

FAQs on Agricultural Tractors

(for agricultural, fisheries, forestry/horticultural purposes)

What is an Agricultural Tractor? An agricultural tractor has at least two axles, has a design speed of 6km/h or more (as specified by the manufacturer), may be equipped with one or more passenger seats and has been designed especially to draw and work with other equipment attachments, and is used for agricultural, fisheries, forestry or horticultural work.

What category does my tractor fall into?

Tractor Class	Definition of Class
T1	Wheeled tractors with a maximum design speed of not more than 40 km/h with an unladen* weight of more than 600 kg
T2	Wheeled tractors with a maximum design speed of not more than 40 km/h
T3	Wheeled tractors with a maximum design speed of not more than 40 km/h and with an unladen* weight of not more than 600 kg
T4	Special purpose wheeled tractors with a maximum design speed of not more than 40 km/h
T5	Wheeled tractors with a maximum design speed of more than 40 km/h

* not loaded

What licence is required to drive an agricultural tractor? The licence **Category W** is required to drive a Works Vehicle and a land tractor with or without a trailer. For further queries please visit our [Driver Licensing Section](#).

Should N Plates be displayed on passing tractor driving test? Yes, you must display N-plates on the vehicle during the first two years of holding that driving licence entitlement.

Where should N plates be displayed when a tractor is towing an implement or trailer? On the rear of the tractor, or if not clearly visible there, it should be placed in a vertical position on the rear of the equipment or trailer.

Can I carry a child on a tractor with a seatbelt? If the child is 7 years or older, you can carry them in a tractor but they must have their own passenger seat and seatbelt. If the child requires a booster seat in the car then this must also be used in the tractor. Please visit www.hsa.ie or call 1890 289 389 for more information.

When is tractor training needed? Training on the proper use of machinery is essential. The operator's handbook gives a comprehensive guide to operation and maintenance of your tractor. Teagasc, FRS Network, FTMTA and HSA run courses focusing on the safe and efficient operation of tractors and farm machinery.

What are the braking requirements for agricultural tractors? Please refer to our separate FAQ note on [Braking Laws for Agricultural Tractors](#).

What is the law on E marking on agricultural tyres for sale in the EU? The type approval of agricultural or forestry tractors, their trailers and interchangeable towed machinery, together with their systems, components and separate technical units falls under the remit of the [Department of Agriculture, Food and The Marine](#) who will be able to provide further information.

How do I set up a testing centre for testing tractors? Please contact the [CVRT Section](#) of RSA.

If I build a new tractor for my own personal use. How do I register it? Please contact [Revenue](#) in relation to registration and the [Department of Agriculture, Food and The Marine](#) for advice on type approval for tractors.

I'm importing a new tractor from the UK, what documents are needed? You will need to contact [Revenue](#) to enquire what documentation they require to register an imported tractor in Ireland.

Where can I find information on the rules for tractor/trailer couplings and weights? Please view our factsheet on Dimensions, Weights and Coupling for Agricultural Vehicles [here](#).

Are number plates required on agricultural tractors? Yes. Tractors are required to have number plates to the front and rear. Note that there are certain formats, dimensions and technical specifications for such registration plates required by Revenue [here](#).

Can I drive an agricultural tractor on the motorway? A tractor (and any towed equipment) must be capable by design of reaching a minimum speed of 50km/h. to legally use the motorway network.

Is it mandatory that a tractor has a flashing amber beacon on when it is operating on the public road? Yes. All tractors and self-propelled machines are required to be fitted with a flashing amber beacon.

Are front mud guards legally required on tractors when driving on the road? Under the Roads Act 1993, it is an offence to place or deposit “dung or urine from an animal owned by him or any material or thing which falls from a vehicle owned or used by him”. For further information on this please contact your [local authority](#).

What are the regulations regarding tractor drivers who tow machinery wider than the tractor, with no lights or reflective markings? Please refer to our separate FAQ on [Lighting and Visibility Laws for Agricultural Vehicles](#).

What are the legal width, length, height and weight limits that apply to agricultural vehicles? Please refer to Page 21-27 of our [Weights and Dimensions](#) leaflet.

What are the new requirements for tractors drawing double axle (silage) trailers? Our booklet on [Revised Standards for Agricultural Vehicles](#) explains the standards for towing agricultural trailers. There are also 6 short videos on You Tube which bring to life the booklet that may be viewed [here](#).