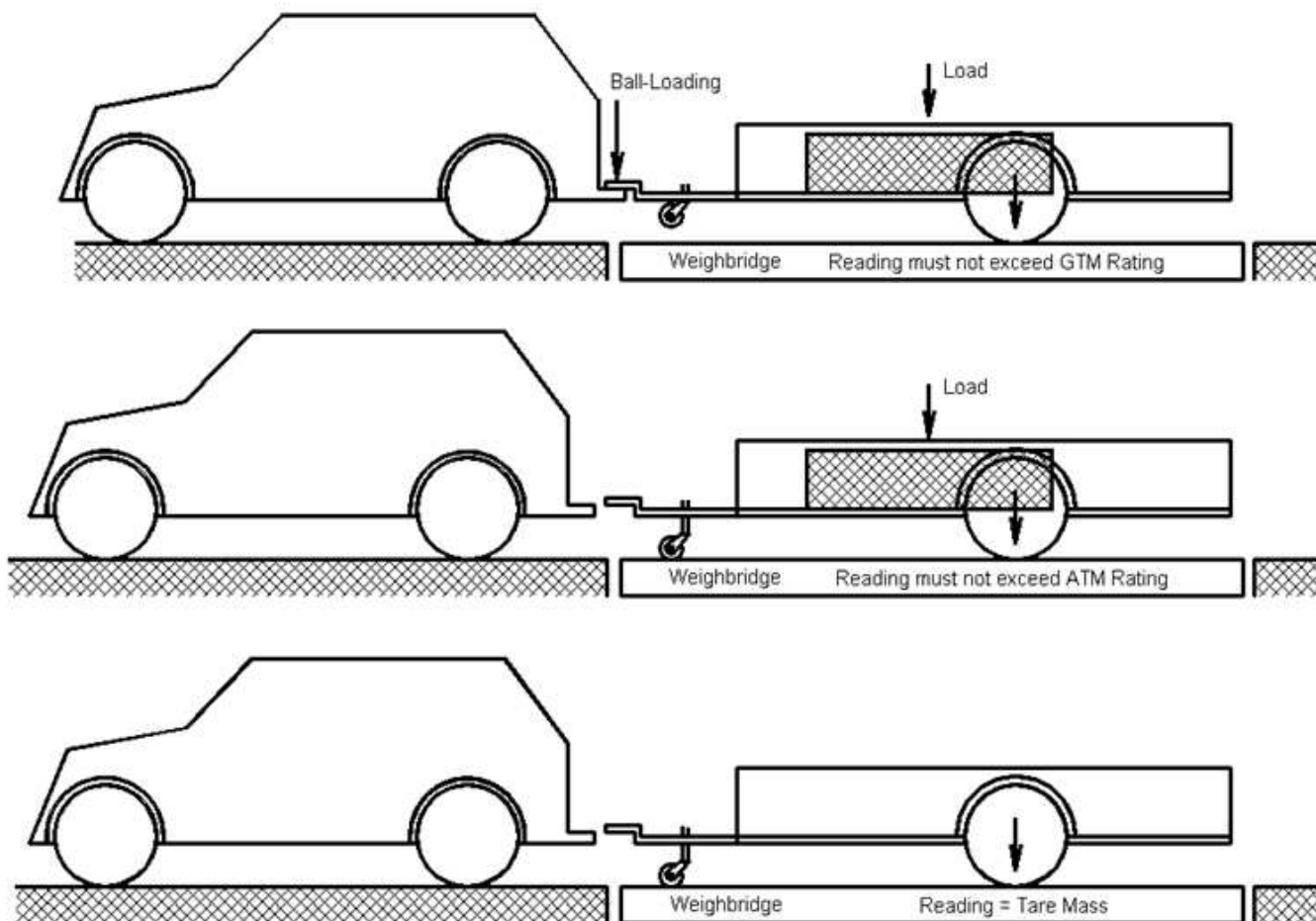


CARAVAN & CAMPER TRAILER RATINGS AND MASSES



Note: The 2 “Loads” shown are *not* the same... they are just representative of any load on the trailer/caravan.

There are still misunderstandings regarding Ratings & Masses for Caravans and Camper-trailers.

The **GTM** (gross trailer mass) and **ATM** (aggregate trailer mass) are ratings supplied by the caravan or camper-trailer manufacturer.

ATM Rating: The total permitted mass of the laden caravan when carrying the maximum load recommended by the manufacturer. This includes the mass imposed on the tow-vehicle.

GTM Rating: The total permitted mass of the laden caravan transmitted to the ground by the caravan tyres, when carrying the maximum load recommended by the manufacturer, when coupled to a tow-vehicle. This rating must not exceed the axle-group (wheels/tyres/suspension/axle) rating stated by the chassis manufacturer.

Tare Mass: The actual mass of the caravan with all OEM equipment fitted, with empty water tanks and empty LPG cylinders, but without any luggage or personal effects. Tare Mass includes any water remaining in a water heater after the required testing. RVMAA manufacturers are required to weigh each RV they make, before it leaves the factory, and have the Tare Mass stamped on the vehicle.

Ball-loading: The ball-loading is the actual load (or force), in kg, that is exerted onto the tow-bar of the tow-vehicle at any time. It is an accepted Australian RV industry “standard” that the ball-loading should always be 8 -15% of the caravan mass.

RVMAA manufacturers are required to measure the ball-loading when they determine the Tare Mass, and provide this figure with the vehicle (to ensure that sales personnel can provide the actual figure to prospective customers).

After the vehicle is sold, it is the responsibility of the driver to always ensure that they maintain a safe ball-loading, and load their vehicle so that heavy items are positioned near the axle(s), and not at the extreme ends of the vehicle.

*** It is the responsibility of the driver to always ensure that they do not ever exceed any of these Ratings when they have the caravan or camper-trailer partly or fully loaded.

*** This information has been supplied by the Recreational Vehicle Manufacturers Association of Australia (<http://www.rvmaa.com.au>)