

# FAQs on Mobile Machines and Works Vehicles

RSA

**What is a mobile machine?** The term '*mobile machine*' is used by motor tax officials and generally refers to vehicles which are '*not considered to be a means of transport for either goods or passengers*' e.g. mobile cranes, fork lifts, mobile workshops, road sweepers, well drillers and concrete pumps.

**What is the difference between a '*mobile machine*' and a '*works vehicle*'?** There is no significant difference. Both terms are often used to describe the same type of vehicle.

- A *works vehicle* is described as a vehicle other than a land tractor which has a maximum design speed not exceeding 40 km/h and which is '*constructed primarily for any work other than the conveyance by road of goods or burden of any other description*'.
- A *mobile machine* is described as a vehicle which is '*not considered to be a means of transport for either goods or passengers*'.

**Do I need to register a mobile machine or works vehicle if it is being used privately for non-commercial work but need to use the public road to get from one site to another?** Under the regulations you are permitted to use a works vehicle on a road but only '*in passing from one part of any such premises to another, or to other private premises in the immediate neighbourhood, or in connection with road works while at or in the immediate neighbourhood of the site of such works*'. If the mobile machine is being used on a public road outside these boundaries then it must be registered.

**Do mobile machines or works vehicles need to be roadworthiness tested and type approved?** See table below:

Chassis Type	Type Approval	Test
<b>Mobile machines with a 'dedicated' or purpose built chassis:</b> A ' <i>dedicated</i> ' chassis is one which is purpose built on the vehicle and is fully completed in the manufacturer's factory for a specific function e.g. Liebherr, Grove and Terex	No	No
<b>Mobile machines with a 'conventional goods' chassis:</b> A ' <i>conventional goods</i> ' chassis is where a standard heavy goods chassis is supplied by the vehicle manufacturer, but a specialised body is fitted to it at a later stage to complete the vehicle e.g. Volvo, Scania, Hino, DAF and Mercedes	Yes	Yes

**Where can I get a certificate of conformity (CoC)?** You will need to contact the original manufacturer or authorised distributor.

**Do recovery vehicles need to be roadworthiness tested?** Yes.

**Can mobile machines operate on agricultural green diesel?** Green diesel is a matter for [Revenue](#) therefore you will need to contact them directly.

**Are forklifts allowed on the public road?** Under the Motor Vehicles – Duties and Excise Act 2013 it is our understanding that *'the vehicle once taxed can legally be used up to a distance of 1 km from its base'*. However we would advise that you contact your local motor tax office for further clarification. All vehicles used on public roads must comply with the following regulations:

[S.I. No. 190 of 1963](#) - Road Traffic Construction, Equipment and Use of Vehicles Regulations 1963

[S.I. No. 189 of 1963](#) - Road Traffic Lighting of Vehicles Regulations 1963 – Article 52 of this regulation deals with exemptions and modifications for certain classes of vehicles including forklifts.

[S.I. No. 5 of 2003](#) - Road Traffic Construction and Use of Vehicles Regulations 2003