

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO BEFORE YOU LOAD: PAYLOAD AND THE GVM FOR LIGHT COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

QUICK FACTS

What is Kerb Weight?

The weight of a vehicle with a full tank of fuel, full amount of fluids, such as oil and coolant, and without any occupants or additional load is the Kerb Weight.



What is a GVM?

All commercial and 4-wheel drive vehicles are designed with a Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM), specified by the manufacturer. The GVM is the maximum amount a vehicle can weigh when fully loaded. Drivers must be aware that exceeding the GVM of the vehicle is illegal and compromises the safety of the vehicle.

A vehicle's GVM can be found on its compliance plate, in the owner's hand book, or on the side of the vehicle.

What is a payload?

If you take the weight of your empty vehicle (Kerb Weight) and subtract that amount from the GVM, you are left with what is called the Payload. This Payload is the maximum weight able to be carried by the vehicle including all occupants, and any luggage or equipment on board.



Are you exceeding your vehicle's GVM?

When registering a light commercial vehicle, the weight of the maximum number of occupants (assuming 68kg per person) must not exceed 50% of the payload. Examples below.

2-seat ute



LEGAL

50% of Payload = 375kg
Maximum weight of occupants (2x68kg) = 136kg
This meets the criteria for a light commercial vehicle

4-seat ute with service body



ILLEGAL

50% of Payload = 250kg
Maximum weight of occupants (4x68kg) = 272kg
This does not meet criteria for a light commercial vehicle

What are the risks of exceeding the GVM?



Increased running costs



Increased stopping distance



Increased rollover risk



Loss of demerit points



Increased wear and tear
which may void the warranty