

# V endorsements for vehicle recovery services

Tow truck and car transporter drivers are the most common drivers who need an endorsement for vehicle recovery. If you operate a vehicle recovery service of any kind, you'll need a V endorsement.

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

## What is a vehicle recovery service?

A vehicle recovery service is the towing or carrying, on any road, of a motor vehicle.

The size or design of the towing or carrying vehicle doesn't matter, nor whether the towing or carrying of the vehicle is carried out by a person intending to repair the vehicle.

You don't need a V endorsement for:

- towing or carrying a motorcycle or moped
- towing or carrying your own vehicle
- towing or carrying of one motor vehicle by another for no reward and when the vehicle is not designed or adapted for towing or carrying motor vehicles
- towing of disabled vehicles using a rope or flat tow by:
  - » a person employed or contracted by a motoring association or an insurance company who is taking a vehicle to a place of safety, or
  - » the owner or employee of a garage or workshop who intends to repair the vehicle
- any service where Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has notified the operator that the carriage of vehicles service should be treated as the carriage of goods
- the removal of vehicles by the NZ Defence Force (NZDF) tow trucks at the request of an enforcement officer
- routine towing services operated by NZDF personnel in areas where there is no suitable and available commercial towing service nearby
- any service specified as an exempt vehicle recovery service.

## Getting a V endorsement

To get a V endorsement you must have held a current full New Zealand car licence (class 1) for at least 2 years. An equivalent overseas licence doesn't meet this requirement.

You'll need to sit the class 1 (car) full licence practical driving test, unless you've already passed this test within the last 5 years.

You'll need to choose a **unique identifier** for your driver ID card. This should be an easy to remember name with up to 8 alphabetic characters.

If you'll drive a heavy vehicle in a vehicle recovery service, you must also have the **right class of driver licence** - see *Heavy vehicle driver licences: Class 2, 3, 4 and 5 driver licences* (Factsheet 70).

## What you need

- Evidence of your identity, such as your New Zealand driver licence - see *Identification for driver licensing* (Factsheet 20).
- A medical certificate - see *Medical certificate requirements*.
- A certificate showing you've successfully completed an approved vehicle recovery endorsement course, or you can complete the course after you apply.
- A *Notice of determination* if applicable - you may not need to have the fit and proper person check again if you hold a current P, I, or O endorsement.

## How to apply

1. Download and complete the application form. [www.nzta.govt.nz/form-DL20B](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/form-DL20B)
2. Take the completed form and the above documents to a driver licensing agent. You can find your closest agent at [www.nzta.govt.nz/agents](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/agents)
3. Pay the application fee.
4. The agent will take your photo and signature.

## Endorsement length

You can choose whether you want your endorsement to last for 1 year or 5 years. The application fee is the same no matter which term you choose.

## Cost

| Term    | Application fee | Vetting fee | Total           | Test fee* |
|---------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1 year  | \$198.90        | \$9.70      | <b>\$208.60</b> | \$59.90   |
| 5 years |                 | \$48.50     | <b>\$247.40</b> |           |

\* The full licence test isn't required if you've passed a class 1 full licence test in the last 5 years. This is a one-off fee, there are no fees for changing or cancelling the test.

If you already hold a P, I or O endorsement, some of the fees may not apply to you.

Approved course fees vary between providers and aren't included in the table above.

## What happens next

Your application is sent to Waka Kotahi for processing. We'll also do the fit and proper person check.

To find out how long your application will take to process, go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/processing-times](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/processing-times).

If you haven't met some of the requirements, your application will take longer to process.

If you give us your email address, we'll send you updates on your application status and a link to track your application progress online.

## Completing an approved course

You'll need a certificate showing you've successfully completed an approved vehicle recovery endorsement course. You can find a course provider at [www.nzta.govt.nz/course-providers-v](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/course-providers-v)

Having a course certificate doesn't mean you can drive a vehicle recovery service vehicle on the road. You must also successfully apply and get the V endorsement on your driver licence.

### When should I do the course?

Everyone who applies for a V endorsement must meet the fit and proper person requirements. You may want to make sure you meet the fit and proper person criteria before doing the required course.

