

FAQs on Agricultural Tractors

RSA

(for agricultural, fisheries, forestry and horticultural purposes)

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

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.

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 placed in a vertical position on the rear of the equipment or trailer.

What licence is required to drive an agricultural tractor? Category W is required to drive a works vehicle and a land tractor with or without a trailer. For further information see our driver licensing section [here](#).

Does a driver of an agricultural tractor on a learner permit require an accompanied driver? You will need to contact our Driver Licensing Section on 1890 41 61 41 or email at DriverLicensing@rsa.ie.

When is tractor training needed? Training on the proper use of machinery is essential. Teagasc, FRS network and FTMA run courses focusing on the safe and efficient operation of tractors and farm machinery. For other useful resources see www.HSA.ie for information on farming health & safety, including introductory courses e.g An Introduction to Tractor Safety (40 minutes) and Farming Safely with Slurry (30 minutes).

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 you will need to contact [Revenue](#).

Do agricultural tractor drivers require an artic truck licence? For clarification on driver licensing requirements see this [link](#).

What is the law on the e-marking of 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](#).

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 50 km/h to legally use the motorway network.

Do agricultural tractors require roadworthiness test? No, unless they are being used for commercial purposes. See link to [CVRT](#) for fast tractor testing details.

Is a walk around check required by law for tractors and is there a checklist available? No. It is the owner's responsibility to ensure that the vehicle is roadworthy at all times. See HSA 'Essential Tractor Safety Checks' leaflet [here](#).

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

Where do I register a tractor? You will need to contact [Revenue](#).

How do I get type approval for a tractor? You will need to contact [Department of Agriculture, Food and The Marine](#) regarding information on type approval.

What documentation is needed when importing a new tractor? You will need to contact [Revenue](#) to enquire what documentation they require to register an imported tractor in Ireland.

Are front mud guards legally required on tractors when driving on the road? No. However 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](#).

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.

What are the requirements regarding the positioning and quantity of beacons and strobe lighting used on agricultural and construction and maintenance vehicles?

- For information on strobe or work lamps see our [FAQ](#) on Work Lamps on Tractors.
- For information on beacons on agricultural vehicles see our [FAQ](#) on Lighting and Visibility Laws for Agricultural Vehicles.

For further information view our [booklet](#) Revised Standards for Agricultural Vehicles.

What are the regulations regarding lights or reflective markings on agricultural vehicles? See our [FAQ](#) on Lighting and Visibility Laws for Agricultural Vehicles [here](#).

What are the legal width, length, height and weight limits that apply to agricultural vehicles? See our [factsheet](#) on Weights and Dimensions.

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. Contact your [Local authority](#) who have responsibility for hedge cutting and road maintenance.

Are there 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 [here](#).
- There are also six short videos on Youtube which bring to life the booklet that may be viewed [here](#).

What are the regulations regarding positioning of front forks on agricultural vehicles when used on a public road? We would advise that forks or other front mounted handling attachments should be faced down as it is considered a dangerous projection causing risks of injury to other road users. For further guidance on safe use of tractors and machinery on the farm see HSA website [here](#).

If the permissible towable weight on a 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. For further information see our FAQs on Agricultural Tractors and Trailers - Towing Rules [here](#).