

Use of Agricultural Tractors

Agricultural Tractor Review Group

The aim of the leaflet is to help the public to understand the legal use of an agricultural tractor. It is the aim of the review group to ensure tractors using the road do not cause a danger to other road users and that agricultural vehicles are used in compliance with the Law.

General

What is an agricultural tractor?

The Road Traffic (Jersey) Law defines an agricultural tractor as "a motor tractor designed and used primarily for work in connection with agriculture which is driven on a road only when proceeding to and from the site of such work and which when so driven hauls nothing more than land implements or an agricultural trailer."

If a tractor is not "driven on a road only when proceeding to and from the site of such work" ("work" being "work in connection with agriculture"), it is, by definition, no longer an agricultural tractor and reverts to being a "motor tractor".

What is required to use an agricultural tractor as a motor tractor?

To use a motor tractor on a road it must be road legal (i.e. fitted with a loading plate, road going tyres and suitable lighting, meets noise level requirements, etc). Agricultural tractors are designed to be used for the purpose of agriculture, not for general road use and as such agricultural tractors are exempted from many of the construction and use requirements of a normal road going vehicle.

Is it possible to redefine an agricultural tractor as a motor tractor?

Probably not. As previously mentioned agricultural tractors are exempted from many of the requirements of normal road going vehicles. Many components fitted to normal road going vehicles are not available for agricultural tractors making it difficult and if it was possible, expensive to convert an agricultural tractor to a motor tractor.

Using an agricultural tractor to draw a boat trailer

By changing the designation of an "agricultural tractor" to "works truck" it would be possible to continue, legally, towing a boat and trailer around the harbour and beach areas. A works truck is allowed to operate up to 1km from the work area. Boat owners who keep tractors on the beach/harbour would still be able to move them and tow a boat trailer to a parking area within 1 kilometre of the beach/harbour. What would remain illegal and can't be accommodated in the Road Traffic (Jersey) Law is the boat-owner who tows his boat along public roads, over distances using an agricultural tractor. There are more suitable, safer vehicles available these days that can legally tow boats on trailers along public roads.

Driving Licence

Within the Road Traffic (Jersey) Law there is no specific definition of the category of licence required to drive a works truck. However it is accepted that to drive an agricultural tractor under 3.5 tonne gross vehicle mass, redefined as a works truck, a category B (car licence) will be required. To tow a boat and trailer with a combined weight of boat and trailer of more than 750 kilograms a category B + E driving licence is required. For driving larger tractors a category C1, medium goods, driving licence is required, providing the unladen weight of the motor tractor does not exceed 7.5 tonnes. When towing a trailer with one of the larger tractors and the combined weight of the tractor and trailer is less than 12 tonnes, a category C1+E driving licence is required. Weights above 12 tonnes require a category C+E driving licence

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