

# Road user charges

## Light vehicles

Factsheet

**38**

October  
2018

ISSN 1172-0689 (print)  
ISSN 1172-0778 (online)

The information in this factsheet applies to vehicles with a manufacturer's gross laden weight (GLW) of 3.5 tonnes or less, powered by a fuel not taxed at source.

If your vehicle weighs more than 3.5 tonnes, or you want more detailed information about road user charges, see the [Road user charges handbook](#). You can view it online at [www.nzta.govt.nz/ruc-handbook](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/ruc-handbook).

### What are road user charges?

All users of New Zealand's roads contribute towards their upkeep. Most road users pay levies in the price of their fuel. Others, such as users of diesel-powered vehicles, pay through road user charges (RUC).

All the revenue collected from road user charges goes into the National Land Transport Fund. Road user charges are administered by the NZ Transport Agency and enforced by the New Zealand Police.

### Who must pay RUC?

Anyone operating a vehicle powered by a fuel that isn't taxed at source (eg diesel), regardless of the weight of the vehicle, must pay RUC. The exception to this is vehicles powered solely by electricity.

**Note:** vehicles with a GLW of more than 3.5 tonnes, regardless of fuel type, must also pay road user charges. See the [Road user charges handbook](#) for more information.

### What do I need to do?

If this applies to you, then you need to buy a RUC distance licence.

A distance licence is bought in 1000km units (or multiples of 1000). You must buy a new licence before you've driven all of the distance covered by the previous licence.

### Where can I get a RUC licence?

You can buy RUC licences at [www.nzta.govt.nz/online](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/online).

You can also buy them from selected branches of the following agents:



Automobile Association



Post Shops



Vehicle Inspection New Zealand



Vehicle Testing New Zealand

Licences are also available from some independent agents that display the Transport Agency logo. To find your local RUC agent, check the phone book or call us on 0800 655 644.

### Is there a transaction fee?

There's a transaction fee when you buy each licence, regardless of the distance you buy. The fee is based on how you pay:

- online at [www.nzta.govt.nz/online](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/online): \$4.80 per licence
- counter sale through a RUC agent: \$7.80 per licence
- phone or fax: \$8.63 per licence
- Direct Connects (for fleet vehicles only): \$2.10 per licence.

These figures include GST.

You can minimise the transaction fees if you buy licences that cover larger distances.

### When do I get my tax invoice?

Tax invoices are generally printed at the point of sale. However, for some transactions you won't receive an automatic tax invoice (eg online or direct debit transactions, off-road travel, miscellaneous refunds and card management fees). Invoices for these transactions are mailed to your postal address within seven days of the transaction taking place.

### Where should I display my licence?

Your RUC licence details must be displayed at all times on the inside of the passenger's side of the front windscreen. The face of the licence, which shows the plate number, must be visible from outside the vehicle.

### What do I look out for if I'm buying a vehicle?

If you're buying a used vehicle and RUC applies, make sure it's displaying a current RUC licence.

If you buy a vehicle that doesn't have a current RUC licence, you may be liable for any outstanding charges. The Transport Agency doesn't involve itself in negotiations about reimbursement between the previous and newly registered persons.

**If you're considering buying a vehicle that needs a RUC licence, call us on 0800 655 644 to find out if the RUC licence is current.**

Note that selling a vehicle on an 'as is, where is' basis doesn't stop the seller from being liable for providing a current RUC licence.

If a vehicle is being reregistered, any outstanding RUC must be paid at the time of reregistration.

## What actions incur penalties?

Actions vehicle owners or operators may be fined for include:

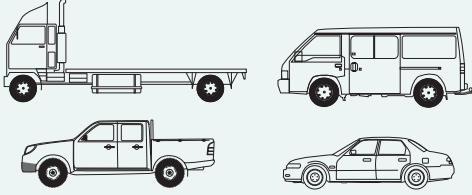
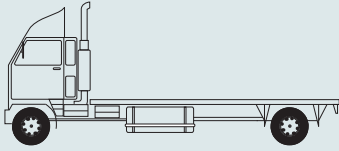
- operating a vehicle on the road without a current RUC licence
- tampering with or having an incorrect distance recorder
- displaying a RUC licence with incorrect details
- selling a vehicle without a current RUC licence.

## What if my light diesel vehicle is used exclusively or almost exclusively off-road?

If your light diesel vehicle (3500kg or less) is used exclusively or almost exclusively off-road, you may be eligible for an exemption from paying RUC.

For more detailed information go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/ruc/exemption](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/ruc/exemption).

## Road user charges distance licence rates for light vehicles - effective 1 October 2018

Vehicle sample	RUC vehicle type number	Description	Weight bands	RUC rate (\$ per 1000 km, GST inclusive)
	1	Powered vehicles with 2 axles (except type 2 vehicles)	Not more than 3.5 tonnes	\$68
	2	Powered vehicles with 1 single-tyred spaced axle and 1 twin-tyred spaced axle	Not more than 6 tonnes	\$72

For more detailed information about RUC vehicle types and rates please see pages 30-40 of the [Road user charges handbook](#). This is available in PDF format on our website at [www.nzta.govt.nz/ruc-handbook](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/ruc-handbook).

## Heavy vehicles and RUC rate increases

Section 86 of the Road User Charges Act 2012 requires an owner/operator of a heavy RUC vehicle to buy a new RUC licence within one month of a rate increase.

This means that RUC licences bought before 1 October 2018 (only for heavy vehicles that have had a rate increase) will expire on 1 November 2018.

If this affects you, you must buy a new RUC licence before 1 November 2018. You need to start from the hubodometer reading on the day you buy the licence, and buy enough RUC to take you past your current RUC licence end distance.

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](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets)) or call us on 0800 655 644.

### Contact details

- Call us: 0800 655 644.
- Visit our website: [www.nzta.govt.nz](http://www.nzta.govt.nz).
- Email us: [info@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:info@nzta.govt.nz).
- Write to us: NZ Transport Agency, Private Bag 11777, Palmerston North 4442.