

FAQs on Vintage Agricultural Tractors

RSA

What is the legal definition of a vintage agricultural tractor? A vintage agricultural tractor is defined as '*a tractor that is over 30 years old*'.

Do vintage agricultural tractors have to be roadworthiness tested? Yes if they are being used for commercial purposes.

Do vintage agricultural tractors need to be fitted with a full lighting system? See our FAQ on Lighting and Visibility Laws for Agricultural Vehicles [here](#).

Do vintage tractors have to be registered or taxed? You will need to contact your local [motor tax office](#).

What braking system is legally required on vintage tractors? Vintage tractors which are rated at 40 km/h or less need a service brake with 25% braking efficiency and a parking brake with 16% braking efficiency.

Is it a requirement for a vintage tractor to have a flashing amber beacon on when operating on the public road? Since 01 January 2016 all tractors and self-propelled machines are required to be fitted with a flashing amber beacon. However, only vintage tractors taking part in vintage rallies or displays are exempt from this requirement.

Can I tow a trailer with my vintage tractor? Yes. However if either your tractor or trailer is un-plated, the maximum you can tow is 3 times the tractor's unladen weight, e.g. if the unladen weight of your tractor is 1.4 tonnes, you are limited to towing a trailer with a laden weight not exceeding 4.2 tonnes.

What regulations apply if my trailer was never equipped with brakes and even if it had, my tractor has no way of powering them?

- If your tractor is designed to travel at speeds of 40 km/h or less, you can draw a trailer with a laden weight of 5 tonnes or less without brakes providing the laden weight of the trailer does not exceed three times the tractor's unladen weight.
- If your tractor is designed to travel at speeds over 40 km/h, you can only draw a trailer with a laden weight of 3.5 tonnes without brakes.

Where do I find the unladen weight of my vintage tractor if it is not plated? You will need to contact the original manufacturer or authorised distributor. If they are no longer in service you could try contacting an existing tractor manufacturer near you to enquire if they will assist you in this matter.

Are roll over protection systems (ROPS) required on vintage tractors? Yes. Under [S.I. No. 138 of 1969](#) all tractors shall be fitted with a safety frame or roll over protection system while used in a public place, irrespective of age or how it is being used.

What standards apply to ROPS? You will need to contact Health & Safety Authority ([HSA](#)) who have responsibility for the legislation governing EU ROPS standards.