

A Road Guide to Farm Vehicles and Trailers

This guide is our interpretation of the law as it is currently implemented by DVSA (formerly VOSA) and Police Scotland. It is not a definitive guide.

Max Weight Tractor + Trailer + Load 31.00t
 Trailer + Load 18.29t

Max Width 4.1m – 6.1m Side Markers, Notify Police + Self Escort
 6.2m + Side Markers + Police Escort

Trailer and Trailed Appliance Brakes

Up to 25mph Minimum Braking Efficiency 25%
 + Parking Brake (16%+), chocks or Clamps
Over 25mph Minimum Braking Efficiency 45%
 + Parking Brake (16%+)
 + Failsafe Brake

If a Trailed Appliance is fitted with brakes they must work

Ropes & Sheets Bags/Boxes/Bales must be secured with an appropriate
 Rope, Strap or Hydraulic Ram in good working order.
 Bulk Loads must be covered if material could be
 displaced.

Tyres Up to 25 mph Tyres must have no Lumps, Bulges and
 Tears
 > 25 mph No Lumps, Bulges and Tears + >1mm
 tread

Lights/Mirrors/Windows

Amber Beacons Required on Dual Carriageways
 must be seen 360°. Rear trailer beacon
 if tractor beacon cannot be seen.
Trailers Rear Light Clusters & Front White
 Side Lights
Tractors No rear facing White Lights switched
 on
Mirrors Exterior mirror affording
 un-obscured rearward vision beyond
 the vehicle and trailer/implement.

Mounted Implements Projecting >2m front/ back or
305mm to either side - Marking Boards & lights at night
Tractor windows must not be obscured e.g. with Console

Fuel Agriculture & Forestry – Gas Oil
 Distance limitation - None
 Non Agricultural Operation using public roads – Derv
 Snow Clearing or Hedge Cutting – Gas Oil
 Mixed use e.g. Moving a digger to farm then carting the
 spoil – Gas Oil
 Carting Farm waste to tip – Gas Oil
 If contracted in to assist, bear in mind that you are
 employed by the farmer and carrying out an agricultural
 activity – otherwise you are a haulier and must use Derv.
 Dual Fuel tanks are not allowed

Queue Do not let a large queue form behind you. You may be charged with Careless Driving if you do not use somewhere safe, preferably laybys, to let vehicles past.

Mud Warning signs must be displayed.
As soon as practical all debris must be cleaned off the road.

Hedge Cutting As above

Number Plates Trailer Number Plates from an agricultural vehicle registered to the same firm.
Must be visible and readable

N Fertiliser Loads of up to 10t are exempt from the Carriage of Dangerous Goods

Forklifts All Dung Graip Tines, Forks and Bale Spikes must have protectors. Trailers are allowed to be towed by a forklift as long as the forklift is registered as an agricultural vehicle.

ATVs Max Speed 20mph
Other Requirements Road Kit + Car Driving Licence

Vehicle Tax

Agricultural - Does not allow Non Agricultural activity

- Does not allow Motorway use

Special - Non Agric activity allowed.

- Max Distance on Public Roads 1Km

HGV - This requires the tractor to be plated.

- Currently not possible.

It is an offence to not tax your vehicle

Operator's Licence

Hauling Produce – Exempt up to 15 Miles from farm

4X4 Vehicle & Trailers - Exempt with no distance limit

Tachograph

Vehicle Gross Train Weight less than 3.5t - Exempt

Vehicles not capable of exceeding 40km/Hr – Exempt

Agriculture & Forestry activity – Exempt up to 100km from farm
(as the crow flies)

Carriage of live animals to market – Exempt up to 100km
for your own animals

CPC Lorries over 3.5t - 35 hrs training every 5 years
Tractors limited to a top speed of 45 km/hr - Exempt
4x4 Vehicle & Trailers - Exempt
Non commercial carriage of passengers or goods - Exempt
Carriage of tools & equipment to be used on job - Exempt

2019 Please apply for a free Annual Dispensation online or contact the Abnormal Loads Team - 01592 418859 or
OSDAbnormalLoadsScotland@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Please remember you still need to use wide load markings and a specialist