

Correct as at 18th May 2026. It may be superseded at any time.

Extract taken from: Entry certification > Introduction > The inspection and certification process > Establishing whether a vehicle requires inspection and certification for entry into service

5-6 Establishing whether a vehicle requires inspection and certification for entry into service

All motor vehicles require inspection and certification for entry into service, except for the following:

- vehicles of class AB, TA or TB
- armoured vehicles used exclusively as equipment of the New Zealand Defence Force
- traction engines
- mechanically propelled rollers
- **tractors (other than agricultural tractors)** and machines, including trailers, for use solely in agricultural, land management or roading operations, whether for traction or otherwise
- **agricultural motor vehicles**
- vehicles registered for use on a road in a country other than New Zealand that are not going to be in New Zealand for a continuous period of more than 18 months

(see [Technical bulletin 5 – Inspection requirements for temporary vehicle imports](#))

- vehicles listed below:
 - a) pedestrian-controlled goods service vehicles
 - b) vehicles propelled and supported solely by self-laying tracks
 - c) vehicles used on roads only in road construction zones in accordance with notices declaring those zones
 - d) vehicles that are used on a road only when crossing or proceeding along a section of the road where the vehicles have been authorised to operate by an authorisation of a road-controlling authority that requires:
 - i. a written agreement by the vehicle's operator or the person for whom the vehicle is being operated, to construct, reconstruct, maintain, or restore to the satisfaction of the road-controlling authority all or part of the road used by the vehicle, and
 - ii. the erection and maintenance of warning devices, signs or control devices as required by the road-controlling authority and the director, and
 - iii. where the use of the road does not consist solely of the direct crossing of the road, the prior approval of the NZ Transport Agency
 - e) all-terrain vehicles that are used on a public highway
 - f) motor vehicles exclusively designed and used on a road for driving, carrying or propelling any of the following, which must be permanently attached to the vehicle:
 - i. aerodrome runway sweepers
 - ii. electrical substations
 - iii. filters for transformer oil
 - iv. log haulers that are stationary when hauling logs

v. aero engine test benches

- g) tractors owned by a local authority and used exclusively for the construction, maintenance or mowing of stopbanks and the banks of rivers, streams, drains, canals or other watercourses
- h) mobile or movable huts, galleys or similar motor vehicles that are used on a road solely in connection with the construction or maintenance of roads
- i) tractors used exclusively for shunting railway rolling stock
- j) traction engines
- k) forklifts
- l) aerodrome crash fire tenders that are used on a road only in emergencies
- m) trailers while being drawn by a motor vehicle specified in (n) to (s) of this schedule
- n) motor vehicles, used exclusively in connection with the embarking and disembarking of ships' passengers or for loading and unloading ships' mail, cargo, and passengers' baggage, and used on a public highway only when proceeding unladen from one wharf to another wharf or from its usual place of storage to a wharf and returning to that place of storage
- o) motor vehicles designed exclusively or principally as part of the armament of the New Zealand Defence Force
- p) cable jinkers
- q) front-end loaders
- r) log skidders
- s) tractor cranes
- t) rough-terrain cranes
- u) mobile crushing and screening plane machines, which are mounted on trailers
- v) motor graders
- w) motor scrapers
- x) trailer scrapers
- y) plant for servicing oil-filled cables
- z) post debarkers
- aa) saw bench apparatus
- bb) forestry chippers
- cc) tree feller bunchers
- dd) trench diggers and excavators
- ee) vehicles that are always used unladen on the road and that are designed exclusively for carrying earth or other bulk materials
- ff) mobile concrete mixers that are mounted on tractors
- gg) a vehicle that is similar in design, construction or purpose to a vehicle listed above that cannot be categorised by vehicle class.