



CONTAINER WEIGHT DECLARATION

A Container Weight Declaration (CWD) is a written declaration stating the weight of a container and its contents. A CWD is required whenever a freight container – loaded or empty - is transported by road using a heavy vehicle.

There is no CWD requirement when transporting modified containers – such as those adapted to become sheds, offices etc.

Although there is no prescribed CWD form, a CWD must contain the following information:

- total weight of the container including its contents
- the container number and/or any other details necessary to identify the container
- name and residential address OR business name and address of the responsible entity (see below for more information

about responsible entity) for the freight container

- date of declaration.
- A CWD may be in electronic or paper form. It is the responsible entity who must ensure that drivers keep a copy of a valid CWD in the vehicle at all times they are transporting a vehicle loaded with a freight container.

A responsible entity means:

- the person who, in Australia, consigned the container for road transport using a heavy vehicle; or
 - if there is no such person within Australia—the person in Australia who arranged for the consignor the container’s road transport using a heavy vehicle; or
 - if there is no such person, the person in Australia who physically offered the container for road transport using a heavy vehicle.
- Consignors, operators and drivers are also under a legislative obligation

““ A CWD is required whenever a freight container – loaded or empty - is transported by road using a heavy vehicle. ””

to ensure a valid CWD is carried at all times. A responsibility entity or operator who does not provide a CWD risks a \$691 fine. A driver who cannot produce a CWD risks a \$344 fine.

Some members have the ability to weigh containers if loaded at depot via forklift scales. Members who are loading onto rail or ship will weigh containers at a weigh station as part of that operation. However, for general loads where



it is not an option or there is no ready opportunity to weigh, it is usually impractical to find a weigh station when transporting each individual load.

When it is not possible to determine the exact weight of a container and load, it is acceptable to have a 'max weight' CWD. For example, a 20ft container loaded for removals will generally have a max weight of 8000kg, and a 40ft 16000kg. Some members elect to use a max weight of 7000kg for 20ft and 15000kg for 40ft. The key is to ensure a VALID CWD is with a driver at all times to avoid a fine.

AFRA has an example of a suggested CWD layout available for members to replicate or adapt to suit their business requirements. This is available via the Members Section of the website>workplace library>chain of responsibility under the heading MASS. ●

FAQS

Would I comply if I produced an email as a CWD?

A Yes. So long as the email contains the required information, producing an electronic copy of an email would be considered a valid CWD.

Is it okay for the CWD to be kept with paperwork at the office?

A No. Paperwork must be in the vehicle with the driver.

Can we produce a booklet that sets out the details of the responsible entity and leaves blank spaces to allow for information such as container ID, weight and date to be added for each load?

A Absolutely. This is an ideal approach.
