

Mass Management Accreditation

Mass Management Accreditation encourages heavy vehicle operators to take more responsibility for loading their trucks correctly and ensuring that their trucks are not overloaded.

It helps you to manage your business more efficiently, partly because you will have clear procedures for ensuring that your trucks are not overloaded and partly because there will be reduced risk of penalties arising from mass offences. It should also lead to greater road safety. Your methods of complying are up to you, but they must be reliable and verifiable.

The benefits to operators can include:

- improvements in productivity and efficiency
- correct loading of vehicles the first time, with consequent savings
- increased vehicle life and lower maintenance costs
- reduced rejection of vehicles by customers because of overloading
- improved driver morale
- better relationships with enforcement agencies
- reduced impact of enforcement.

Benefits to the community include better and more consistent compliance with road safety standards.

If you are an accredited operator, you must know what your trucks weigh when they are loaded to ensure that they do not exceed the relevant mass limits. You need to keep a record of the loaded weight for each trip so that you can prove the trucks were within the relevant mass limits. It is up to you to decide how you are going to prove your vehicles' weight when they are loaded. You could use a weighbridge, use on-board scales, estimate the weight from the volume of the load, or a combination of methods.

The important thing is that you write down the method you use and explain how it works. This will be your Mass Management System. To stay accredited you need to have documents that prove your method works and your trucks are not overloaded – this means keeping your records of vehicle weights. You must also be able to prove that you always follow your written procedures.

Performance standards have been developed to ensure that everyone in the scheme has achieved the same standard of compliance. Your Mass Management System must comply with these standards. Accredited operators are audited every so often by independent auditors to make sure they are continuing to meet the standards required by the scheme. If your audit is successful, your accreditation will be renewed. Alternatively, you may be asked to improve your system in some way before your accreditation is renewed. It is important to remember that even if you are an accredited operator you are still subject to the law and can be audited or inspected at any time in order to make sure that you are conforming to the performance standards. As an Accredited operator you should undergo fewer and quicker road checks. Your vehicles' accreditation stickers will identify your status to inspectors.

Remember . . . accreditation does not put you above the law.