

Weight Restrictions

Derbyshire trading standards service carries out checks to detect heavy goods vehicles illegally using weight-restricted roads and bridges across the county.

Many of the County's roads and several of its bridges have a weight restriction placed on them for either environmental or structural reasons.

Environmental restrictions are put in place to keep heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) away from rural areas, villages, residential estates and other roads which are considered unsuitable or dangerous for them to use.

Structural restrictions are put in place to reduce 'wear and tear' on roads and bridges vulnerable to damage – examples are Swarkestone Causeway and the Bailey bridge at Walton-on-Trent.

HGVs with a maximum gross weight above the restriction limit are prohibited from travelling along those roads.

However, there are certain exemptions which include:-

- vehicles making deliveries or collections at premises within the restriction;
- vehicles working on or near the roads in question;
- emergency service and military vehicles;
- buses, coaches and other 'public service vehicles'

Most restrictions in Derbyshire exclude vehicles over 7.5 tonnes but there are some restrictions of 3 tonnes, 3.5 tonnes and 18 tonnes.

All restrictions are based on the maximum gross weight of the vehicle; this is the maximum permitted weight of the vehicle when fully loaded.

Because the limits apply to the maximum permitted weight of vehicles, empty HGVs or those with part-loads are still subject to the prohibitions and should not use restricted roads.

What we do:

- carry out enforcement checks at weight restrictions, sometimes with the police present;
- issue written 'first-time' warnings to operators and/or drivers found breaking restrictions, in line with our Compliance Policy (http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/business/trading_standards/About_us/compliance/default.asp);

Sfy27 05/17

- report companies and/or drivers found committing a second offence after a warning – this may result in them being taken to Court;
- work with the Council's Economy, Transport & Communities Department, Police, VOSA and DVLA to make sure restrictions are clearly signed and enforceable;
- encourage local residents to report details of vehicles suspected of illegally using restricted roads using the form provided below;
- where possible, we contact operators of vehicles reported breaking restrictions to advise them of the restriction and encourage future compliance;
- we notify the Traffic Commissioner of persistent offenders and any enforcement action we take (the Commissioner uses this information in connection with issuing operator licences).

What we cannot do:

- stop vehicles;
- investigate an incident reported by a member of the public unless the vehicle registration number and any other details are provided in writing; this can be done by letter, email or the monitoring form below;
- investigate incidents involving foreign-registered vehicles;
- take formal action (e.g. caution or prosecution) only on the basis of a vehicle being seen within a restriction

If you wish to report details of a vehicle suspected of illegally using a restricted road, please use the attached form and once completed you can hand it in to library staff or post it to the address below. You can also complete the form electronically by visiting

http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/business/trading_standards/weight_restrictions/weight_restriction_reporting/default.asp

Where can I get further help?

For further details or clarification contact Derbyshire Trading Standards at:

Chatsworth Hall
Chesterfield Road
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 3FW

Telephone:

Businesses:

Call Derbyshire 01629 533190

Consumers:

Citizens Advice consumer helpline 03454 040506

Website: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards

We want everyone to be able to understand us. On request, we will arrange:

- Language interpreters, including for sign language
- Translation of written materials into other languages
- Materials in large print, on tape or in Braille.