

TRACTOR RULES

From 1 June 2013 the following changes will come into force:

Definitions

- The definition of an 'agricultural motor vehicle', 'agricultural trailer' and 'agricultural tractor' will change;
- Tractors used for agricultural purposes, agricultural trailers, cultivators, harvesters, balers, hay rakes, produce sorters etc are covered by the new rules;
- On Road 4WD, utes, trucks, goods trailers over 4kph, ATVs and non agricultural tractors are not.

Speed

- The current 30kph speed threshold for agricultural vehicles is increasing to 40kph.

License classes

- People with a restricted licence will be able to operate a tractor up to 18 tonnes or 25 tonnes in combination up to 40kph;
- People with a UK tractor licence will be able to drive a tractor up to 18 tonnes or 25 tonnes in combination up to 40kph;
- To operate any other agricultural vehicle up to 18 tonnes or 25 tonnes in combination, 40kph and over, a Class 1 licence with a wheels (W) endorsement will be required;
- A person with a Class 2 licence can operate any agricultural vehicle up to 40kph;
- A person with a Class 2 licence will require a wheels (W) endorsement to operate any agricultural vehicle over 40kph.

Vehicle lighting

- Agricultural vehicles (not trailers) first registered on 1 June 2013 will need to be fitted with a flashing or revolving amber beacon. If an agricultural trailer obscures this light then a further beacon will be required.

Over weight and dimension

- An alternative hazard panel configuration will be introduced;
- The front overhang for over dimension vehicles from the drivers seat will be increased from 3 to 4 meters;
- Front forks and buckets do not have to be removed provided they are safe;
- High visibility paint may be used to mark the front overhang instead of hazard panels.

Work time rule

- Operators can apply to NZTA to implement an alternative fatigue management system.

Logbooks

- There is no requirement to maintain a logbook in respect to operating an agricultural vehicle which is not subject to the Work Time Rule;
- Most agricultural vehicles that have to meet the Work Time Rule are exempt from the logbook requirement (BUT read the Rule to make sure).

From 11 November 2013 the following changes will come into force:

- Agricultural vehicles and trailers operating under 40kph will not require a WOF or COF or have to pay Road User Charges;
- Agricultural vehicles operating over 40kph will be registered B or K and require a simplified annual WOF. Road User Charges will be incorporated in an annual licensing fee. No COF will be required;
- Agricultural trailers operating over 40kph will need to be registered, licenced and required either a WOF or COF.

Federated Farmers generally supported the draft Rule, but we submitted that changes were needed to improve it (eg the need for 'EX' licence class and changes to rules for hazard panels, etc.).

Submission on Draft Land Transport Rule, Agricultural Vehicles, Omnibus 2012 Rule 10050