

## Requirements to Be a Public Weighbridge Operator

To operate a public weighbridge, you need a certificate from the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures. You will be tested on:

- Operating the weighbridge
- Completing weighbridge tickets and documents
- Understanding basic terms and duties
- Recognizing potential scams
- Ensuring accuracy
- Performing simple math

## Before Applying for the Test

Make sure you've received the right training and completed the application form. You'll be certified for the specific weighbridge you're tested on. If it changes, you may need to retake the test.

## The Law

Under the Weights and Measures Act 1985, operators must:

- Weigh vehicles when asked
- Weigh vehicles fairly
- Provide a written weight statement
- Record the weight It's illegal to double-weigh for trade or commit fraud.

## Common Terms

- **Balance:** Weighbridge shows zero when empty
- **Gross Weight:** Vehicle and load's total weight
- **Tare Weight:** Vehicle's weight without load
- **Net Weight:** Load weight (gross weight minus tare weight)
- **Double-Weighing:** Weighing in two stages (illegal for trade)
- **Axle Weighings:** Weighing each axle to find load
- **Permitted GVW:** Legal weight limit for vehicles

## Common Problems

- Check the balance and cleanliness regularly
- Ensure the weighbridge is unaffected by dirt, water, or rain
- Make sure the vehicle is fully on the plate

## How to Weigh Accurately

- Weigh vehicles without passengers or drivers
- Ensure the driver isn't hiding parts of the load to make it appear lighter
- Verify the vehicle's registration number
- Ensure the vehicle is correctly positioned on the weighbridge

## **Weighbridge Tickets**

- Provide a written weight statement
- Record weights accurately
- Never leave blank spaces
- If the printer fails, write down the information manually

## **Record Keeping**

- Keep records for at least 2 years, including time, date, vehicle registration, weight, and load type
- Report anything unusual to Trading Standards

## **Road Traffic Act 1988 – Overloading Best Practices**

You don't need to be an expert on vehicle limits, but you should know the basics. If a vehicle is overloaded, inform the driver and mark the ticket as "Vehicle Overloaded — Driver Informed." You can't stop the vehicle from leaving.