

Overdimension hazard panels

In addition to the widely used hazard panels, new vertical hazard panels, such as the one to the left, may now be used. However, the European Union's red and white panels remain unapproved.

Piloting

Pilot vehicles are required for vehicles exceeding 3.1m wide and 40km/h or 3.1m wide and during hours of darkness regardless of speed. Up to three oversized agricultural motor vehicles may now travel in convoy as long as they are accompanied by front and rear pilot vehicles.

Travel time restrictions

Category 1 and 2 agricultural motor vehicles are now exempt from travel time restrictions on public roads. However, they may not travel during periods of unusually heavy traffic volumes.

Amber beacon

To make agricultural motor vehicles more visible when operated on the road, one or more amber beacons must be fitted to agricultural motor vehicles registered on or after 1 June 2013. The beacon must be visible for up to 100 metres from the front or rear of the vehicle.

Worktime requirements

Several variations of worktime hours have been introduced to allow the agricultural sector to complete tasks such as harvesting, where time is an issue. These include:

- making anyone who drives a tractor or agricultural vehicle requiring a class 1 licence, exempt from worktime limits
- providing the option for farmers and agricultural contractors to apply for a variation to allowable worktime or required rest breaks for the purpose of critical agricultural operations
- introducing a simplified process to assess and approve alternative fatigue management schemes.

Logbooks

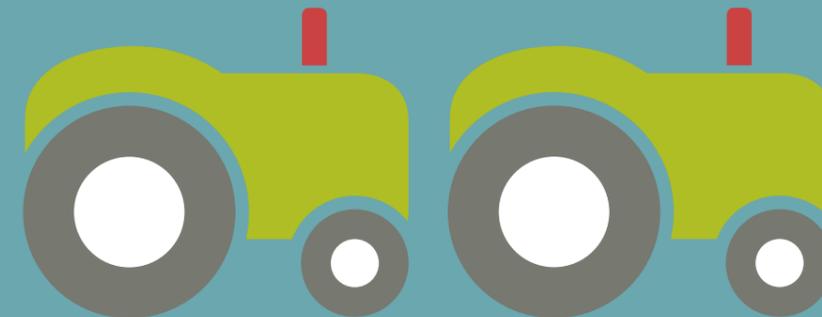
The drivers of agricultural motor vehicles over 18 tonnes or driven in excess of 40km/h are subject to worktime, but those drivers do not have to maintain logbooks.

Towing connections

Requirements for coupling pins, tow-eyes and safety chains used when towing agricultural trailers have been updated to reflect current practice.

Rule changes to the use of agricultural motor vehicles on roads

This brochure summarises the changes to the way agricultural motor vehicles may be used. Most of the changes came into force on 1 June, while changes to warrant of fitness (WoF) requirements will be in force from 11 November 2013.



If you have further queries, visit www.nzta.govt.nz or talk to a transport officer at your local NZTA office.

This publication is also available on NZ Transport Agency's website at www.nzta.govt.nz

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The big idea



A two-tier system has been established based on a 40km/h operating speed. Some requirements are different for agricultural motor vehicles operated up to 40km/h and for those over 40km/h.

There are fewer requirements for agricultural motor vehicles operated at 40km/h or less, including:

- from 1 June 2013, they don't require a WoF or a certificate of fitness (CoF), however they must be up to roadworthy standard
- they don't require a road user charges licence
- they're exempt from work time requirements
- they may be driven on a wider range of driver licences.

UPDATED DEFINITIONS

Agricultural motor vehicle - a vehicle that is designed, constructed or adapted for agricultural purposes and includes:

- agricultural tractors
- agricultural trailers
- soil cultivators
- planters and seed drills
- harvesters
- mowers
- toppers
- bailers
- hay rakes
- produce sorters.

It does not include vehicles designed or constructed for general road use, eg farm trucks and goods trailers.

Agricultural trailer - a trailer used primarily for agricultural purposes. It includes a wheeled agricultural implement, the wheels of which are in contact with the road when the implement is being towed. It does not include logging trailers or those designed primarily to carry goods operated at speeds exceeding 40km/h.

Agricultural purposes include:

- land cultivation
- growing and harvesting crops (including horticulture and viticulture)
- rearing livestock
- land management operations undertaken in connection with the operation or management of a farm or a purpose described above.

It does not include forestry.

OTHER IMPORTANT CHANGES

Driver licence changes

A wider range of vehicles may now be driven on a class 1 licence (car), and UK tractor licences are now recognised.

Vehicle type	Class of driver licence required	
	Up to 40 km/h	Above 40 km/h
Specialist agricultural motor vehicle under 18 tonnes	Class 1 plus W (wheels) endorsement or class 2 with or without W endorsement	Class 2 plus W
Agricultural tractor of up to 18 tonne or tractor and trailer of up to 25 tonnes	Class 1 restricted or full, or UK (or similar) tractor driver licence	Class 1 plus W
Agricultural tractor over 18 tonnes	No change, ie class 2 licence for large two-axle rigid vehicle	

Vehicle inspection requirements

Agricultural motor vehicles, regardless of age, that operate at speeds exceeding 40km/h have:

- a revised and simplified WoF inspection from 1 June 2013
- an annual WoF inspection, rather than six monthly, from 11 November 2013.

Vehicle registration and licensing

There are no changes to general vehicle registration and licensing requirements. However, changes to the usage category you select when you licence your vehicle will be introduced to cater for the choice of operating speed and associated inspection requirements. Information will be included in your next relicence reminder about the new usage categories and how to select the correct one when you relicence your vehicle. A licence label will be printed displaying a code reflecting the selected speed and whether or not the vehicle is subject to an inspection.

Front over-hang

To recognise that modern agricultural tractors are getting longer, the allowable front over-hang has been increased from three to four metres from the driver's seat. High visibility paint is an acceptable alternative to hazard warning panels for highlighting front over-hangs beyond four metres.