

R, T and W endorsements

for special-type vehicles

If you drive a special-type vehicle on the road, you must have an F, R, T or W endorsement on your driver licence.

- The F endorsement is for forklifts. For information about F endorsements, see Factsheet 10 *F endorsements for driving forklifts*.
- The R endorsement is for vehicles that run on rollers.
- The T endorsement is for vehicles that run on self-laying tracks.
- The W endorsement is for vehicles that run on wheels that aren't forklifts, passenger vehicles, tractors, fire engines, trade vehicles or vehicle recovery service vehicles.

Vehicle weight covered by licence class

In addition to holding the appropriate special-type vehicle endorsement, you must also hold the appropriate full class of licence for the vehicle you want to operate. The class of licence will depend on the type of vehicle, its weight and the speed at which you are driving (see the table over the page).

If you're not sure whether you need an endorsement, call us on 0800 822 422.

What's 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 any place the public has access to - including bridges, culverts, beaches, riverbeds, reserve lands, wharves and road shoulders.

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

Traction engines

Please refer to Factsheet 11 *Driver licence classes* for information about the driver licence requirements for operating a traction engine.

How do I get an R, T or W endorsement?

- If you wish to obtain an R, T or W 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 the safe operation of the special-type vehicle.

Finding a course provider

For a course provider near you, visit our website at www.nzta.govt.nz/course-providers or call us on 0800 822 422.

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

Note: the Transport Agency-approved courses cover the road rules and basic handling skills. They aren't a replacement for courses covering OSH requirements or the skills required for particular work environments.

Applying for the endorsement

You can apply for an R, T or W endorsement at your nearest driver licensing agent.

These are selected branches of:

- Automobile Association (AA)
- Vehicle Testing New Zealand (VTNZ).

You need to:

- complete a DL19 application form
- provide evidence of your identity - this can be:
 - your New Zealand photographic licence (which can be current or expired up to two years), or
 - 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 appropriate and approved course
- pay the application fee of \$44 (per endorsement).

An R, T or W endorsement expires on the same date as your driver licence.

Eyesight requirements

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 usual doctor (GP), a registered nurse or nurse practitioner, or a specialist if appropriate. 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.

Requirements by vehicle type, weight and/or speed

Vehicle type	Weight and/or speed	Minimum licence class required	Endorsement required
Special-type vehicle which runs on tracks	18,000kg or less	1F	T
	More than 18,000kg	2F	T
Special-type vehicle which runs on rollers	18,000kg or less	1F	R
	More than 18,000kg	2F	R
Special-type vehicle which runs on wheels	6000kg or less	1F	W
	More than 6000kg but not more than 18,000kg and driven at 30km/h or less	1F	W
	More than 6000kg but not more than 18,000kg and driven at more than 30km/h	2F	W
	More than 18,000kg and driven at 30km/h or less	2F	W
	More than 18,000kg and driven at more than 30km/h	4F	W
Special-type agricultural motor vehicle which runs on wheels	Not more than 6000kg	1F	W
	More than 6000kg but not more than 18,000kg and driven at a speed not exceeding 40km/h	1F or 2F*	W -
	More than 18,000kg	4F	W
Agricultural tractor (that is not a special-type vehicle)	More than 6000kg but not more than 18,000kg and driven at a speed not exceeding 40km/h	1R/1F	-
	More than 6000kg but not more than 18,000kg and driven at a speed exceeding 40km/h	1F	F, R, T or W
	More than 18,000kg	4F	-
Agricultural tractor (that is not a special-type vehicle) with an agricultural trailer	Not more than 25,000kg and driven at a speed not exceeding 40km/h	1R/1F	-
	Not more than 25,000kg	1F	F, R, T or W
	More than 25,000kg	5F	-

*With or without a W endorsement.

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Contact details

- Call our contact centre: 0800 822 422.
- Visit our website: www.nzta.govt.nz.
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