

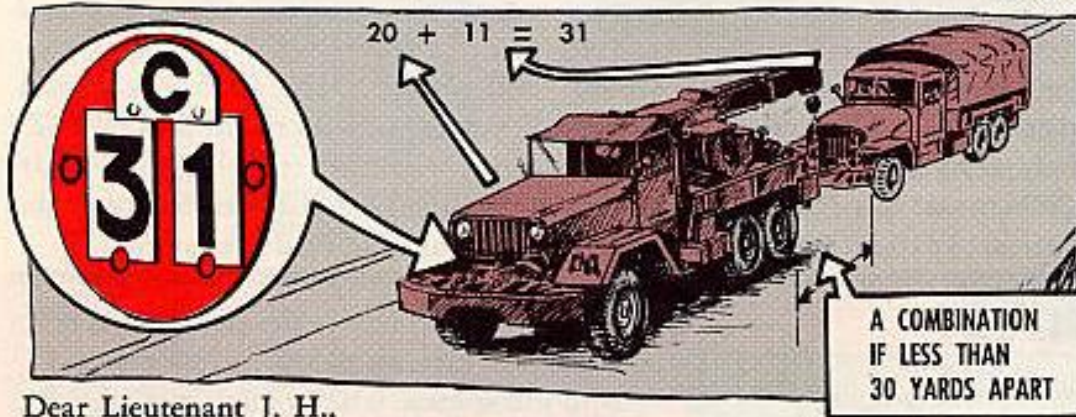
Dear Half-Mast,

What does a "vehicle combination" mean? The term's not listed in the dictionary of terms, and we've got a little discussion going on when it's necessary to display the "C" along with weight classification.

For example, is the "C" used on a tractor-trailer set-up? Is it used on a wrecker towing a vehicle or a weapon?

And, are the combined weight and the "C" shown on both the towing vehicle and the towed piece?

Lt. J. H.



Dear Lieutenant J. H.,

Any time you've got a self-propelled vehicle towing another vehicle (or other piece of equipment), you've got a combination, as far as weight classification info is concerned, unless they're more than 30 yards apart.

A tractor-trailer is a combination vehicle. Ditto a wrecker towing a vehicle (or any other piece of equipment).

AR 746-2300-1, "Marking and Packing of Supplies and Equipment," (Section IV, para 13) says all self-propelled vehicles towing other vehicles or equipment will show the combined classification and display the "C". Also see para 73a (2), FM 5-36, "Route Reconnaissance and Classification."

The "C" is used on the front of the towing vehicle only. The classification of the towed item isn't changed . . . it gets no "C" . . . it shows only its basic classification.

See TB 9-263 (14 Apr 59) for info on marking kits.

*Half-Mast*

GROUND  
MOBILITY

Military Load Class...

# Ticket for Safe Passage



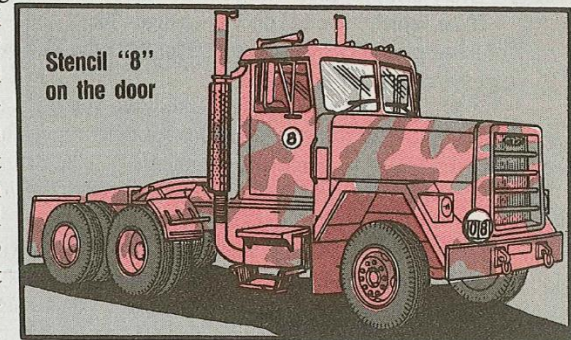
Your vehicle's Military Load Classification (MLC) number tells you if that bridge up ahead is strong enough to carry your vehicle's weight. If your vehicle's MLC is less than—or equal to—the bridge's rating, it's OK to cross.

MLC's are listed in Appendix C of FM 5-36, Route Reconnaissance and Classification, for tracked and wheeled vehicles, towed vehicles, construction equipment and standard combination vehicles (prime mover and trailer).

If your vehicle or combination is not listed, that appendix tells how to get the info from USA Belvoir Research, Development and Engineering Center. Be sure to give them the data called for in Charts C1 thru C6 for your vehicle.

