

# FAQs on Agricultural Tractors

RSA

( for agricultural, fisheries, forestry and horticultural purposes)

## What is an agricultural tractor? It is defined as:

- having at least two axles
- having a design speed of 6 km/h or more as specified by the manufacturer
- may be equipped with one or more passenger seats
- designed especially to draw and work with other equipment attachments and is used for agricultural, fisheries, forestry or horticultural work.

## What category is my tractor? Category T comprises all wheeled tractors; each wheeled tractor category is supplemented at the end of an 'a' or 'b' index according to its design speed:

'a' for wheeled tractors with a maximum design speed below or equal to 40 km/h.

'b' for wheeled tractors with a maximum design speed above 40 km/h.

For further information on tractor categories refer to [EU Regulation 167/2013](#)

Tractor Category	Definition of Category
T1	Wheeled tractors with the closest axle to the driver having a minimum track width of not less than 1,150 mm, with an unladen mass in running order of more than 600 kg and with a ground clearance of not more than 1,000 mm
T2	Wheeled tractors with a minimum track width of less than 1,150 mm, with an unladen mass in running order of more than 600 kg; with a ground clearance of not more than 600mm; if the height of the centre of gravity of the tractor measured in relation to the ground divided by the average minimum track for each axle exceeds 0.90, the maximum design speed shall be restricted to 30 km/h.
T3	Wheeled tractors with unladen mass in running order of not more than 600 kg
T4	Special purpose wheeled tractors with a maximum design speed of not more than 40 km/h
T4.1	High clearance tractors
T4.2	Extra-wide tractors
T4.3	Low clearance tractors

**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.

**Is there a legal requirement to have number plates on agricultural tractors?** Yes. Tractors are required to have number plates to the front and rear. For further information please contact [Revenue](#).

**Can I carry a child on a tractor with a seat belt?** If the child is seven years or older you can carry them in a tractor but they must have their own passenger seat and seat belt. Please visit [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie) for more information. You can also refer to our [FAQ](#) on Seat belts in Tractors.

**When is tractor training needed?** Training on the proper use of machinery is essential. 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 FAQ 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 Marine](#).

### **What licence is required to drive any agricultural tractor?**

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](#).

### **Do agricultural tractor drivers require an artic truck licence?**

No. Agricultural tractors under 40 km/h are covered under the Category W licence. 'Work Vehicle' is a vehicle other than a land tractor which has a maximum design speed not exceeding 40 km/h and which is constructed primarily for any work other than the conveyance by road of goods or burden of any other description. For further clarification on driver licensing requirements please refer to this [link](#).

### **Do agricultural tractors require roadworthiness testing?**

No, unless they are being used for commercial purposes. For further clarification please visit [CVRT](#) for fast tractor testing requirements.

### **Is a walk around check required by law for tractors and is there a checklist available?**

No. It is the driver's responsibility to ensure that the vehicle is roadworthy at all times. You may also wish to refer to HSA leaflet on [Essential Tractor Safety Checks](#).

**If I build a new tractor for my own personal use. How do I register it?** Please contact [Revenue](#) .

**Where do I register a tractor?** Any queries relating to vehicle registration tax and standards contact [Revenue](#).

**Where do I obtain type approval for a tractor?** Please contact [Department of Agriculture, Food and The Marine](#).

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

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

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

**Are front mud guards legally required on tractors when driving on the road?** No. 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 contact your [local authority](#).

**What are the regulations regarding lights or reflective markings on agricultural vehicles?** Please see our 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 our [factsheet](#) on Weights and Dimensions.

**What are the requirements for tractors drawing double axle silage trailers?**

- See our booklet on [Revised Standards for Agricultural Vehicles](#) which outlines 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](#).

**The permissible towable weight on my tractor plate with assisted braking or air brakes is 32,000 kg. Is this the total maximum weight I can tow or the maximum weight of the tractor, trailer and load combined?** This is the total maximum weight you can tow not the combination weight. For further information refer to our [FAQ](#) on Agricultural Tractors and Trailers - Towing Rules.

**Can I use my agricultural tractor to cut side hedges?** If you use an agricultural tractor on a public road it must be licensed, taxed and insured. Please contact your [Local Authority](#) who have responsibility for hedge cutting and road maintenance