



Guidelines for Lifting Vehicles in Trinidad and Tobago – Jan 26th 2024 Rev1

- **What is a lift kit ?**

"Lifting a vehicle" generally refers to the process of modifying a vehicle's suspension system to increase its ground clearance. This modification is often done to enhance off-road capabilities, accommodate larger tires, or simply for aesthetic reasons. The lift can be achieved through various methods, and the extent of the lift can vary. Here are some common methods of lifting a vehicle:

1. **Suspension Lift:**
 - This involves modifying or replacing components of the suspension system, such as springs, shocks, and control arms.
 - Suspension lifts can provide a more significant increase in ground clearance compared to other methods.
 - It allows for larger tires, improving off-road performance.
2. **Body Lift:**
 - A body lift involves raising the vehicle's body away from the frame by adding spacers or blocks between the body and frame.
 - While it increases the space between the frame and body, it doesn't affect the suspension components.
 - Body lifts are often done for aesthetic purposes and may not provide as much ground clearance as a suspension lift.
3. **Leveling Kit:**
 - A leveling kit is a milder form of lift that aims to level the front and rear of the vehicle, especially in trucks or SUVs that have a factory rake.
 - It typically involves lifting the front of the vehicle to make it level with the rear.
4. **Torsion Bar Adjustment:**
 - Some vehicles with torsion bar suspension systems can be lifted by adjusting the torsion bars, which are a key component of the front suspension.

It's important to note that lifting a vehicle may have implications for its handling, stability, and alignment. It's advisable to be aware of stipulations and regulations put forward by the Ministry of Works and Transport Licensing Division before making significant modifications to a vehicle.

When lifting a vehicle, it's often recommended to consult with professionals or experienced individuals who can provide proper guidance on the appropriate modifications to maintain safety and performance.

As of January 26, 2024, the Trinidad and Tobago License Office has issued guidelines with the intention of informing individuals interested in lifting their vehicles about acceptable practices and providing instructions on obtaining necessary approvals if required. Our team has collaborated with them on this matter, and we wish to review the specific points emphasized in this document. For any additional information you can visit the TTORA website <http://ttora.rocks> or social media pages.

Kindly be aware that the advisory is susceptible to alterations as the system undergoes developments. As of September 2024, there is a provisional plan to document all vehicle modifications post-inspection to ensure drivers adhere to the standards authorized by the Vehicle Testing Station or License Office. For instance, individuals may undergo inspection with smaller tires 33" but subsequently employ larger tires for regular road use 35". Non-compliance with these standards may result in legal consequences related to the laws of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Licensing Division has created two levels of lift which we would like to refer to as Standard and Extreme.

- **Standard** – Vehicle with 7" or less lift. This means from your original vehicle height you are allowed 7" of lift which may include a combination of body and suspension. This 7" is also inclusive of additional height attained from swapping to larger tires.
- **Extreme** – Vehicles that exceed 7" of lift. This means that from the original height of your vehicle, you have added modification which is in excess of 7".

How can you determine your lift height?

Measurements for original vehicle heights will be uploaded to the TTORA website soon. We are currently working on publicizing this information.

- **Gather Tools:**
 - Ensure you have a measuring tape or ruler that is long enough to measure the entire height.
 - Find a level surface for accurate measurements.
- **Position the Vehicle:**
 - Park the vehicle on the level surface and ensure it is stable.
 - Make sure the tires are inflated to the recommended pressure for accurate measurements.
- **Identify the Base Point:**
 - Locate the base of the tire, which is the point where the tire contacts the ground. This is your starting point for measurement.
- **Measure to Fender Arch:**
 - Position the measuring tape or ruler vertically from the base of the tire to the bottom of the highest point on the fender arch.
 - Ensure the tape or ruler is straight and perpendicular to the ground for accurate results.
- **Record the Measurement:**
 - Take note of the measurement in inches or centimeters, depending on your preference.
- **Repeat for All Four Tires:**
 - For an accurate representation of the lift height, repeat the measurement process for all four tires.
- **Calculate Average Lift Height (Optional):**
 - If you wish to find the average lift height, sum up the individual measurements and divide by the number of measurements taken.

- **Document the Information:**

- Record the measurements for future reference or documentation. This information may be useful when communicating with professionals or authorities regarding vehicle modifications.



Standard Lifts – 7 inches and under – Can be inspected in any VTS

Please take note of the specified conditions pertaining to vehicles measuring 7 inches and under. It is imperative to emphasize that approval from the licensing authority is not a requisite for this particular lift but approvals would be required and are not limited to the ones listed below.

1. Vehicle total lifted high inclusive of lift provided by adding larger tires must **NOT** exceed 7” from the Original Manufacturer Height. This means you are allowed seven inches in total lift which can be a sum of multiple lifts installed or a single lift kit. eg 3” body plus 3” suspension and 1” tire would give a seven inch lift kit or you can simply have a 7” suspension upgraded which achieves the same height.
2. You are required to use OEM or aftermarket parts and components designed to work with your vehicle or for a specific purpose on a vehicle. We at TTORA are aware that some parts can be fabricated locally and would achieve the same goal having parts which would maintain the reliability and safety of your vehicle. We would like to urge persons to ensure any local manufacturing should be up to standard as the licensing authority will use their discretion to approve these mods based on the quality of work.
3. The TARE of the vehicle should not be increased beyond 250 Kg of the original TARE. This simply ensures that your vehicle can handle the increased weight of modifications added to its frame e.g. bull bars and winches.

Tare Weight:

Definition: Tare weight represents the weight of a vehicle or container when it is empty or unloaded. It includes the weight of the vehicle or container itself and any standard equipment that comes with it.

Usage: Tare weight is crucial in determining the net weight of goods being transported. To find the net weight, the tare weight is subtracted from the gross weight (total weight with the load).

