



Tástáil Ródachmhainneachta um Fheithicilí Tráchtála  
Commercial Vehicle Roadworthiness Testing

# GUIDELINES ON THE SAFE USE OF AGRICULTURAL VEHICLES IN PUBLIC PLACES

## General requirements

If you operate agricultural vehicles in a public place, then there are some things you need to know.

You must obey the rules of the road and ensure your vehicles are roadworthy, taxed, insured and driven by a licensed driver. You must also remember that you will be sharing the road with other vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists, all of which have an equal right to be there.

## Roadworthiness testing – what the law says

If you own a fast tractor (that is a tractor that is capable by design of exceeding a speed of 40 km/h) and you use it in a public place at any time for transporting a load that is not related to on-farm agriculture, horticulture, forestry, farming or fisheries operations, then you are obliged to have it tested at a Commercial Vehicle Roadworthiness (CVR) testing centre.

This obligation was introduced on 20 May 2018 on foot of an EU requirement. Tests of fast tractors are due when they are four years old and thereafter every two years.

Trailers are not required to undergo compulsory testing unless they are classified as heavy goods trailers.

## Roadworthiness of agricultural vehicles – general obligations

Agricultural vehicles play a key role in the productivity of one of Ireland's main industries and, like all vehicles being used in a public place, it is essential that they are maintained in a roadworthy condition.



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Therefore, even if your tractor qualifies for an exemption from the requirement to undergo compulsory roadworthiness testing or is not subject to testing, this is not an exemption from the requirement to ensure that it is maintained in a roadworthy condition at all times.

We recommend that you conduct regular preventative maintenance checks and have your tractor inspected at a CVR testing centre and brought for a voluntary test.

By doing so, you will not only comply with the law but also increase road safety and reduce the major expenses caused by vehicle breakdowns, inconvenience and prolong the working life of your tractor.

### Voluntary tests at a CVR testing centre

Voluntary tests are available at CVR testing centres.

This inspection may cover some or all of the testable items which are normally checked during a regular roadworthiness test. These inspections can be carried out even if your tractor is not subject to the compulsory testing rules. Following the inspection, your tractor will be issued with a test report indicating whether or not the items inspected were roadworthy.

**TIP:** Only suitably qualified mechanics should be employed to maintain and service agricultural vehicles in line with the manufacturer's recommendations.

**AND REMEMBER:** If your vehicle is defective, you risk being stopped at the roadside by An Garda Síochána and prohibited from using it until repairs have been carried out.

### For more information

The Health and Safety Authority, in conjunction with the RSA and An Garda Síochána, has published an **Essential Tractor Safety Checks** poster, which is available at [www.hsa.ie/publications](http://www.hsa.ie/publications).

For more information about the test and legal requirements, including a list of CVR testing centres authorised to conduct tests on tractors, visit [www.cvrt.ie](http://www.cvrt.ie). These centres will be able to assist you with queries.

**Disclaimer:** This guide is not an interpretation of the law.