



Becoming an Approved Centre

Being part of a professional driver
development scheme to keep Britain's
roads safer for everyone

What is the Safe Towing Scheme?

With the removal of a requirement for a DVSA B+E test in November 2021 a new voluntary trailer training accreditation scheme has been developed in partnership with the driver training and trailer industries to provide motorists with the skills, knowledge and competencies to tow safely.

Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) and the Department for Transport (DfT) have worked with the trailer training industry by forming the National Council for Accredited Trailer Training (NCATT) to oversee the scheme and set good towing practice.

The DVSA has provided official recognition of three new trailer training accreditation schemes which will, in turn, accredit training centres and trainers and provide quality assurance and certification. The Safe Towing Scheme is one such scheme.

The scheme has been created by and will be delivered in partnership by the National Trailer and Towing Association (NTTA), the main body in the UK representing the light towing industry and Diamond Advanced Motorists, an internationally respected provider of advanced driver and rider training and assessment, and a DVSA accredited driver testing body.

The Safe Towing Scheme has been developed to provide an accreditation scheme for individual B+E trainers and training organisations wishing to deliver accredited training, and in turn to provide a recognised training and assessment route for drivers wishing to tow.

Overall, our combined aim is to improve towing safety standards through professional training and assessment.



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The Safe Towing Scheme Syllabus and Learning Resources



The Safe Towing Scheme uniquely delivers a range of learning and assessment resources to support both trainers and their candidates, deliverable via a blend of engaging e-learning and practical training.

Whilst the Safe Towing Scheme training syllabus follows the core DVSA B+E training syllabus <https://hyperlink-to-document.com> we've additionally developed a series of learning modules to support practical training, as well as an online introductory course to help drivers develop their baseline knowledge of towing before they even have their first training session.

There are even theory quizzes to help candidates test their knowledge too and mini assessments, relevant to each module of training, which Approved Trainers to carry out with candidates at their own discretion.

Approved Training Centres will automatically be provided with the modular content, suggested lesson plans and other supportive resources.

End Point Assessments

We have also developed optional end point practical and theory assessments based on the previous DVSA B+E test, but with some improvements drawn from our partner Diamond Advanced Motorist's experience of providing advanced driver and rider testing across vehicle and licence categories, as well across the globe, for over 20 years.

Those centres who are successful in gaining additional Approved Assessment Centre status will be able to deliver the practical assessments to their clients, and any other candidates seeking a final assessment and certification for trailer training. The Safe Towing Scheme will provide all candidates taking the practical assessment with a theory test too.

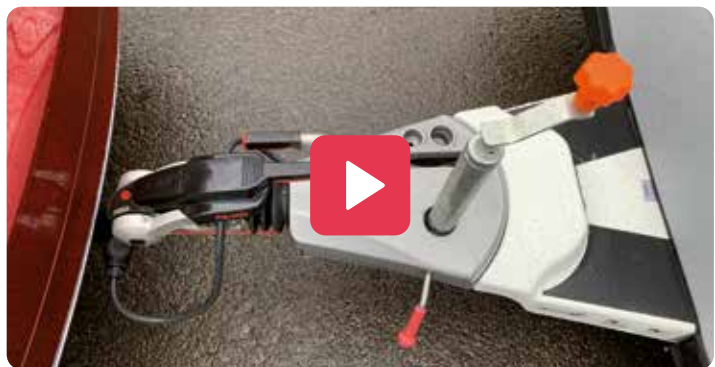
On successful completion of both a practical and theory test candidates will be provided with the Safe Towing Scheme Advanced Towing Certificate (dual accredited by Diamond and NTTA) testifying to the skills and knowledge they have acquired and demonstrated whilst training under the scheme.

Our insurance partners will also offer an additional discount for those with the Advanced Certificate.

Approved Assessment Centres will retain all assessment income after the candidate's certification fees have been paid (which also includes their theory test fee) and can set their own fee for the final assessment, though we recommend a fee around the same level as the previous DVSA test fee.

Want to see a walkthrough of the entire training programme

[Click here](#)



The syllabus will cover core areas of towing with additional specialist pathways for recreational (boat, caravan, etc), animal transport, plant and equipment. We are currently working with major associations and organisations in these areas to seek their endorsement for the scheme and the promotion of the training programme and approved centres to their large memberships and customer bases.

Why choose the Safe Towing Scheme?



Trainer training, recognition and support

As well as having helped develop the new DVSA B+E syllabus, the Safe Towing Scheme has additionally developed a Train the Trainer programme to help individual B+E trainers develop their professional knowledge and gain official recognition for such, as well as a modular B+E training programme for drivers and accompanying training resources for both trainers and trainees.

Apart from those trainers who possess an ADI licence (or other recognised driver trainer qualifications/licencing) many B+E trainers previously lacked official accreditation as trainers. The Safe Towing Scheme seeks to address this and offers a recognised Train the Trainer route and certification.



