

F endorsements

for driving forklifts

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

You must also have the right class of licence to cover the weight of the forklift:

- A class 1 driver licence covers forklifts with a gross laden weight of 18,000kg or less.
- A class 2 driver licence covers forklifts with a gross laden weight over 18,000kg.

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?

To get an F endorsement, you must hold a full licence (other than a motorcycle licence).

You'll need to complete an approved course that teaches specialist knowledge and skills relating to driving a forklift safely on a road. When you've successfully completed the course, they'll give you a course certificate.

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

To find a list of course providers go to:

www.nzta.govt.nz/course-providers

You can't drive a forklift on the road just because you've got the course certificate. You must get the endorsement on your driver licence before you can drive forklifts on the road.

Applying for the endorsement

You can apply for an F endorsement at a driver licensing agent. To find an agent go to www.nzta.govt.nz/agent

You need to:

- complete a DL19 application form. www.nzta.govt.nz/form-dl19
- provide evidence of your identity, which can be either:
 - your New Zealand photo driver licence (which must be current or expired up to two years) or your current New Zealand passport, or
 - 2 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 the certificate showing you've successfully completed an approved forklift endorsement course
- pay the application fee of \$62.10.

The agent will process your application and give you a temporary licence with an F endorsement to use until your new photo driver licence arrives in the mail.

Your F endorsement will expire on the same date as your driver licence. It will renew automatically when you renew your licence.

Eyesight screening check

You must prove that your eyesight is up to standard. You can:

- pass an eyesight screening check at a driver licensing agent, or
- present a satisfactory eyesight certificate or medical certificate (no more than 60 days old).

The certificate must be issued by a New Zealand registered optometrist or health practitioner (for example your doctor (GP) or a registered nurse or nurse practitioner).

If you don't pass the eyesight screening check at the agent, you'll need to provide a certificate instead.

If you have sight in only one eye, or have only one eye (monocular vision) you'll need to present an eyesight certificate.



This factsheet is a general guide only. It doesn't replace legal advice, and your exact requirements will depend on current legislation.

Make sure you have the most up-to-date version of this factsheet by checking www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets

 www.nzta.govt.nz

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