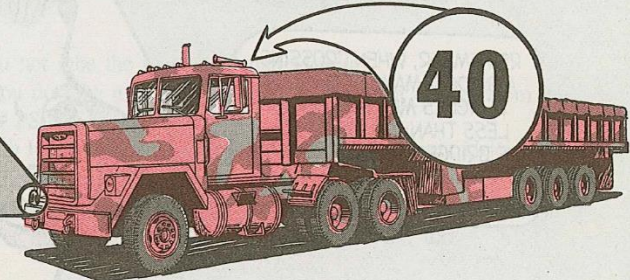
Appendix C can be confusing, so here's an example of how it works, using an M915 tractor truck pulling an M872A1 34-ton semitrailer.

**TRACTOR TRUCK ALONE**—The basic MLC for the tractor truck is listed in Table C-3, Wheeled Vehicles. For the M915, this is 8. Stencil 8 on the right door of the truck. When you're running bob-tail (less semitrailer), you also put this number on the front changeable sign, but without the C at the top.

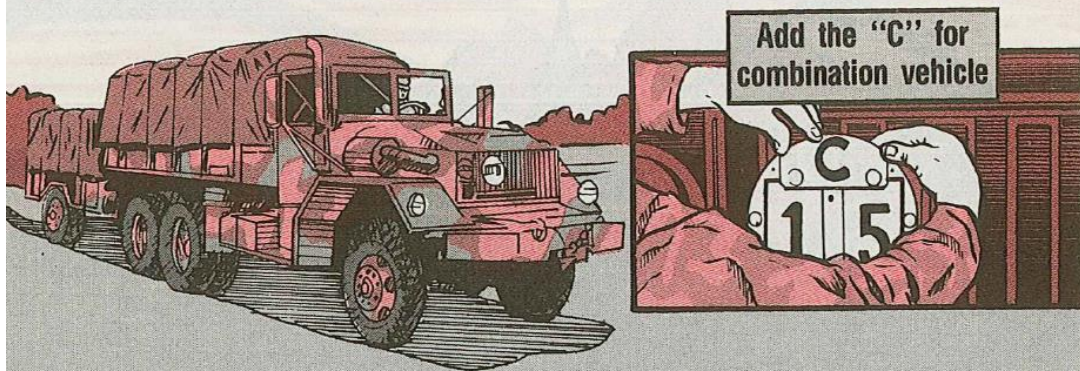


**SEMITRAILER ALONE**—The MLC for the semitrailer is listed in Table C-4, Towed Vehicles. You'll find the M872A1 has a load class of 40 at full gross (loaded) weight. Stencil 40 on the right front corner.

**COMBINATION VEHICLE**—Now go to Table C-7, Combination Vehicles, where you find that the M915/M872A1 combination has an MLC of 14 empty and 46 loaded. The number that applies—depending on whether you're empty or



loaded—goes in the changeable sign on the tractor. And, since this is a combination vehicle, the letter C goes above the number.



### Displaying the Number

Every self-propelled vehicle over 3 tons must display its MLC on the front. If the vehicle's weight doesn't change—like a tank—paint a 9-in diameter circle of forest green directly on the vehicle. Paint the MLC in 3-in high, lusterless black numbers centered on the circle.

If the load's likely to change—like when you pull a trailer, or you drive a truck that runs empty sometimes and loaded other times—use sign kit, NSN 9905-00-565-6267, so you can change numbers.

The kit's authorized by Appendix A of CTA 50-970. Installation is covered on Pages 43 thru 50 of TB 43-0209.

Get a set of replacement numbers for the sign kit with NSN 9905-00-565-6268.

Every vehicle with an MLC that may change—empty/loaded, or pulling a trailer or not—must have the truck's basic MLC painted on the side.

There's no specific location called for, but the best place on a truck is the upper right area of the right door. That's where it's best protected from wear and scrapes.

Paint a black number, 3 inches high, centered inside a circular black border,  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch wide and 6 inches in diameter, directly on the camouflage paint. Try not to put it on any black area in the camouflage.

REMEMBER, WHEN CROSSING A BRIDGE, MAKE SURE YOUR VEHICLES MLC NUMBER IS LESS THAN- OR EQUAL TO- THE BRIDGE'S RATING. FOLLOW THAT SIMPLE RULE AND YOU'LL STAY HIGH AND DRY!

