

Safety Chain Ratings and Markings

Caravan Industry Association of Australia's Compliance Team during Show Compliance Reviews have identified a number of Towable Recreational Vehicles with Safety Chains which do not comply with the relevant Australian Design Rules (ADRs) and Standards.

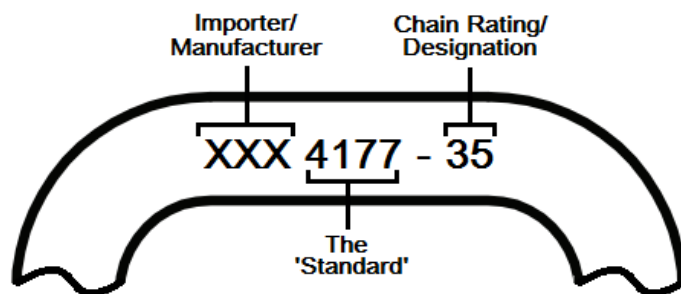
Trailers (including but not limited to Caravans, Camper Trailers etc.) up to 2.5 tonnes ATM must have at least 1 safety chain complying with Australian Standard AS 4177.4. Trailers over 2.5 tonnes and up to 3.5 tonnes ATM must have 2 safety chains rated to 3500kg and complying with Australian Standard AS 4177.4. This Australian Standard sets out specific requirements for safety chains such as (but not limited to):

- Minimum strength requirements and ratings
- Chain link dimensions and limitations
- Specific markings to be on the chain links

According to the Standard, the chain needs to be permanently and legibly marked with the following information:

- The importer or manufacturers unique identification;
- The digits 4177 (i.e. the Standard number); and
- The first two digits of the chain rating/ designation (e.g. where the chain is rated to 2500kg—the digits '25' would be present).

Below is an example of how these markings may appear on an actual rated chain link:



These markings must be repeated at intervals not exceeding 4 links along the length of chain. The Standards also requires these markings to be of a certain height (in mm) depending on the size (designation) of the chain. Below are a couple of examples of chains which do not comply with the Standard.