Example: If a truck has a tare weight of 10,000 pounds and is loaded with goods weighing 15,000 pounds, the gross weight would be 25,000 pounds, and the net weight would be 15,000 pounds.

Maximum Gross Weight (MGW):

Definition: Maximum Gross Weight, also known as Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) or Maximum Gross Vehicle Weight (MGVW), refers to the total allowable weight of a fully-loaded vehicle, including its own weight, passengers, cargo, fuel, and any additional equipment.

Usage: MGW is a critical specification to ensure that a vehicle does not exceed its maximum load capacity. It is often regulated by transportation authorities to ensure safety on roads.

Example: If a truck has a maximum gross weight rating of 30,000 pounds, it means the combined weight of the truck, its passengers, and cargo should not exceed 30,000 pounds.

In summary, tare weight is the weight of a vehicle or container when empty, while Maximum Gross Weight (MGW) is the maximum allowable weight of a fully-loaded vehicle. Both are important for logistics, transportation, and regulatory compliance.

4. Fender flares must be present if the vehicle has tires which exceed the coverage of the fender. Permission has been granted by the licensing authority to have fenders which are not in excess of 6.1". This means that your fender flare when measured from your fender to the outermost part of the flare cannot exceed 6.1" (20.32 cm).
5. Bumpers made of steel or any other suitable material is allowed in both the front and rear. Locally fabricated bumpers should be well built adhering to best safety and manufacturing standards. If your rear bumper has a tow bar attached it should not exceed the face of the bumper by more than 8".
6. Wheels should be contained within the fender wheel well or the fender flares. There should be no excess protrusion of your wheels beyond the 6.1" allowed fender flares.
7. Vehicle width must not exceed 7ft. Measurements should be taken from extreme faces of the fenders on both sides. Your fender flares should be the widest part of your vehicle with tires covered.

*If you've made modifications to your vehicle, like adding bumpers, winches, or bull bars, you would need to visit the license office to update details, including changes to the tare weight. Winches and roof racks would now be treated as a modification similar to bumpers and require visiting the licensing office to update your records with a notice of change. **THE PUBLIC WILL BE INFORMED WHEN YOUR RECORDS WOULD NEED TO BE UPDATED.***

Extreme Lifts – Exceeding 7” of lift – Requires license authority approval.

Please take note of the specified conditions pertaining to vehicles measuring over 7”. It is imperative to emphasize that approval from the licensing authority is a requisite for this particular lift approvals would be required and are not limited to the ones listed below.

1. Vehicle total lifted high inclusive of lift provided by adding larger tires exceeds 7” from the Original Manufacturer Height. In the case where your vehicle exceeds the 7” lift height you would be required to have this approved for road use by the licensing authority. Additional details on this process will be published soon.
2. Vehicle must not exceed the manufacturer’s gross weight. The statement "vehicle must not exceed manufacturer's gross weight" implies that the total weight of the vehicle, including its own structure, passengers, cargo, and any additional load, should not surpass the maximum weight specified by the vehicle's manufacturer. The manufacturer determines a safe and optimal maximum gross weight (also known as Gross Vehicle Weight Rating or GVWR) based on the vehicle's design, structural capacity, and other factors. Exceeding this specified weight limit can lead to potential safety hazards, compromised vehicle performance, and increased wear and tear on various components. Adhering to the manufacturer's gross weight recommendation is essential for maintaining the vehicle's safety and integrity.
3. Vehicles will be allowed to add modifications up to 300Kg UNDER the manufacturer’s Gross Vehicle weight. The statement "Vehicles will be allowed to add modifications up to 300 kg UNDER the manufacturer’s Gross Vehicle Weight" indicates that vehicle owners are permitted to make aftermarket modifications, such as adding accessories or equipment, as long as the cumulative weight of these modifications does not exceed 300 kilograms less than the maximum Gross Vehicle Weight specified by the vehicle's manufacturer. In other words, the modification allowance ensures that the total weight of the vehicle, including additional features, remains within a certain limit, preserving the safety and performance parameters established by the original manufacturer.
4. You are required to use OEM or aftermarket parts and components designed to work with your vehicle or for a specific purpose on a vehicle. We at TTORA are aware that some parts can be fabricated locally and would achieve the same goal having parts which would maintain the reliability and safety of your vehicle. We would like to urge persons to ensure any local manufacturing should be up to standard as the licensing authority will use their discretion to approve these mods based on the quality of work.
5. Fender flares must be present if the vehicle has tires which exceed the coverage of the fender. Permission has been granted by the licensing authority to have fenders which are not in excess of 6.1”. This means that you fender flare when measured from you fender to the outermost part of the flare cannot exceed 6.1” (20.32 cm).
6. Vehicle width must not exceed 7ft. Measurements should be taken from extreme faces of the fenders on both sides. Your fender flares should be the widest part of your vehicle with tires covered.
7. Bumpers made of steel or any other suitable material is allowed in both the front and rear. Locally fabricated bumpers should be well build adhering to best safety and manufacturing standards. If your rear bumper has a tow bar attached it should not exceed the face of the bumper by more than

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Vehicles that fall in the Extreme lift category which are lifts which exceeds the 7” would be required to have adequate upgrades installed to ensure safety and stability. In the event that you present a vehicle for inspection which is missing a key upgrade part you will be directed to get this installed and return for another inspection. We know that each lift is different and may require specific parts which may not be applicable to other vehicles. We urge vehicle owners to consult reputable shops if attempting this endeavor as they would be most knowledgeable in these situations and can make recommendations which would eliminate you having to go back and forth to the licensing division.

Lights – Additional lights which are not OEM

Any additional lights added to vehicles would require the approval of the licensing authority.