



**Micah Newman**

Boat Officer

**Club Boat Towing Instructions**

**Salisbury Civil Service Sub-Aqua Club**

Telephone:

Email:

References:- [Boat Towing and the Law](#)

Club website address:

<http://www.salisburydiveclub.co.uk>

Date: 11th November 2017

## **Instructions for Preparing, the “C-Servant” for towing, other than for launching at slip.**



Prior to performing the tow operation, the tow vehicle and trailer should be checked, with a “walk round check”, to confirm that the towing vehicle, trailer and load, are safe and secure for the highway. Normal vehicle/trailer checks but special note to lights, tyre pressures (more load than normal).

### **Considerations for the Towing Vehicle**

- Towing vehicle should be type approved, and able to tow the load, within its legal limits. (See note 1<sup>1</sup>)
- Towing vehicle may need extra mirrors, if load is too wide! (See note 4)
- Have and fit a correct rear Number plate, to the trailer light board, for the tow vehicle.
- Check all weights and dimensions, and have a note in the towing vehicle of them, for the journey. (See note 2)
- The driver must have an appropriate in date licence. (See note 3)
- A trailer breakdown cover would be advantageous; although not a requirement.

### **Actions on the Boat and Trailer**

- Do a walk round check of the boat, and note it is in a good state for use, and will be safe to board with care.
- Engage the trailer handbrake.
- Remove cover ; starting at the stern end first , taking extra care of removal off of “A” frame fittings. Stow in bag.
- Fit and engage battery isolator switch inside consul.
- Check engine is in a clear and safe to tilt/lift.
- Tilt engine up until it reaches the lock up position.
- Lock the engine in the up position with the manual supports (lower back onto supports).

<sup>1</sup> Notes for this page can be found on Page 3-4

- Check engine is secure in the up position and remove all keys and store back in box.
- Place the high viz device (orange bag) over prop, and secure, make sure it will be ok at speed on road.
- Remove wheel clamp (use key to remove lock then the long allen key to unscrew clamp (allen key is kept in wheel clamp box, with boat).
- Replace lock in clamp, and store with allen key in its box.
- Remove hitch shroud lock, (remove black bung from side and insert key to remove pin)
- Remove pin carefully; open enough so that you can twist shroud through a quarter turn and lower the bottom half out of the tow hitch and remove.
- Replace pin and cap in shroud and store.
- If installed use key and remove barrel lock from tow hitch.
- Keep ready ; use to lock hitch to tow vehicle.



## Addressing the Towing Vehicle to Trailer

- Bring towing vehicle to trailer.
- Check the hitch is high enough for the tow vehicle.
- Guide the tow vehicle safely back into position to hitch on.
- When in position, carefully lower/guide the hitch onto the tow ball using the jockey wheel jack handle, making sure to hold the hitch lock in the open position when connecting on.
- When on; check hitch is in closed/locked position.
- Install barrel lock back into hitch, and check all is secure.
- Store key with driver.
- Attach safety cable to tow vehicle from trailer (to the designed point or onto towbar stem).
- Lift, stow and secure, jockey wheel into transit position.
- Disengage the trailer handbrake.
- Check boat is winched and loaded securely to trailer.
- Check painter rope (bow rope) is securely fixed to external bow cleat of boat and tied forward/down onto trailer king post.
- Install the extra bow ratchet strap from trailer up to bow cleat.
- Install the 2 stern ratchet straps; one from each tow eye on transom onto the rear attachment points on same side as boat on trailer.
- Install one large strap from trailer over boat (not under) to the other side of trailer in seat area; making sure not to over stress the tubes, seat, etc.
- Remove/stow securely all items in boat.
- NB; they will encounter drag etc at speeds of around twice what they do at sea.

### **If you're not sure, store it in the car!**

- Install the trailer lights on the poles in the trailer with the "R"clips.
- Lower the "Elephant trunk" to allow water to drain on journey.
- Make sure no items are able to escape out of trunk on journey.

- Open bung in back of transom drain as needed and replace.
- Run out the light cable to the tow vehicle, along the inside of the boat, and down the bow onto the trailer; adjust and secure any excess cable into the boat.
- Do a “walk round” check of the combined unit.
- Check all light functions.
- Make sure the tow vehicle/ trailer has its load distributed correctly.
- Suggested that the trailer wheels/trailer/load are checked at periodic points along the journey for safety/security and that they have not developed faults/come loose.

## Warnings and Cautions



- Please note the trailer is not allowed to be parked on a highway when not attached to the towing vehicle.
- Towing Speed limits:-

Built-up areas mph(km/h)	Single carriageways mph (km/h)	Dual carriageways mph (km/h)	Motorways mph (km/h)
30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	60 (96)

## Notes for Page 1

### Note 1: Towing weight and width limits

Most cars have a maximum weight they can tow. It's usually listed in the handbook or specification sheet. Alternatively the vehicle's 'gross train weight' may be listed on the vehicle identification number (VIN) plate on the car. This is normally under the bonnet or inside the driver's door. 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.**

### Note 2: Width and length

The maximum trailer width for any towing vehicle is 2.55 metres. The maximum length for a trailer towed by a vehicle weighing up to 3,500kg is 7 metres. This length does not include the A-frame.

The rules are different if you're [using a larger vehicle to tow a car](#), eg a motorhome towing a car.

### Note 3: What you can tow

The rules on what you can tow are different depending on when you passed your driving test.

### Licences issued from 1 January 1997

If you passed your car driving test on or after 1 January 1997 you can:

- drive a car or van up to 3,500kg maximum authorised mass (MAM) towing a trailer of up to 750kg MAM
- tow a trailer over 750kg MAM as long as the combined MAM of the trailer and towing vehicle is no more than 3,500kg

MAM is the limit on [how much the vehicle can weigh](#) when it's loaded.

## Licences issued before 1 January 1997

If you passed your car test before 1 January 1997 you're usually allowed to drive a vehicle and trailer combination up to 8,250kg MAM.

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

### Note 4:Towing mirrors

You must have an adequate view of the road behind you. Fit suitable towing mirrors if your trailer or caravan is wider than the rear of your car.

**You can be fined up to £1,000 and get 3 penalty points for towing without proper towing mirrors. (Oct 2017)**

## Club Boat Specifications and Data

A guide to the club boat.

Estimated boat weight as 420kg

-----engine as 170kg

-----fuel as 110kg

-----trailer as 425kg

-----total of -----1125kg

plus extras so maybe around 1200+kg (a frame, anchor, etc).

this could do with checking at some point.

max legal trailer width is 2.55m, ours is less than 2.3m.

boat over all is 2.6m wide.

the boat is the load , so can overhang the trailer by up to 305mm (each side without special notice/markings).

for ref the boat is 5.5m long.

the overall height of the boat on trailer could do with checking but I estimate it to be less than the 3m max (greater requires more things).

when checked this can be added to the guidance.