

TOW VEHICLE ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

ITEM	CRITERIA	STANDARD- LEGAL	Y/N
Ratings & Masses	Towing Capacity	Legal - "d" must exceed "1"	
Ratings & Masses	Tow Ball Down load	Legal - "e" must exceed "5"	

IF EITHER ANSWER TO THESE TWO ITEMS IS NO, STOP...
AS THE VEHICLE WOULD NOT BE SUITABLE.

ITEM	CRITERIA	STANDARD S=SUGGESTED	Y/N	?/10
GVM	In excess of ATM	S - GVM at least 1.3 times ATM		
Restrictions	Any conditions	Required factory upgrades?		
Axle	Rear Solid or Independent	Seek recommendations		
Suspension	Air-bag; Booster	Required / Recommended / Prohibited		
WDH	Weight-distribution	Required / Recommended / Prohibited		
Towing Aids	Aids Anti-sway, etc.	Required / Recommended / Prohibited		
Engine Power	Safely Sufficient	S - kW / GCM (tonne) more than 25		
Engine Torque	Safely Sufficient	S - Nm / GCM (tonne) more than 65		
Fuel	Range, availability	Choice: Petrol or Diesel		
Fuel Economy	High as possible	Compare City & Highway Figures		
Driving Range	Fuel tank capacity	Fuel availability & travel distance		
Transmission	Personal Choice	Choice: Manual or Automatic		
2WD / 4WD / AWD	On-road, off-road	Paved; Mild / Moderate / Extreme Dirt		
Ground Clearance	On-road, off-road	Paved; Mild / Moderate / Extreme Dirt		
Under-side Angles	On-road, off-road	OK for Mild / Moderate / Extreme Dirt		
Wheelbase	On-road, off-road	Paved; Mild / Moderate / Extreme Dirt		
Wheels	As per 'van?	Same diameter / width / off-set - studs		
Tyres	On-road, off-road	Traction / Noise / Tyre life		
Tow-Bar overhang	Short as possible	S - Less than 0.3 times Wheelbase		
Coupling & Height	Must be legal	Confirm compliance with ADR 62		
Warranty	Long as possible	Kilometres / Years limits; Conditions		
Servicing Costs	Costs Low as possible	Service intervals / Cost of parts		
Air-Conditioning	Personal Choice	Comfort level desired		
Other Options	Highly desirable	ABS / ESC / Traction control		
'Van Dealer Advice	Technical Issues	(Non-commercial) recommendations		
Re-sale Value	High as possible	Check with used-vehicle dealer ads		
Make / Model	Personal Choice	Preferences		
Safety Rating	Crash Test Results	Ratings as high as possible		
Reputation	From other 'vanners	Reliability / Durability / Service / Parts		
Price	Personal Choice	Budget constraints		
Test Drive	Are you happy with it?	Do you feel comfortable and confident?		
Total		Score: 1 = Low – 10 = High		

NOTE: The four suggested – GVM / Engine Power / Engine Torque / Tow-bar overhang – safety or comfort factors are just that... suggestions or recommendations. It may not be possible to find a tow vehicle that meets these figures, but it would be best to select a tow vehicle that comes close to meeting them.

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