

R, T and W endorsements for special-type vehicles



Factsheet
40

October 2023

ISSN 1172-0689 (print)
ISSN 1172-0778 (online)

If you drive a special-type vehicle on the road, you must have an F, R, T or W endorsement on your driver licence.

- The F endorsement is for forklifts. See *F endorsements for driving forklifts* (Factsheet 10).
- The R endorsement is for vehicles that run on rollers.
- The T endorsement is for vehicles that run on self-laying tracks.
- The W endorsement is for vehicles that run on wheels that aren't forklifts, passenger vehicles, tractors, fire engines, trade vehicles or vehicle recovery service vehicles.

If you're not sure whether you need an endorsement, call us on 0800 822 422.

Vehicle weight covered by licence class

You must also hold the appropriate full class of licence for the vehicle you want to operate. The class of licence will depend on the type of vehicle, its weight and the speed you're driving (see the table over the page).

What's the definition of a 'road'?

The definition of a **road**, for the application of transport laws, is very broad. It includes not only streets and highways, but any place the public has access to - including bridges, culverts, beaches, riverbeds, reserve lands, wharves and road shoulders.

If you drive a special-type vehicle in any of these areas, the rules relating to registration, licensing and general driver behaviour all apply.

Traction engines

Please refer to *Driver licence classes* (Factsheet 11) for information about the driver licence requirements for operating a traction engine.

How do I get an R, T or W endorsement?

You must hold a full licence (other than a motorcycle licence).

You'll need to complete an approved course that teaches specialist knowledge and skills relating to the safe operation of the special-type vehicle. When you've successfully completed the course, they'll give you a course certificate.

Note: the Waka Kotahi-approved courses cover the road rules and basic handling skills. They're not a replacement for courses covering OSH requirements or the skills required for particular work environments.

Finding a course provider

To find a list of course providers go to:

www.nzta.govt.nz/course-providers

You can't drive a special-type vehicle on the road just because you've got the course certificate. You must get the endorsement on your driver licence before you can drive them on the road.

Applying for the endorsement

You can apply for an R, T or W endorsement at your nearest driver licensing agent. To find an agent go to www.nzta.govt.nz/agent

You need to:

- complete a *Application for endorsement D, F, R, T, W* application form (DL19).
www.nzta.govt.nz/form-DL19
- provide evidence of your identity - this can be:
 - your New Zealand photo driver licence (which can be current or expired up to 2 years), or
 - 2 other acceptable forms of evidence of identity (see *Identification for driver licensing* (Factsheet 20) for more information and a full list of acceptable identity documents)
- provide the certificate showing you've successfully completed an approved endorsement course
- pay the application fee of \$62.10 (per endorsement).

The agent will process your application and give you a temporary licence with an R, T and/or W endorsement to use until your new photo driver licence arrives in the mail.

Your endorsement will expire on the same date as your driver licence. It will renew automatically when you renew your licence.

Eyesight requirements

You must prove that your eyesight is up to standard. You can:

- pass an eyesight screening check at a driver licensing agent, or
- present a satisfactory eyesight certificate or medical certificate (no more than 60 days old).

The certificate must be issued by a New Zealand registered optometrist or health practitioner, for example your usual doctor (GP), a registered nurse or nurse practitioner, or a specialist if appropriate. If you don't pass the eyesight screening check at the agent, you'll need to provide a certificate instead.

If you have sight in only one eye, or have only one eye (monocular vision) you'll need to present an eyesight certificate.

Requirements by vehicle type, weight and/or speed

Vehicle type	Weight and/or speed	Minimum licence class required	Endorsement required
Special-type vehicle which runs on tracks	18,000kg or less	1F	T
	Over 18,000kg	2F	T
Special-type vehicle which runs on rollers	18,000kg or less	1F	R
	Over 18,000kg	2F	R
Special-type vehicle which runs on wheels	6000kg or less	1F	W
	6000kg - 18,000kg driven at 30km/h or less	1F	W
	6000kg - 18,000kg driven over 30km/h	2F	W
	Over 18,000kg driven at 30km/h or less	2F	W
	Over 18,000kg driven over 30km/h	4F	W
Special-type agricultural motor vehicle which runs on wheels	6000kg or less	1F	W
	6000kg - 18,000kg driven at 40km/h or less	1F	W
		or 2F*	-
	Over 18,000kg	4F	W
Agricultural tractor (that is not a special-type vehicle)	6000kg - 18,000kg driven at 40km/h or less	1R/1F	-
	6000kg - 18,000kg driven over 40km/h	1F	F, R, T or W
	Over 18,000kg	4F	-
Agricultural tractor (that is not a special-type vehicle) with an agricultural trailer	25,000kg or less driven at 40km/h or less	1R/1F	-
	25,000kg or less	1F	F, R, T or W
	Over 25,000kg	5F	-

*With or without a W endorsement.



This factsheet is a general guide only. It doesn't replace legal advice, and your exact requirements will depend on current legislation.

Make sure you have the most up-to-date version of this factsheet by checking www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets



www.nzta.govt.nz



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