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Tractors and Trailers used in Construction

There are certain requirements surrounding the use of tractors for construction activities, including their use on the public highway, as certain exemptions relate only to tractors that only carry out agriculture, horticulture, or forestry works and do NOT include construction, for example:



- Driver licensing C1E and / or CE
- Use of white diesel
- The operator licensing regime
- Valid goods vehicle test certificate

Use of tractors on the public highway involves complex licensing and testing requirements. Advice should be sought from the VolkerWessels UK (VW UK) fleet team to assist in ensuring the requirements are met.

Care must be taken to avoid selecting a tractor to perform a non-specialist 'haulage' role on the highway, as this might be illegal. (ensure the intended scope and use are clearly defined). There may be occasions where the selection of a Tractor for 'specialist' tasks, rather than 'general haulage' is a legal requirement.

When it has been decided that a tractor is a legally viable option then the following requirements must be adopted.

MANDATORY

Plant	Operator
<p>Tractors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-use inspection signed off. • Protected cab or FOPS cab structure where a risk of falling objects. • Seat belts (ideally) coloured (retractable) must be fitted and operational with static (non-flashing) green light to indicate when seat belt worn (when operating on construction sites). • 360° visibility. This could be supported by cameras and/or additional mirrors. • Evidence of regular inspection plus "next service due" date. • If used on public highway it must comply with the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986. Specifically lighting, VED registration, indicators, registration plates, etc. Vehicle should comply with EC Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC and be supplied with a declaration of conformity. • Demonstrate compliance with the correct category of DVSA vehicle testing according to the type and speed of tractor. • Operators' instructions (from the manufacturer) should be available on the machine. • All safety labels (decals) in place. • Isolation switch with key / locking doors with key. • Cab steps and handles ideally painted high visibility yellow ensuring 3 points of contact is achievable. • Front and rear work lights. • Fire extinguisher in cab. • Audible reversing alarm audible outside of the cab. • If used for towing must have hydraulic and / or air braking capability. • If used for towing, a risk assessment must be undertaken, noting additional controls required to ensure the machine and trailer are operated in accordance with the operating limits of the combined vehicles. • The maximum legal road speed for a tractor under 2.55m wide is 40 km/h (approx. 25 mph). 	<p>Operators must hold the relevant competence, construction and DVLA licence dependent on use.</p> <p>They must also have familiarisation training on the tractor and trailer being operated, specifically the hitch and braking arrangements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CPCS card - A33 - Agricultural Tractor - NPORS - N601 agricultural tractor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A UK driving licence issued by the DVLA is required with the correct category. • Category F licence only applies to tractors used primarily for agriculture or forestry. Therefore, if you wish to drive a tractor on the public highway in relation to construction projects, you need to hold a goods vehicle licence. That is category C1E for combinations with a maximum authorised mass (MAM) up to 12 tonnes (8.25 tonnes if the licence was obtained before 1997) and CE for combinations with MAM over 7.5 tonnes (8.25 tonnes for pre-1997 licences). • Competency assessment to be completed before being put to work - to be familiar with the machine / trailer (H09-09 Permit to Operate Plant). (Specific familiarisation training to be provided to operator on type of hitch arrangement attached to machine. Supplier to provide evidence.) • Full site-defined PPE required - close fitting PPE required in all cases to avoid catching on controls. • Operator to be briefed on and to comply with VW UK Pre-use, Daily and Weekly Defect Reporting System. Report defects and stop machine where defect is safety critical. • Ensure the machine is operated in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and in accordance with their training. • Operators must complete a full induction prior to starting work and have been briefed and signed appropriate RAMS / WPP / TBS for the task. • Briefed on the site Plant and Vehicle Management procedures.

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MANDATORY (CONTINUED)

Plant	Operator
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maximum legal road speed for a tractor 2.55m wide and over is 32km/h (approx. 20 mph). Only high specification tractors are legally able to travel over 40 km/h. The maximum weight of a laden tractor-trailer combination on the road is 31 tonnes and in that combination of 31 tonnes a laden trailer can be no more than 18.29t. All trailers over 750kg require brakes. If towed above 40 km/h they should have high speed (commercial) brakes with a mechanism to apply the trailer brakes in the event the trailer accidentally detaches. Tractors must comply with the NRMM emissions Regulations in Central London and Canary Wharf. <p>Trailers or Towed plant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure those carrying out daily checks and inspections have the correct information (i.e., user manual / checklist) and the right level of knowledge or understanding to undertake these tasks. That those carrying out towing and hitching operations are familiar with the specifics of the plant / equipment they using to tow. Daily checks and weekly PUWER inspections to be carried out. Frequency of inspections for each item (towable equipment) may vary depending upon on the intended use. All towable bowsers on highways must be road-legal and fitted with integral fuel bunding for environmental protection. Checks on wheel nuts and wheel nut indicators. Drawbar assembly / braking systems and towing eye. Breakaway cable / failsafe brake system if towing on Highway. Equipment securing devices. Jockey leg / wheel / skid, for smaller plant. Lights to be connected to tractor. Tyre wear and condition. If divisible loads are transported on trailers, a means of ensuring the load cannot enter the back of the tractor should be in place (back boards, chocking, chains, other barriers). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operator to be competency assessed in dealing with spills and environmental protection. Operator to have passed drug and alcohol test on induction and subject to on-going medical screening / surveillance. <p>Links to HSE industry guidance: Using tractors safely: A step-by-step guide (hse.gov.uk)</p> <p>Link to GOV.UK tractors and regulatory requirements: Tractors and regulatory requirements: a brief guide September 2017 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p>

RISKS	CONTROLS
<p>Significant hazards / risks identified when operating the machine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe and clean access into the cab before entering and dismounting as well as refuelling. High risk of overturning at speed on inclines or when towing. Only to be used on gradients that are within the machine's capabilities (please refer to the operator's manual). Risk of trailer detachments if not coupled correctly or the hitch worn or defective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tractors to be parked on good level ground with even underfoot conditions for entering and exiting the cab. Steps to be kept clear of mud and stone, to prevent slipping. The tractor and trailer to be operated within the manufacturer's operating requirements, including speed, gradients etc. also, in accordance with the SSOW for the activity planned to be used for. The trailer is to be coupled by a person who has been trained, ensuring that emergency braking / failsafe braking as required is in place and checked before moving off.

Note: All persons preparing risk assessments involving plant are encouraged to visit the proposed area of work and to review previous risk assessments undertaken or safety alerts for similar activities (including assessment of ground conditions and inclines on which they are to be used).

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