

FAQs on Vintage Agricultural Tractors

What is the legal definition of a vintage agricultural tractor? A vintage agricultural tractor is defined in the Roadworthiness Directive as 'vehicle of historical interest' that was manufactured/first registered at least 30 years ago; its specific type is no longer in production; it's historically preserved and maintained in its original state and has not undergone substantial changes in the technical characteristics of its main components

Do vintage agricultural tractors have to be roadworthiness tested? No.

Do vintage agricultural tractors need to be fitted with a full lighting system? Vintage tractors are exempt from having to be equipped with a full lighting system (i.e. side lamps, head lamps, rear lamps, stop lamps, direction indicators and number plate lighting) provided they are being used **during daylight hours only**. This applies to the trailers being towed by them as well. However, for your safety and the safety of all road users the RSA would strongly recommend having a full lighting system fitted.

What is considered to be "daylight hours"? Daylight hours means any time outside 'lighting-up' hours. Lighting up' hours is a half hour after sunset until a half hour before sunrise the next day.

What braking system is legally required on vintage tractors? Most vintage tractors cannot travel faster than 40km/h and so only need a service brake (with 25% braking efficiency) and a parking brake (with 16% braking efficiency).

What if my vintage tractor can travel over 40km/h? Then your tractor needs a service brake, parking brake and emergency brake with braking efficiencies of 45%, 16% and 22.5% respectively.

Is it mandatory that a vintage 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. Only Vintage tractors taking part in vintage rallies or display are exempt from this requirement.

Can I tow a trailer with my vintage tractor? Yes. However if either your tractor or trailer is unplated, the maximum you can tow is three times the tractor's unloaded weight. For example; if the unloaded weight of your tractor is 1.4 tonnes, you are limited to towing a trailer with a loaded weight not exceeding 4.2 tonnes (i.e. three times the tractor's unloaded weight).

My vintage tractor isn't plated. Where do I find its unladen weight? Please contact the original manufacturer or authorised distributor for this figure. If they are no longer in service you could try contacting an existing tractor manufacturer near you to enquire if they will assist you on this matter.

Do vintage tractors have to be registered / taxed? Please contact your [local motor tax office](#) for information on registration/motor tax.

Are Roll Over Protection Systems (ROPS) required on vintage tractors? Yes. All tractors used in a public place, irrespective of age or how it's used are obliged under current Road Traffic Regulations [S.I. No. 138 of 1969](#) to have Roll-Over Protective Systems of an appropriate standard fitted.