Class C road classification – Information

A class of road called ‘class C’ took effect from 1 August 1989. A class C road is defined as a road which is a collector route which may be used by heavy motor vehicles only for the purpose of delivery or collection of goods and passengers at a destination located on the class C road.

Requirements for establishment of a class C road are defined in regulation 4 of the Heavy motor vehicle regulations 1974. This includes advertising the proposal, considering objections, approval by Land Transport New Zealand, publication of a notice in the New Zealand Gazette and erection of the appropriate signs.

A class C road may only be approved if it is established it would ‘suffer excessive damage by heavy motor vehicle’ if it remained in class I.

Weight limits for heavy motor vehicles entitled to travel on a class C road are the same as for class I.

The purpose of class C roads is to enable short lengths of weak roads to be protected from unwarranted use by through heavy traffic where more appropriate reasonable alternative routes are available. Ideally, class C would be used only to protect weak roads which form a 'shortcut' to a recommended route.

‘No exit’ roads (being generally unavailable for through traffic) should not be class C unless they connect to another class C road.