

Land Transport Rule: Heavy Vehicles 2004 and Heavy-vehicle Brakes 2006: Ford Ranger Super Duty Class Exemption notice 2025

Pursuant to section 168D of the Land Transport Act 1998, the Director of Land Transport, after being satisfied of the matters set out in section 168D (3) of that Act, gives the following notice:

1. Title

This Notice is the **Land Transport Rule: Heavy Vehicles 2004 and Heavy-vehicle Brakes 2006: Ford Ranger Super Duty Class Exemption notice 2025**.

2. Commencement

This Notice comes into force on 23 December 2025.

3. Expiry

This Notice expires at 11.59pm on 23 December 2028.

4. Application

This Notice applies to the Ford Ranger Super Duty vehicle.

5. Interpretation


(1) In this Notice –

Act means the Land Transport Act 1998


Ford Ranger Super Duty means a specific model of utility vehicle marketed as the ‘Ford Ranger Super Duty’, manufactured by Ford Motor Company, of a Gross Vehicle Mass of no more than 4500kg and capable of towing no more than 4500kg, equivalent to the vehicle class ‘NB1’ in the Australian jurisdiction.

(2) Any term or expression that is defined in the Act, or the relevant Rule, and used, but not defined, in this Notice has the same meaning as in the respective Act or Rule.

6. Class exemption

(1)  A vehicle described in clause 4 of this notice is exempt from clause 4.4(1) and 4.4(5) of the Land Transport Rule: Heavy Vehicles 2004 (Rule 31002).

(2) A vehicle described in clause 4 of this notice is exempt from clause 2.3(1)(b) of the Land Transport Rule: Heavy-vehicle Brakes 2006 (Rule 32015).

(3)  The exemption in subclause (1) is subject to the conditions specified in clause 7 of this Notice.

7. Conditions

(1) An indelible label must be affixed to the drawbeam/towbar that specifies that brake certification is required for towing any heavy trailer over 3500kg GVM.

(2) A declaration must be completed by purchasers acknowledging that they understand that brake certification is required for towing any heavy trailer over 3500kg GVM.

Signed at Wellington on 23 December 2025

Brent Alderton

Director of Land Transport

Explanatory Note

The Ford Ranger Super Duty is a heavy utility vehicle capable of towing heavy trailers. In overseas jurisdictions this vehicle already meets well-regarded standards for the drawbeam and brake controller system. In Australia, the vehicle meets the definition of the 'NB1' class, a subcategory of the new 'NB' vehicle category; specifically, new light commercial vehicles such as utility vehicles ('utes') or vans and heavy off-road vehicles up to 4500kg.

Creating a new vehicle class for these utility vehicles, equipped with modern technologies, has allowed Australia to keep pace with safety developments. New Zealand has not yet updated the heavy vehicle framework in a way that supports the use of these technologies.

This class exemption allows this vehicle to operate while equipped with a suitable towing system that meets alternative, international standards, and with a modern brake controller system that is not yet incorporated into New Zealand regulation.

This class exemption requires the vehicle's drawbeam/towbar to be labelled with a permanently affixed notice that drivers must have their trailer brakes certified to properly work with the brake controller system. Drivers must be aware that they have a responsibility to use the brake controller system as intended in order to avoid safety risks.