

V endorsements

for vehicle recovery services

If you want to drive a vehicle in a vehicle recovery service, you must have a current V endorsement on your driver licence.

The most common types of vehicle used in vehicle recovery services are tow trucks and car transporters.

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

What is a vehicle recovery service?

A vehicle recovery service is the towing or carrying, on any road, of a motor vehicle irrespective of the size or design of the towing or carrying vehicle and whether or not the towing or carrying of the vehicle is carried out by a person intending to repair the vehicle.

It does not include the following activities:

- towing or carrying a motorcycle or moped
- towing or carrying your own vehicle
- towing or carrying of one motor vehicle by another when not directly or indirectly for reward and when the towing or carrying 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 where the towing or carrying is limited to the removal of 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 the NZ Transport Agency has notified the operator that the nature of the service is such that the carriage of vehicles should be treated as the carriage of goods
- the removal of vehicles by the NZ Defence Force tow trucks at the request of an enforcement officer
- routine towing services operated by the NZ Defence Force personnel in areas where there is no suitable and available commercial towing service nearby
- any service specified as an exempt vehicle recovery service.

How do I get a V endorsement?

To get a V endorsement you must hold, and have held for at least two years, a full New Zealand class 1 driver licence. Note that holding an equivalent overseas licence doesn't meet this requirement.

If you're planning to drive a heavy vehicle in a vehicle recovery service, you must also ensure you have the right class of **driver licence**.

See factsheet 70 *Heavy vehicle driver licences: Class 2, 3, 4 and 5 driver licences* for more information.

You need to fill out an *Application for new V, I or O endorsement form (DL20B)*. The form is available at www.nzta.govt.nz/form-DL20B or from driver licensing agents.

The form will ask you to provide a *unique identifier* for your driver ID card. A unique identifier is a name comprising of a combination of letters that will be sufficiently memorable so as to be easily recalled by users of the service to identify the driver. Where the unique identifier chosen is already allocated to another driver, the Transport Agency will assign numbers to the chosen name to avoid duplication.

Completing an approved course

You'll need to provide a certificate showing that you've successfully completed an approved vehicle recovery endorsement course.

To find out about courses

- Find a course provider on the Transport Agency website at www.nzta.govt.nz/course-providers-v
- Call us on 0800 822 422.

What else do I have to do?

You can't drive a vehicle recovery service vehicle on the road just because you've got the course certificate. You must successfully complete the application process and get the V endorsement on your driver licence.

Putting in your application

You can apply for a V endorsement at a driver licensing agent. Go to www.nzta.govt.nz/agent to find an agent in your area.

You'll need:

- a completed DL20B form (you can download the form at www.nzta.govt.nz/form-DL20B)
- evidence of your identity, such as your New Zealand driver licence (see factsheet 20 *Identification for driver licensing for more information*)
- a medical certificate (if applicable – see the Do I need a medical certificate section)
- a certificate showing you've successfully completed an approved vehicle recovery endorsement course (or you can complete the course after you put your application in – see below)
- 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)

- a means of paying the fees (cheque, cash or EFTPOS card).

You should allow 10 working days for your application to be processed (providing you have supplied all the necessary information and documentation). This is because we need to carry out a fit and proper person check.

If you give us your email address, we'll send you updates on your application status. We'll also email you a link so you can track your application's progress online.

When should I do the course?

Every applicant for a V endorsement is subject to the fit and proper person requirements. You may not want to complete the required course until you're certain that you meet the fit and proper person criteria.

When you put your application in, you can either:

- provide a certificate showing you've successfully completed an approved course (and book your practical driving test), or
- submit your application without having completed an approved course and either:
 - wait for the result of the fit and proper person check before doing a course (and booking the practical driving test), or
 - complete an approved course (and book your practical driving test) while you wait for the result of the fit and proper person check.

Do I need a medical certificate?

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 endorsements P, V, I or O in the last five years
- you've developed a medical condition that could adversely affect your ability to drive safely, or a condition has worsened
- you are requested to by the Transport Agency (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 of your application. The health practitioner can be your usual doctor (GP), a registered nurse or nurse practitioner, or a specialist if appropriate.

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 issued by a New Zealand registered optometrist or health practitioner (no more than 60 days old).

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 try to pass the eyesight check at an agent and fail, then you must provide a satisfactory 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 dramatically affect your ability to judge

distance. If you can only see out of one eye, or only have one eye, you must present an acceptable certificate stating that you're safe to drive.

Sitting the practical driving test

As part of gaining your V endorsement, you must sit the class 1 full licence practical driving test.

Note: this isn't required if you've passed the test in the last five years.

If you have booked a full licence test and can't make the appointment, please go to www.nzta.govt.nz/online to change your test or go to your driver licensing agent.

Changing or cancelling your test

If you want to change or cancel your test, you will have to pay a further fee.

Where there are two or more complete working days (excluding weekends and public holidays) between the day you change or cancel your test and the date of your appointment, you will need to pay a rescheduling fee of \$16.40.

This is a regulated fee to cover the time taken and costs incurred when a test is cancelled or rescheduled.

Where there are less than two complete working days (excluding weekends and public holidays) between the day you change or cancel your test and the date of your appointment, you will not pay a rescheduling fee but will need to pay a further test fee. This further test fee is not refundable.

You may be eligible for a refund of the first test fee paid where the cancelled test time was subsequently filled by another person. If the test fee is refunded, a processing fee of \$16.40 will be deducted.

About the fit and proper person check

After you put in your application, it will be sent to the Transport Agency so that a fit and proper person check can be undertaken.

The person who carries out the check considers any:

- criminal convictions, including any charges or convictions relating to violent or sexual offences, drug or firearm offences, or offences involving organised criminal activity
- transport-related offences, especially relating to safety
- history of health or behavioural problems
- past complaints about a transport service you may have operated
- history of persistent failure to pay fines for transport related offences.

Any other information in the interests of public safety can also be taken into account.

For more information about the criminal convictions check, go to www.police.govt.nz/advice/businesses-and-organisations/vetting/information-about-vetting.

If you're not a New Zealand citizen or don't hold a resident's permit, you may need a work permit or some other temporary permit to show that you can work in New Zealand.

If you have any concerns about the check, contact your nearest Transport Agency office.

Not cleared

If you're not cleared by the fit and proper person check, you'll be sent a letter explaining why. The letter will also outline your right of appeal to the District Court.

Cleared

If you meet the fit and proper person requirements, and all other relevant tests have been completed, your application will be approved and the new licence will be mailed to you. Where you have elected to have the fit and proper person check completed before the other tests are done, you'll be sent a *Notice of determination* (valid for 90 days). Show the notice to the driver licensing agent when you go to complete your application. If the notice expires before you finish the relevant courses or tests, call our contact centre on 0800 822 422.

Fee for the 'fit and proper person'

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

V endorsement fees

The table below sets out the fees for a V endorsement. (Course fees vary between providers and aren't included in the table.)

You can get a V endorsement for one or five years.

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

	1 year	5 years
Application	\$64.40	\$246.30
ID card	\$8.60	\$8.60
Vetting	\$9.70	\$48.50
Full licence test*	\$59.90	\$59.90
Total	\$142.60	\$363.30

* The full licence test isn't required if you've passed a Class 1 full licence test in the last five years.

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) or call us on 0800 822 422.

Contact details

- Call our contact centre: 0800 822 422.
- Visit our website: www.nzta.govt.nz.
- Email us: info@nzta.govt.nz.
- Write to us: NZ Transport Agency, Private Bag 11777, Palmerston North 4442.