that has European type approval but isn't NCC approved could have much less user payload.

How has this been done?

The method we have chosen will enable a UK caravan to qualify for European type approval AND keep a usable payload level.

To do this some items are accounted for differently, for example:

- the gas bottles are allocated to the MRO
- the leisure battery is taken care of in personal effects

Why is the quoted user payload for a 2011 model less than a similar 2010 model?

It may seem that the user payload for a 2011 model is less because some things are now not included in the user payload. It is a bit confusing because the payload breaks down differently. See the example below:

Typical 4 berth, 4.7 metre, Touring Caravan		
	2010	2011
	(kilograms)	
MRO	1137	1165
Gas bottle	16	(All included in the MRO)
Fresh water in tank	10	
Toilet flush water	2	
Personal effects allowance	117	137
Leisure battery	20	(included in personal effects allowance)
Optional equipment allowance	20	20
Total (MTPLM)	1322	1322
User Payload (MTPLM-MRO)	185	157

How will I know what my payload accounts for?

Your caravan user handbook will list all of the items included in the MRO and what the weight allowance is for them, it will also tell you how much has been allocated for personal effects and optional extras.

It's important to know this because; if for example you always empty your water tank then you will be able to carry extra items up to the weight allowed for the water.

Which models will this apply to?

It will apply to all models of touring caravan with NCC approval from June 2010 onwards.

Will this affect tow car matching?

No, because the MTPLM is used for tow car matching as before.