



Exempt vehicles

from registration and licensing

ISSN 1171-1650

UNDER the motor registration system, all motor vehicles must be registered and licensed unless they fall into one of the exempt classifications.

What is registration?

Registration is when a vehicle is added to the Motor Vehicle Register and given registration plates.

What is vehicle licensing?

Vehicle licensing is paying a fee to use a motor vehicle on public roads.

When the fee is paid you receive a label indicating the licence's expiry date. This licence label must be displayed on the vehicle.

Vehicle licensing is commonly but *incorrectly* called *registration*.

What does exemption mean?

Vehicle exemption means:

- your vehicle may not have to be registered
- you may not have to pay registration and licensing fees (but your vehicle still has to be registered)
- you may not have to pay some levies.

Note: There is a temporary exemption from licensing, when a registered but unlicensed vehicle is used on the road solely for the purpose of obtaining a warrant of fitness or certificate of fitness, in order to then obtain a vehicle licence.

When is a vehicle exempt?

The following information explains the different classes of vehicle exemptions.

Exempt from being registered

The following vehicles are exempt from being registered and licensed for road use:

- vehicles used on a road that is closed temporarily by a local authority or other body, for holding special events
- powered vehicles that are temporarily being towed without the use of their own power
- trailers designed exclusively for agricultural operations and used on the road to or from a farm for inspection, servicing or repair
- trailers being towed by Exempt Class B vehicles.

Temporary vehicle imports

If you need information on registering a temporary vehicle import (a vehicle that's registered overseas and will be in New Zealand for less than 18 months), see Factsheet 35.

Exempt Class A

Exempt Class A vehicles are not exempt from registration and licensing but are exempt from registration fees and the vehicle licence portion of the licensing fee. You still have to pay for other fees and levies included in the total licensing fee – for example, you still have to pay for the appropriate ACC levy, registration plates and labels.

Exempt Class A vehicles are:

- vehicles used on a road that is not a public highway, vehicles used on public highways only for inspection, servicing, repair or for a practical driving test (please note that you can only drive vehicles without a WoF or CoF on the road for the purpose of bringing the vehicle into compliance, and it must be safe to be operated for that purpose)
- pedestrian-controlled goods services vehicles
- fully tracked vehicles
- vehicles used in a declared road construction zone
- vehicles crossing or proceeding along a section of a road when authorisation has been given by a local roading authority under certain conditions
- all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) used on a public highway, in moving from the owner's residence to a road that isn't a public highway, where the distance travelled doesn't exceed three kilometres, or in connection with the inspection, servicing or repair of the vehicle.

Exempt Class B

Exempt Class B vehicles may be exempt from the payment of some levies.

Exempt Class B vehicles are:

► Farm vehicles

- A motor vehicle (not a trailer) designed for agricultural operations and used on a road solely for agricultural operations, including mobile or movable huts, galleys, and similar motor vehicles used on a road solely in connection with such operations. (Not including a vehicle designed for cartage or spreading of lime or fertiliser when used on the road for cartage or a weed sprayer on a truck chassis)
- A motor vehicle (not a trailer) owned by a farmer and only used on the road to go from one part of the farm to another part of the same farm (for farming purposes); or from one farm to another farm owned or managed by the same person
- A tractor or traction engine used on the road solely for agricultural operations; or if used mainly for agricultural operations and otherwise only in connection with road construction and maintenance
- A tractor owned by a farmer used on a road only for
 - a) the owner's agricultural operations, and/or
 - b) the cartage of milk, cream, or whey to or from a dairy factory, and/or
 - c) cartage of any farm produce, implements, stock, or other farm requisites from one farm to another farm that is owned or managed by the same person or for a maximum round trip of 21 kilometres of public highway
- A tractor that is designed and used partly for the purpose of loading lime or fertiliser into topdressing aircraft and partly for drawing a trailer that is designed and used exclusively for carrying aviation fuel in a permanently attached tank for use in topdressing aircraft, and for no other purpose and is not taken on any round trip of more than 21 kilometres of public highway.

► Mobile machinery

Any vehicle (other than a tractor) with machinery permanently attached, designed to be used on the road for driving, carrying or propelling: airport runway sweepers; electrical substations; filters for transformer oil; stationary log haulers; or aero engine test benches.

► Miscellaneous

- Self-propelled grass mowers used solely for the upkeep of grounds (cemeteries, recreation or education grounds) or cutting of grass verges on roads
- Mobile huts, galleys or similar vehicles used solely for construction or maintenance of roads
- Traction engines
- Forklifts
- Airport crash tenders when only used on the road in emergencies
- Vehicles used solely for loading and unloading ships, including embarking and disembarking passengers, baggage, mail and other cargo, and used on a public highway only when unladen and going from one wharf to another wharf, or from its usual place of storage to a wharf
- Tractors used by local authorities solely for the construction, maintenance and mowing of stopbanks and the banks of other watercourses, such as rivers, streams, drains and canals
- Tractors used solely for shunting railway rolling stock.

What are 'agricultural operations'?

The definition of 'agricultural operations' is in the Transit New Zealand (Apportionment and Refund of Excise Duty) Regulations 1998. It says:

'Agricultural operation means any operation concerned directly with the management of a farm; and includes the transport on a road of the produce of a farm, farm implements, stock, or other requisites of any kind whatsoever for a farm, if they are transported—

- a) From a part of a farm to another part of the same farm or from a farm to another adjoining farm that is owned or managed by the same person; or
- b) From a farm to another farm owned or managed by the same person if the motor vehicle carrying the goods is not taken during any one trip along more than 21 kilometres of public highway in going from the owner's farm or other place of garage and in returning to that farm or place.'

WoF and CoF requirements

Exempt Class A and B vehicles are not necessarily exempt from warrant of fitness (WoF) or certificate of fitness (CoF) requirements.

For example, Exempt Class B tractors must have a WoF if they're operated at over 30 kilometres an hour. An Exempt Class B tractor that isn't operated at over 30 kilometres an hour isn't required to have a warrant of fitness, but it must meet legislated safety standards.

For more information on WoF, CoF and safety requirements contact Land Transport New Zealand's Helpdesk : (freephone) 0800 699 000.

Warning! Make sure your vehicle is correctly registered for the way its used. Law enforcement agencies will prosecute you if you're apprehended with a vehicle that isn't registered for the correct road use.

Where can I find out more?

- Visit our website:
www.landtransport.govt.nz.
- Phone our Motor Registration Call Centre on: (freephone) 0800 108 809.
- Write to us: Land Transport New Zealand, PO Box 2840, Wellington.