

FAQs on Speed Rating on Agricultural Vehicles

RSA

What is meant by speed rating? This means fitting a speed disc to the vehicle to show its design speed in kilometres per hour (km/h) as shown.



How do I find out the design speed of my tractor or trailer? You can contact the original manufacturer or authorised distributor.

What vehicles must have a speed disc fitted. See Table

Vehicles	Speed disc required	Speed disc not required
Agricultural tractors, self-propelled agricultural machinery, agricultural trailers and pieces of interchangeable towed equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tractors first registered on or after 01 January 2016, regardless of design speed, must be fitted with a speed disc showing their maximum design speed.Tractors registered prior to 01 January 2016 which are capable by design of being driven at speeds over 40 km/h, must also be fitted with speed disc.	Tractors first registered prior to 01 January 2016 which are not capable by design of being driven at speeds over 40 km/h.

Are there any exemptions? Yes. Agricultural tractors, self-propelled agricultural machines, agricultural trailers and pieces of interchangeable equipment manufactured or first registered before 01 January 2016 do not need to have a speed disc fitted if their design speed is 40 km/h or less.

Who can fit speed discs? Speed discs must only be fitted by the original vehicle manufacturer or authorised distributor.

Where should speed discs be displayed on a vehicle?

- The speed disc should always be in a prominent position on the rear of vehicle.
- For self-propelled agricultural machines it should be displayed in a prominent position on both sides and on the rear of the vehicle.
- On an agricultural trailer or interchangeable towed equipment where due to its design or use the disc can't be seen from behind, it should be in a prominent position on the right side of the vehicle when looking from behind.
- If a speed disc cannot be attached directly to a vehicle a plate has to be attached to the vehicle to display the disc.

What technical specifications must speed discs adhere to? See our booklet on Revised Standards for Agricultural Vehicles [here](#).

What rules apply if my tractor is capable of being driven at a speed over 40km/h which is greater than the design speed of the trailer or towed equipment? You may draw such a trailer or another piece of interchangeable towed equipment with a tractor which is capable of speeds over 40km/h but when it is in use in a public place you must not exceed the maximum design speed of the slowest vehicle in the combination e.g. if a trailer or piece of interchangeable towed equipment does not have a speed disc fitted the law considers that the vehicle combination – no matter what the design speed of the tractor is – is not capable of speeds over 40km/h.

Are agricultural vehicles permissible on motorways? They must be capable of maintaining a minimum speed of 50 km/h. From 01 January 2016 if they are towing a trailer, the trailer must also be capable by design as indicated on its authorisation plate and speed disc of being drawn at a speed of 50 km/h or higher. For further information see our FAQ on Class R Agricultural Trailers [here](#).