

F endorsements

for driving forklifts

If you drive a forklift on the road, you must have an F endorsement on your driver licence.

Please note that the licence endorsement and licence class systems work together. Your licence has to cover both the *type* of vehicle and its *weight*.

A Class 1 driver licence (with an F endorsement) covers forklifts with a gross laden weight of up to 18,000 kilograms.

A Class 2 driver licence (with an F endorsement) covers forklifts with a gross laden weight exceeding 18,000 kilograms.

If you're not sure whether you need an F endorsement, call our contact centre on 0800 822 422 or contact your nearest NZ Transport Agency office.

What is the definition of a 'road'?

The definition of a road, for the application of transport laws, is very broad. It includes not only streets and highways, but also any place the public has access to - including bridges, culverts, beaches, riverbeds, reserve lands, wharves and road shoulders.

If you drive a forklift in any of these areas, the rules relating to registration, licensing and general driver behaviour all apply.

What do I need to have and do?

If you wish to obtain an F endorsement, you must hold a full licence (other than a motorcycle licence).

You'll need to provide evidence that you have successfully completed an approved course that teaches specialist knowledge and skills relating to driving a forklift safely on a road.

Note: the approved course will cover driver licensing requirements only. Your employer may require you to attend occupational safety and health (OSH) courses as well as having the F endorsement on your driver licence.

Finding a course provider

You can find a list of course providers at our website at www.nzta.govt.nz/licence/getting/course-providers/index.html or call our contact centre on 0800 822 422.

Please note that you can't drive a forklift on the road just because you've got the course certificate. The endorsement must be on your driver licence.

Applying for the endorsement

You can apply for an F endorsement at your nearest driver licensing agent (participating offices of the Automobile Association, Vehicle Inspection New Zealand and Vehicle Testing New Zealand).

You need to:

- complete a DL19 application form (you can download one online at www.nzta.govt.nz/form-dl19)
- provide evidence of your identity, which can be either:
 - your New Zealand photographic licence (which must be current or expired up to two years) or your current New Zealand passport, or
 - two other acceptable forms of evidence of identity (see Factsheet 20 *Identification for driver licensing* for further information and a full list of acceptable identity documents)
- provide a certificate showing you have successfully completed an approved forklift endorsement course
- pay the application fee of \$44.

Note: your F endorsement will expire on the same date as your driver licence.

Eyesight screening check

You must prove that your eyesight meets the required standard each time you apply for a new licence class or endorsement or renew your licence. To do this you can:

- present a satisfactory eyesight certificate issued by a New Zealand-registered optometrist (this certificate must be no more than 60 days old)
- present a satisfactory medical certificate issued by a New Zealand-registered medical practitioner (this certificate must be no more than 60 days old and must specifically cover eyesight)
- pass an eyesight screening check at a driver licensing agent.

Note: the agents' eyesight screening machines eliminate the need for many drivers to be tested by an optometrist or medical practitioner. However, if you don't pass the screening check then you must provide one of the certificates listed before your new licence can be issued. Some drivers choose to supply a certificate instead of taking a screening check. If you have vision in only one eye you must present an eye certificate from a doctor or optometrist.

Where can I find out more?

- Email: info@nzta.govt.nz.
- Call our contact centre on 0800 822 422.
- Write to us: NZ Transport Agency, Private Bag 11777, Palmerston North 4442.

The information in this factsheet is a general guide only. It is not the source of the law and should not be used in place of authoritative legal documents. Some factsheets are updated frequently and print versions can quickly become out of date. If the currency of the information you are reading is important, check the factsheet index on our website (www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets) or call us on 0800 822 422.

Contact details

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