

This factsheet describes specialist vehicles in the Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Dimensions and Mass 2016.

For definitions of dimensions and axle terms see Factsheet 13 *Vehicle dimensions and mass: guide to factsheet 13 series*.

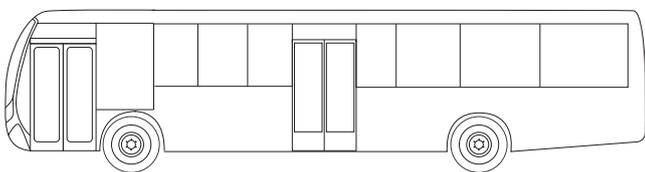
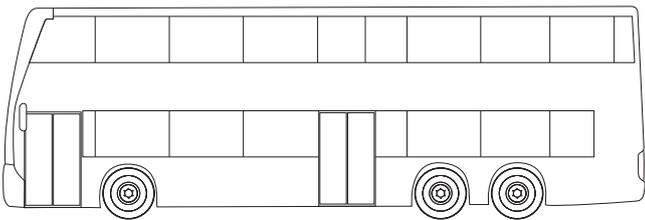
Specialist vehicles are a type of higher mass vehicle that can carry divisible loads. They should not be confused with specialist overdimension vehicles. If they are over the general access axle mass limits (see factsheet 13) they cannot be driven on the road without a permit from a road controlling authority (RCA) – usually this is the local council or the NZ Transport Agency for state highways.

The rule prescribes types of allowable specialist vehicles. They are:

- Passenger service vehicles
- Ground-spreader trucks
- Concrete mixers
- Rubbish trucks with compactor.

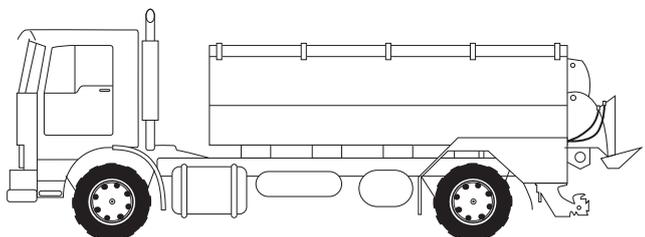
Passenger service vehicle

- a motor vehicle used or available for use in a passenger service for the carriage of passengers, or
- a motor vehicle with more than 12 seating positions, or
- a heavy motor vehicle with more than nine seating positions.



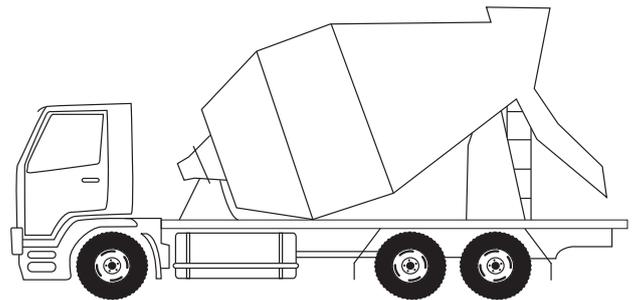
Ground spreader truck

A ground spreader truck distributes material from its storage container, spraying the surrounding area with its contents.



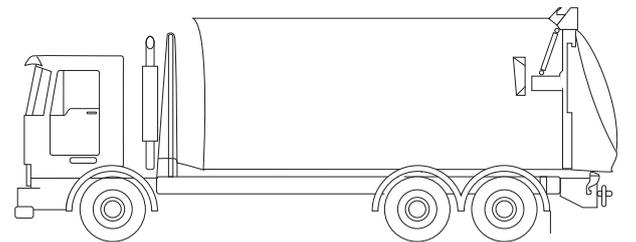
Concrete mixer

A concrete mixer is a vehicle designed for the purpose of transporting and mixing concrete. A typical concrete mixer uses a revolving drum to mix the components.



Rubbish truck

A rubbish truck is a vehicle designed and constructed for the collection and transport of rubbish and to which is fitted a compactor. It doesn't include general vehicles carrying waste.



Specialist vehicle conditions

Specialist vehicles that operate under permit from a road controlling authority must comply with the following conditions:

- The vehicle is not to exceed mass limits set out in a defined schedule for specialist vehicles – see table below
- For axle mass limits other than those specified in the defined schedule the vehicle must not exceed the axle and axle set limits in the general access mass tables in the rule (see Land Transport Rule : Vehicle Dimensions and Mass 2016 for these tables)
- Conditions imposed by a road controlling authority (to ensure the safety of road users, protection of infrastructure, or provide for compliance with the permit (including tracking systems))
- A specialist vehicle cannot tow a heavy trailer (GVM over 3500kg).

Maximum sum of axle mass for specialist vehicle operating on permit

Type of axle set	Mass (kg)
A single large-tyred axle in a tandem axle set with a twin-tyred axle and a 55/45 load share	8100
Twin-tyred axle in any axle set	12,000
Two axles in a tandem axle set comprising:	
a) a twin-tyred axle with a single large-tyred axle and a 60/40 load share	16,000
b) a twin-tyred axle with a single large-tyred axle and a 55/45 load share	18,000
Two twin-tyred axles:	
a) spaced less than 1.3 m from the first axle to the last axle	17,000
b) spaced 1.3 m or more from the first axle to the last axle	18,000

Like overweight vehicles, **specialist vehicles need a separate permit from every RCA whose area they travel through**. This includes the Transport Agency for any travel on state highways.

A vehicle operating under a permit must comply with the following **critical conditions**:

- The gross mass of the vehicle must not exceed the maximum gross mass specified in the permit
- The gross mass of the vehicle must not exceed the gross vehicle mass, gross combination mass, maximum towed mass or brake code mass if any of these limits apply to the vehicle
- The vehicle must comply with all bridge restrictions specified in the permit.

Breach of a **critical condition** attracts a higher fine (\$2000) than a breach of other permit conditions. Further penalties for other infringements, particularly for overloading, may also apply.

Applying for a permit

For information on how to apply for a permit go to: www.nzta.govt.nz/specialist-vehicle-permits.

Where can I find out more

- Factsheet 13 *Vehicle dimensions and mass: guide to the factsheet 13 series*
- Factsheet 13a *Heavy rigid vehicles*
- Factsheet 13b *Light rigid vehicles*
- Factsheet 13c *Heavy trailers and combination vehicles*
- Factsheet 13d *Trailers: Light simple trailers*
- Factsheet 13e *Static roll thresholds*
- Factsheet 13f *Heavy buses*
- Factsheet 13g *High Productivity motor vehicles*
- Factsheet 53a *Overdimension vehicles and loads*
- Factsheet 53b *Overdimension roles and responsibilities*
- Land Transport Rule 41001: Vehicle Dimensions and Mass 2016.

You can also contact the NZ Transport Agency. See details below.

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 699 000.

Contact details

- Call our contact centre: 0800 699 000.
- 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.