



The Importance of Calibrating Weighbridges and Scales

According to the RVMAP Code of Practice (*Section 3.1*), RVMAP Accredited Businesses are required to weigh every Recreational Vehicle produced or supplied to market on completion to determine the ACTUAL Tare mass of the product. For Trailers, Tare mass is defined in Vehicle Standards Bulletin 1 (VSB1) as the:

- total mass of the vehicle when not carrying any load, but when ready for service
- unoccupied (if relevant)
- with all fluid reservoirs (if fitted) filled to nominal capacity except for fuel, which shall be 10 litres only,
- with all standard equipment and any options fitted.
- This includes any mass imposed onto the drawing vehicle when the combination vehicle is resting on a horizontal supporting plane.
- Fluid reservoirs do not include water tanks and waste water tanks fitted to caravans or gas bottle contents.

Many businesses and manufacturers opt to use in-house wheel load scales or weighbridges to weigh their Recreational Vehicles upon completion prior to dispatching the product to a dealer or customer. Whilst this is a convenient and useful investment, **it is important to remember that these scales are precision instruments, and as such, require regular servicing and calibration in order to remain reliable and accurate.** Frequency of calibration and servicing will vary greatly depending on a number of factors which may include:

- Frequency of use – how many times a day or week are the scales used?
- Duration of use – how long do vehicles spend sitting on the scales? Are vehicles left sitting on the scales while other work is being completed?
- Exposure to Movement or Vibration – are your scales a fixed installation or portable?
- Environmental Factors – are the scales exposed to the elements?
- Quality Systems (e.g. ISO 9001) – if your business works to a quality management system it may outline specific requirements for instrument calibration and as such these specifications must be followed.

Further to this, regularly serviced wheel load scales or weighbridges are far less likely to suffer breakdowns, faults or incur weighing errors during normal operation. Please note that during routine RVMAP Compliance Reviews the RVMAP Technical Team may request evidence to prove that in-house scales (if applicable) are regularly serviced and calibrated. If the calibration is out of date or has lapsed, you will be required to provide follow up evidence to prove this has been addressed.

Working collaboratively with State Associations on matters which affect the Caravan and Camping Industry