

Road user charges (RUC) for all-terrain and mobile cranes

Questions and answers

Q. What cranes come under the RUC vehicle types 299 to 799 series?

- A. These categories apply to all-terrain cranes that have single mega-tyred axles as specified in the VDAM rule 2016.

Q. What RUC vehicle types are other mobile cranes classified as?

- A. Truck-mounted mobile cranes and other mobile cranes that have standard heavy vehicle axle and wheel configurations (such as single-standard, single-large or twin-tyred axles, or a combination of them) need to use one of the standard RUC vehicle types (Standard RUC types 1-19). A full list of these types is available in the RUC handbook, in the RUC section of the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency website.

Q. Who needs to pay RUC?

- A. Any vehicles, including cranes, that use the road incur RUC unless they have an exemption.

Q. Mobile cranes are listed as exempt in the RUC regulations. Why do I have to pay RUC?

- A. A mobile crane in the regulations refers to a crane that cannot have a suitably approved distance recorder fitted. In the past a small number of cranes fitted that category. However, with the new technology available, an approved distance recorder is always able to be fitted. Therefore, cranes that use the road incur RUC.

Q. What if a mobile crane that uses the road does not have an odometer or is not able to have an approved distance recorder equipped?

- A. With the new technology now available, an approved distance recorder, such as a suitable odometer or eRUC, can always be fitted.

Q. If my mobile crane is registered on an MR2B do I still need to pay RUC?

- A. Regardless of the registration, if a mobile crane uses the road it is required to pay RUC.

Q. How do I apply for and purchase appropriate RUC?

- A. As most cranes only operate on the road under an overweight permit, there needs to be a distance licence that covers up to the RUC weight assigned by Waka Kotahi and then an additional licence that covers the difference between the assigned weight and the permit weight. The distance licence weight and permit weight are always rounded up to the nearest 1000kg. More detail will be provided with examples in an information brochure that Waka Kotahi is preparing.

Q. Can RUC be reclaimed for vehicles that have travelled off-road?

- A. Yes, the normal requirements of records to prove off-road use are mandatory. In the case of cranes that normally have a distance and an additional licence, both would qualify for refunds of the appropriate distance.

Q. Is the new Waka Kotahi approach to mobile cranes and RUC fair?

- A. All vehicles that use the road are required to pay RUC unless specifically exempted. It has come to the attention of Waka Kotahi that some crane operators who use the road have not been meeting their RUC obligations. We want to correct this and make sure there is a level playing field by ensuring all crane operators understand and are compliant with their RUC responsibilities.

Q. Why does the RUC-assigned weight calculation differ for mobile cranes and for other heavy vehicles?

- A. The axle and wheel configurations for mobile cranes are unique, and in most cases difficult to apply the standard VDAM rules to. Waka Kotahi has simplified this by applying standard axle weights as long as the appropriate tyre sizes are in use. More detail will be provided in the information brochure.