

FACT SHEET

RECREATIONAL TRAILERS AND RECREATIONAL CARGO TRAILERS

PURPOSE

This fact sheet outlines information related to recreational trailers and recreational cargo trailers and applicable registration fees. ACT 138, signed into law on October 24, 2018, and effective October 24, 2019, changed how recreational trailers are titled and registered. The ACT amended the recreational trailer definition and added a recreational cargo trailer definition.

DEFINITION OF RECREATIONAL TRAILERS AND RECREATIONAL CARGO TRAILERS

Recreational Trailer (RECT)- A trailer designed or adapted to provide temporary living quarters for noncommercial recreational, camping or travel use.

Recreational Cargo Trailer (RCCT)- A trailer designed or adapted for the purposes of transporting animals or vehicles for noncommercial recreational use, such as a horse trailer, watercraft trailer or all-terrain trailer.

COMBINATION WEIGHTS

Act 138 excluded the requirement to register in combination, for vehicles consisting of a motor vehicle towing a recreational trailer or recreational cargo trailer, registered as such, as long as the combination weight does not exceed the sum of the manufacturer's rated axle capacities or the gross combination weight rating, whichever is less.

An applicant who falsely certifies that a trailer is a recreational trailer or recreational cargo trailer on an application for a trailer registration is subject to the penalty under 18 Pa.C.S. §4904(b) (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

FEES

For a complete listing of motor vehicle fees, refer to [Form MV-70S, "Bureau of Motor Vehicles Schedule of Fees."](#)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1. My trailer was titled with the body type of RECT before the ACT 138 change, but my trailer no longer fits that definition. Do I have to change my trailer's body type to RCCT if it meets the Recreational Cargo Trailer definition?

A1. No, the law does not require customers to make this change to a titled vehicle prior to October 24, 2019; however, if customers wish to change their trailer's body type, they can complete [Form MV-41, "Application for Correction of Vehicle Record or Verification of Vehicle Identification Number,"](#) and submit it to PennDOT, along with your original certificate of title and a title fee. Upon receipt, a corrected certificate of title will be issued to the customer, reflecting the body type of RCCT. This change only needs to occur if the trailer's body type needs updated from RECT to RCCT.



Q2. How low can I have my registered weight of my truck that pulls my RECT or RCCT?

A2. The registered weight of a vehicle cannot be less than the unladen weight of the vehicle, taking into consideration the weight of cargo and passengers. Additionally, the weight of a combination of vehicles cannot exceed the sum of the manufacturer's rated axle capacity or the gross combination weight rating, whichever is less. The required class of driver's license to operate a vehicle is determined by the manufacturers designated Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR), not the registered weight of a vehicle or combination of vehicles.

Q3. My RECT or RCCT has a weight rating over 10,000 lbs. and the combination weight rating of my vehicles is over 26,000 lbs. Can I operate it with a Class C driver's license?

A3. No, you cannot operate this combination of vehicles on a Class C driver's license because the weight rating on this combination is greater than 26001 lbs. You must obtain a Class A license which will permit you to lawfully operate your vehicles.

Q4. What is the difference between my vehicle's weight rating and registered weight?

A4. Vehicle weight rating is identified by the manufacturer and the registered weight is the weight the customer wishes to register their vehicle. The registered weight should be based on the intended use of the vehicle.

Q6. Is there a fee to change my trailer's body type?

A6. Yes, you must submit your certificate of title, an [MV-41, "Application for Correction of Vehicle of Record or Verification of Vehicle Identification Number,"](#) and a title fee. Upon receipt of the application, the certificate of title and applicable fees, a corrected certificate of title will be issued to you reflecting the body type of your recreational trailer or recreational cargo trailer.

Q7. I only pull a trailer under 10,000 lbs. or my recreational trailer. How do I remove the registered combination weight from my towing vehicle?

A7. You need to submit a completed [MV-41, "Application for Correction of Vehicle of Record or Verification of Vehicle Identification Number,"](#) and identify the desired weight in Section D.

Q8. My trailer has living quarters, but also hauls animals or vehicles for noncommercial recreational use. Do I need to register that trailer as a RECT or RCCT?

A8. A trailer designed to haul animals or vehicles, regardless if it includes living quarters, would be titled/registered as a RCCT since when the trailer is used on the roadways, it's primary purpose is to haul the animals/vehicles.