When you apply, you can either:

- include a certificate showing you've successfully completed an approved course, or
- apply without completing an approved course and either:
  - » wait for the result of the fit and proper person check before doing a course, or
  - » complete an approved course while you wait for the result of the fit and proper person check.

## Medical certificate requirements

You need to present a medical certificate for a V endorsement if:

- you haven't submitted a medical certificate for classes 2 to 5 or P, V, I or O endorsements in the last five years
- you've developed a medical condition that could affect your ability to drive safely, or an existing condition has worsened
- you are required to by Waka Kotahi, regardless of when you last presented a medical certificate.

A medical certificate must be from a New Zealand-registered health practitioner and issued no more than 60 days before the date you apply. The health practitioner can be your usual doctor (GP), a registered nurse or nurse practitioner, or a specialist.

If you need a medical certificate, you must provide it when you apply for your endorsement at the agent. **If you don't, your application will not be accepted.**

## Eyesight requirements

Good vision is essential to driving a vehicle safely. Your health practitioner may check your eyesight when they issue your medical certificate. If they don't, you can prove that your eyesight is acceptable by:

- passing an eyesight check at a driver licensing agent, or
- presenting an original eyesight or medical certificate no more than 60 days old and issued by a New Zealand-registered optometrist or health practitioner.

You may take the eyesight test while wearing glasses or contact lenses. Your licence will then have a condition that you must always wear these while driving.

If you fail the eyesight check at an agent, you must then provide an acceptable eyesight or medical certificate. Your application won't be completed, and you won't get a licence, until you've provided the certificate.

Sight in only one eye can affect your ability to judge distance. If you can only see out of one eye, or only have one eye, you must provide an acceptable certificate stating you're safe to drive.

## Sitting the practical driving test

As part of gaining your V endorsement, you must sit the class 1 (car) full licence practical driving test, unless you've already passed this test within the last 5 years.

If you need to change your test, you can do this online or at an agent.

[www.nzta.govt.nz/online](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/online)

## Fit and proper person check

To make sure people are safe while using vehicle recovery services in New Zealand, we check and monitor the background of all passenger service drivers. This is part of our ongoing commitment to road safety and improving driving standards on our roads.

The background check (vetting) includes:

- transport-related offences – especially safety
- serious behaviour problems
- past complaints about your work in a transport service
- not paying fines for transport-related offences
- criminal offending in New Zealand or overseas, including charges and convictions for violence or sexual offences, drugs or firearms offences, or organised criminal activities.

Once you have your endorsement, we use real-time data to make sure you continue to meet our fit and proper person criteria.

For more information about the criminal convictions check, go to [www.police.govt.nz/advice/businesses-and-organisations/vetting/information-about-vetting](http://www.police.govt.nz/advice/businesses-and-organisations/vetting/information-about-vetting)

If you have any concerns about the check, we recommend you seek independent advice.

## What happens when everything is complete?

If you don't meet the fit and proper requirements, we'll tell you in writing and give you a chance to explain before we make the final decision. If we decide to decline your application you can appeal our decision to the District Court.

### Endorsement granted

If you meet the fit and proper person requirements, and you've already completed the course and passed the practical test, we'll approve your application and send your new licence to you.

If you're waiting for the fit and proper result and haven't completed the test or course yet, we'll send you a *Notice of determination* which is valid for 90 days. You can then complete your course and go back to the agent to book your practical driving test. If the notice expires before you finish the relevant courses or tests, call us on 0800 822 422.

### Fee for the fit and proper person check

The fee for the fit and proper person check is called a vetting fee. If you hold a current P endorsement with an ID card or an I or O endorsement, you won't be charged the fee again until you renew your endorsements.

### When your endorsement expires

When your endorsement ends, you must renew the endorsement if you want to keep working as a vehicle recovery service driver.

## Immigration status

You don't need to provide evidence of your immigration status to Waka Kotahi.

Go to [www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas) for more information about working in New Zealand.



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](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets)

[www.nzta.govt.nz](http://www.nzta.govt.nz)

0800 822 422

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency,  
Private Bag 11777, Palmerston North 4442