A recognised assessment route

With a final assessment resulting in an Advanced Towing Certificate, dual accredited by Diamond Advanced Motorists (an internationally recognised advanced driver training and testing quality marque) and the NTTA, candidates benefit from certification from recognised driver testing and trailer safety brands, trainers benefit from the opportunity to deliver recognised assessments themselves and develop fee income from delivering assessments.



Endorsed and supported

The Safe Towing Scheme is accredited by the National Council for Accredited Trailer Training and endorsed by the Driving and Vehicle Standards Agency and Department for Transport.

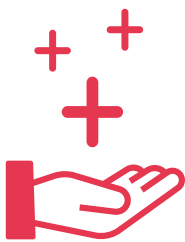
We are also currently seeking further endorsement and promotion of the scheme from other relevant bodies in the fields of leisure towing, equine and animal transport etc and road safety.

Why choose the Safe Towing Scheme?



Benefits to trainees

- FREE online Introduction to Towing course and theory quiz to test their knowledge
- Government endorsed training route
- Internationally recognised Advanced Towing Certificate on completion of final assessment
- Insurance discounts



Benefits to trainers/training organisations

Trainers - for more benefits of the Safe Towing Scheme read about becoming an Approved Centre.



Becoming an Approved Centre

There are two options available:



Approved Training Centre

Your trainers and centre will be accredited to provide the Safe Towing Scheme training programme and become a recognised centre



Approved Training and Assessment Centre

In addition to the Approved Training Centre, your centre will be approved to offer end point, certified assessments

Approved Training Centre

Under this option your training organisation will be accredited to deliver the full Safe Towing Scheme training programme and will become a recognised as a Safe Towing Scheme Approved Training Centre. All trainers successfully completing the Train the Trainer course will also be entered onto the Safe Towing Scheme Register of Trainers.



This scheme is designed for learning. When pulling a combination that could be the weight of a Category C1 and up to the length of an articulated lorry, who wouldn't want to make sure they were trained?

Howard Redwood – *Head of Road Safety, Driving Instructors Association*

Approved Centre's will also be able to access all the training and modular assessment resources we have developed and have the exclusive ability to offer their candidates a free Introduction to Safe Towing online course and theory test (to help them prepare for practical training and develop their towing safety knowledge generally,) as well as a range of other benefits, including the following:

- Full initial training and certification of individual trainers (delivered via a short online train the trainer course and theory test)
- All trainers successfully completing the Train the Trainer course entered onto register of Safe Towing Scheme Approved Trainers
- Regular refresher training and CPD
- Access to a trainer helpdesk
- Access to all training and assessment materials (training presentations, sample lesson plans, mini assessments) to use with candidates
- Unique access for your clients to FREE introductory online course
- Marketing of approved training centres (listing/profile on the Safe Towing Scheme website and promotion to Safe Towing Scheme partners)
- Provision of Safe Towing Scheme branding and other marketing materials for a training centre's own promotional activity
- Insurance discounts for your clients on completing training
- Annual remote audit and feedback session
- Access to discounted professional indemnity and public liability insurance (£25 million of cover) for individual trainers

Approved Training Centre

Fees

Approved Training Centres will pay one annually recurring fee which covers all trainers in your organisation, and all the above benefits.

Candidates will also be charged a small registration fee, this can be incorporated in any fees the Approved Centre decides to charge for their training provision.

A one-off application fee of £100 will be charged to all centres.

Size	Annual Centre Fee*	Candidate Registration Fee
Single trainer	£150 <small>£50 charge for each additional trainer added to your centre</small>	£25
5-10 trainers	£400	£25
More than 10 trainers	£750	£25

* Centre fee discounts for DIA/NTTA members eligible for discount

Trainer and Centre Criteria

Trainers

All Approved Trainers needs to be able to evidence at least one of the following:

- A recognised professional driver training qualification/licencing (such as a current ADI licence) or have equivalent registration to train in Categories B, C or D and can evidence previous experience of training B+E or other trailer combinations
- Holds category BE, C1E, CE, D1E, or DE licensing and can evidence their previous training experience in these fields
- Holds a training qualification, such as PTTLs (L3 or L4) or the Award in Education and Training (AET) L3 or L4, or higher and can evidence of previous experience of training B+E or other trailer combinations
- Evidence can be supplied by way of trainer CVs, official certificates of qualifications etc

Approved Training Centre

Trainers must also complete a 'Train the Trainer' course and pass a theory test, resulting in trainer certification and their entry to the Safe Towing Scheme Approved Trainer Register.

Training Centre

The training centre must be able to confirm that the site used for off road training is either owned by them, or if leased/rented, is operated by them with an agreement with the owner of the land

The Centre must have:

An off-road site:

- Have a training surface in a good state of repair
- Be of a size suitable to allow for the size of the combination being used
- Be set up so that the training area cannot come into conflict with safe areas intended for pedestrians
- Have on site, or have access to facilities nearby, for food and drink and for comfort breaks, or have a system of prior arrangement to accommodate this with the clients in order to mitigate risk of distraction and fatigue.

