

COULD YOU BE FINED FOR TOWING YOUR HORSE ?

We recently went through the process of looking for a new car, which would be used whenever we towed our horses and horse float. We found out about some rules that we had not heard of before which could effect many Pony Clubbers and others involved with horses (or towing caravans boats, etc).

As always, whatever you are towing must not exceed the manufacturer's towing weight (and that includes all the gear you may have in your float and car, as well as the trailer itself plus horses).

However, you also **must NOT EXCEED THE TOW-BALL DOWN PRESSURE**, which is also specified by the manufacturers. We had never heard of this before, and only about three of the manufacturer's brochures that we looked at listed this.

We knew that if the trailer was over 2 tonne (as most horse floats are), you must have electric brakes AND a breakaway system. However what we were not aware of was that these break-away systems are battery operated and hence need to be charged. The laws say that the **CAR MUST HAVE AN INDICATOR ON THEIR DASH** to alert the driver if this charging system fails. You can be fined for not having this fitted !

Failure to ensure any of these can also put your insurance at risk.

You can phone the RTA technical help-line on 1300-137-302, or download the information from the RTA website. You need to go to <http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au> , click on [Registration](#), click on [Vehicle Standards](#), click on [Information Sheets](#), then in the main screen click on [Vehicle Standards Information Sheets](#).

The specific doc on towing regulations is at:

<http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/registration/downloads/vsi/vsi22.pdf>

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