

# Demystifying GVWR

“Gross Vehicle Weight Rating” (GVWR) is the value specified by the manufacturer as the TOTAL maximum loaded weight of a single vehicle when the ENTIRE vehicle is weighed including but not limited to: chassis, body, cargo, fuel & passengers.

The GCVWR of a combination (articulated vehicle) commonly referred to as the “gross combination vehicle weight rating” (or GCVWR) is the GVWR of the power unit plus the GVWR of the towed unit or units. In the absence of a value specified for the towed unit or units by the manufacturer, the GVWR of a combination (articulated) vehicle is the GVWR of the power unit plus the total weight of the towed unit including the loads on them.

Sample of GVWR only (not GCWR) for a Fuso Medium Duty FE140 Diesel Work Truck.

14,050 lbs. is the Manufacturer’s Gross Vehicle Weight Rating found on or near the driver’s door jamb.  
5,735 lbs is the approximate weight of the vehicle shipped from the factory (chassis only, no body or fuel).  
8,315 lbs. are left for payload, body up-fit, passenger and fuel after subtracting 5,735 lbs from 14,050 lbs.

Therefore, the above vehicle, when shipped from the factory **is capable of having a total in any combination of about 4 tons of body (dry box, flat bed, tank, utility bed etc.), passengers, cargo and fuel added to the chassis** and still be legal when going over a scale. As long as the OVERALL weight of the complete vehicle including chassis, body, fuel, passengers and cargo loaded does not exceed 14,050 lbs the vehicle conforms to the manufacturers GVWR.

There are considerations other than GVWR, such as weight displacement and positioning that are to be considered when loading a vehicle as well but they are separate from GVWR.

Does this make this a 4 ton vehicle? Hardly. It makes it a truck that when completely upfitted/outfitted with a body, fuel, any passengers and loaded with cargo can’t exceed 14,050 lbs AND when shipped from the factory weighs approximately 5,735 lbs and is capable of handling up to an additional 8,315 lbs.

The above example of GVWR including weight of chassis plus body, fuel, passengers and cargo applies in general to all trucks.

This explanation written for the sole purpose of demystifying GVWR and is in no way intended to be relied upon as anything but a GUIDE.

Please check with your Local, State or applicable Federal authorities’ for further clarification or definition.

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