

A drop side flatbed vehicle is commonly used in the UK GI industry to move equipment to and from, as well as around site. It is important that those driving these vehicles are aware of their responsibilities regarding both the safe load security and carry capacity. The maximum weight each vehicle can legally carry can be found on the plate inside the passenger door (Photo 1)

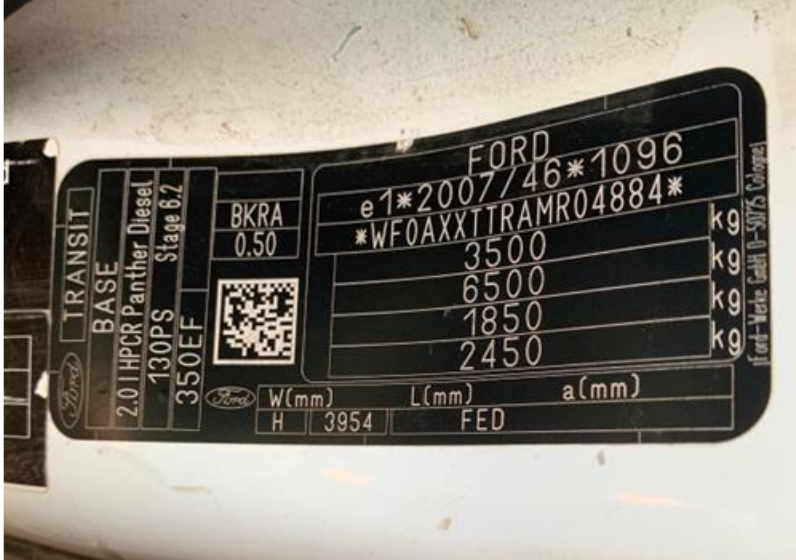


Photo 1 – vehicle capacity

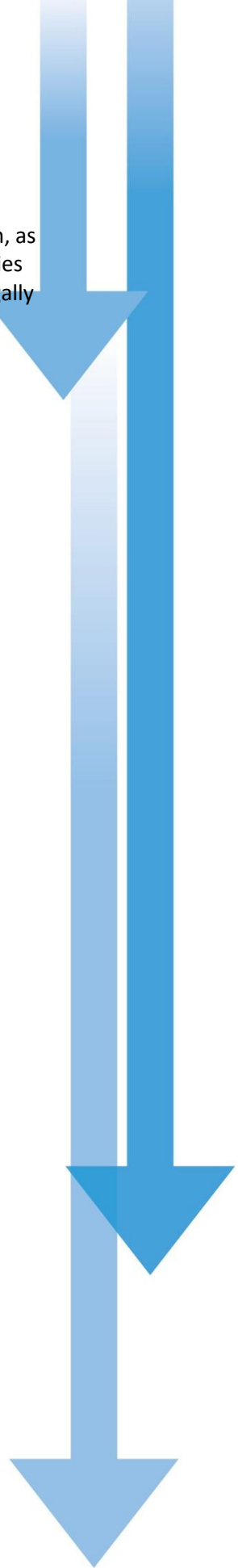
The manufacturer of your equipment should be able to provide the weights of individual pieces of tooling and you are able to purchase and/or mobile scales can be used to weigh pallets & stillages (Photo 2)



Photo 1 – stillage scales

However, there is often the temptation to overload vehicles either to reduce the number of journeys, or through lack of understanding. Being caught in the possession of an overloaded vehicle can result in a fixed penalty notice for the driver and/or points on the driver's license.

Tightly packing the load into the bed of the vehicle or having the entirety of the load below the level of the side & rear panels is not sufficient.



### What happens if the load is not secure?

If the police officer or DVSA examiner finds an insecure load, they will use the [categorisation of vehicle defects](#) to decide what action to take.

Depending on the circumstances, driving with an insecure load can be classed as careless or dangerous driving. It could result in a custodial sentence, particularly in the most serious cases where someone is killed or injured. This applies to:

- the driver, consignors, the vehicle operator, company directors or partners in the business

Further guidance can be found [here](#)



#### DO:

- Provide your drivers with ratchet straps and a cargo net
- Ensure your drivers are trained in the use of ratchet straps and a cargo nets
- Use tie-down points in the tray of the vehicle
- Ensure your drivers are aware of the maximum payload of their vehicle
- Ensure your drivers are aware of their legal responsibility

#### DON'T:

- Expect your drivers to overload their vehicles
- Leave any item in the tray of a vehicle unsecured
- Attached ratchet straps to the underside of the tray and tighten over the side and rear panels