The training vehicle and combination:

- A suitable and realistic combination of towing vehicle and trailer, where the towing vehicle is capable of towing the MAM of the trailer. The towing vehicle must be within licence Cat B and have a Maximum Authorised Mass not exceeding 3500kgs. The trailer would be expected to be able to convey a minimum load of 600 kgs
- A suitable skill-set to be able to train with third-party equipment, either using their combination or a mixture of your towing vehicle and their trailer/caravan, possible on the third-party site.

Insurance:

The organisation must be able to provide evidence that the towing vehicle is insured with the appropriate business training insurance, suitably covering the training and that appropriate insurance for the trailer in transit is sought if not part of the motor insurance. Evidence of the appropriate Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurances must be supplied and that the land being used has permission for purpose.

Approved Assessment Centre

In addition to becoming an approved training centre you can also additionally apply to become an Approved Assessment Centre.

This offers a variety of benefits to you and your customers including:

- Full initial training and certification as B+E Assessors (online train the trainer course and theory test)
- All assessors entered onto Safe Towing Scheme Assessor Register
- Regular refresher training
- Helpdesk
- An online theory test for all candidates
- Access to all assessment materials
- Marketing of your approved assessment centre status and listing/profile on Safe Towing Scheme website
- Branding and other marketing materials for your centre's own promotional activity
- Additional income from every assessment conducted (other than candidate certificate fees payable to the Safe Towing Scheme, Approved Assessment Centres receive the balance of the test fee – unlike the old DVSA test!)
- The ability to offer your clients a formal end point assessment resulting in the Safe Towing Scheme Advanced Towing Certificate, additionally accredited by an internationally recognised advanced driver testing body
- Ability to conduct practical assessments for your own clients, as well as for other training centres who do not have assessment centre status but wish to offer their clients a formal assessment option
- Further insurance discounts for clients successfully completing a final assessment
- Annual remote audit and feedback

Criteria

Provided your centre has met all of the Approved Training Centre criteria above, all that is required additionally to become an assessment centre is for centres to nominate assessors (these can be existing trainers) to undertake a short online training course and theory test.

Those successfully completing training will become certified Safe Towing Scheme Assessors and be entered on the register of assessors.

You can apply to become an Approved Assessment Centre at the same time as becoming an Approved Assessor.

Approved Assessment Centre

Fees

Approved Assessment Centres will pay one annually recurring fee which covers all assessors in your organisation, and all of the above benefits.

Candidates will also be charged a small certification fee for the assessments, this fee includes the online theory test fee. Certificate fees can be incorporated in any overall fees the Approved Centre decides to charge for the final assessment element.

The Safe Towing Scheme recommends an overall assessment fee of £115 (in line with the previous DVSA fee) but Approved Assessment Centres are free to charge whatever they feel appropriate.

Size	Suggested Overall Test Fee (charged by Approved Assessment)	Candidate Certificate and Theory Test Fee (payable to Safe Towing Scheme)	Annual Assessment Centre Fee *
< 10 Assessors	£115	£45	£400
> 10 Assessors	£115	£45	£800

*Centre fee discounts for *DIA/NTTA members eligible for discount

Approval Process



- Centres will complete an application form detailing how they meet the criteria for Approved Status and indicating which approvals they seek (Approved Training Centre or Approved Training and Assessment Centre).
- Centre provides evidence of trainer and centre suitability.
- If all the criteria is met, trainers at each centre will be invited to complete the Train the Trainer course and theory test (an online course which can be completed in a couple of hours).
- Those applying for Approved Assessment Centre status can complete the Assessor Training at the same time, or complete when they wish to commence offering assessments.
- Please note Approved Assessment Centre status will not be granted and formal assessment cannot be offered (nor will candidates be able to access theory tests or be issued with certificates) until your nominated assessors have successfully completed training
- Once all trainers and assessors have successfully completed training, centre approval will be granted
- Training and assessment resources will be made available to centres
- Centres will be monitored on an ongoing basis via candidate satisfaction surveys, theory test performance data and an annual online audit. All these channels will offer the approved centre a valuable opportunity to receive useful feedback and to give feedback to the scheme.

Application forms and further can found on the Safe Towing Scheme website or by emailing us. You can also email any questions or queries you may have about the scheme to the same address.

Website: www.safetowingscheme.co.uk

Email: info@safetowingscheme.co.uk



The Safe Towing Scheme is operated in partnership by Diamond Advanced Motorists and the National Trailer and Towing Association



Supported by the National Associations Strategic Partnership



This scheme is additionally endorsed by the Driving and Vehicle Standards Agency and the Department for Transport