

## FAQs on Braking Laws for Agricultural Tractors

### What are the braking laws for agricultural tractors?

The following brakes are required on all tractors:

Max design speed of Tractor is 40kp/h	Design speed of Tractor is over 40km/h
Service Brake - min brake efficiency of 25%	Service Brake - min brake efficiency of 45%
Parking Brake - min brake efficiency of 16%	Parking Brake - min brake efficiency of 16%
No emergency brake required	Emergency Brake – min brake efficiency of 22.5%

### Are there braking exemptions for older tractors?

No. However, older tractors are generally incapable of going over 40km/h and will, most likely, already satisfy the minimum braking efficiencies required – that is, 25% for the service brake and 16% for the parking brake, provided they have been correctly maintained.

### Why is a higher braking performance required at over 40km/h?

The 40 km/h speed threshold has been chosen to improve road safety. It is also similar to the current UK national requirements. This revised standard is less demanding than other proposed braking standards contained in [EC Regulation \(EU\) No. 167/2013](#).

### My tractor is designed to travel at speeds over 40km/h, but I'm not sure if my trailer's braking system can cope with speeds over 40km/h. How do I find this out?

You should contact the original manufacturer or their authorised Irish distributor for advice. If the original manufacturer is no longer in business, you could contact another manufacturer who makes similar equipment. They may be able to examine the vehicle for you to see what work needs to be done (if any) to achieve compliance for operation at speeds over 40km/h. They may also be able to give you an estimate of how much any work might cost.

### What are the ABS (Anti-Lock Braking System) requirements for agricultural trailers designed to be drawn at a speed exceeding 60km/h?

Every new agricultural trailer manufactured on or after 1 January 2016, which is designed to be drawn at a speed over 60 km/h must be fitted with an anti-lock braking system complying with the construction and performance requirements of [EC Braking Directive 71/320/EEC](#) as amended by Commission Directive 98/12/EC, or of UN/ECE Regulation 13.09. It is important to note that where the DGWV of the agricultural trailer is more than 10,000kg; a **Category A** anti-lock braking system (ABS) must be fitted. This is an ABS that controls the braking of the wheels independently on each side of the trailer. For more information, check with the vehicle manufacturer or their authorised distributor.

### If I am using my agricultural tractor to draw an agricultural trailer equipped with an anti-lock braking system (ABS), do I need to have the appropriate ISO electrical connector for powering it fitted to my tractor?

If an ISO7638 electrical connector has been fitted to the rear of a tractor and the tractor is drawing a trailer equipped with ABS, the connector must be used. However, if the tractor is not fitted with the ISO connector, and the tractor is being used to draw an ABS-equipped trailer, a means of powering the ABS system must be provided. This can be done using the trailer's brake light circuit.

### Where can I get advice regarding the maintenance of the braking systems on my agricultural trailers?

You should consult a competent person – for example, a representative of the original manufacturer or one of their authorised distributors. You should never attempt to carry out repairs yourself on a braking system that you haven't been trained in. A fully-loaded trailer can account for up to 75% of the tractor-trailer combination's kinetic energy – that is, the energy or force generated by the moving combination – so it is of vital importance that agricultural trailers are equipped with adequate braking systems for their intended operating speed. They should also be properly maintained to ensure that they work effectively as part of the tractor-trailer combination.