

# FAQs on Braking Laws for Agricultural Tractors

RSA

## What are the braking laws for agricultural tractors?

The following brakes are required on all tractors:

Maximum design speed is 40 km/h	Design speed of tractor is over 40 km/h
Service Brake - minimum brake efficiency of 25%	Service Brake - minimum brake efficiency of 45%
Parking Brake - minimum brake efficiency of 16%	Parking Brake - minimum brake efficiency of 16%
No emergency brake required	Emergency Brake – minimum brake efficiency of 22.5%

**Are there braking exemptions for older tractors?** No.

## Why is a higher braking performance required at over 40 km/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 40 km/h, but I'm not sure if my trailer's braking system can cope with speeds over 40 km/h. How do I find this out?** You should contact the original manufacturer or authorised Irish 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 when 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 the original manufacturer or one of their authorised distributors. You should never attempt to carry out repairs yourself on a braking system that you have not been trained in. A fully-loaded trailer can account for up to 75% of the tractor-trailer combination's kinetic energy i.e. 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.