

Question. What do you register a Telehandler as?

Fact sheet 27 from NZ Transport Agency, plus comments by Andrew Hilson via email 4/2/2011 (nzta.govt.nz) say a telehandler is registered as:-

- a vehicle type 06
- Body type MM Mobile machine
- Vehicle usage 11 exempt class E (EB) only if meeting Farm Vehicle and Agriculture criteria as per Fact Sheet 27
- Vehicle usage 13 special purpose
- Requires a time licence (type 82)
- Inspections WOF classified as unclassified vehicles, COF exempt
- For Registration, Inspection, Safety Standards and RUC not a forklift

Question. What license/endorsement do you need to operate a telehandler

From an email received from Tony Marlow NZ Transport Agency 7.2.2011

There are four special-type vehicle endorsements:

- Tracks (T): required for driving special-type vehicles that run on self-laying tracks.
- Rollers (R): required for driving special-type vehicles that run on rollers.
- Wheels (W): required for driving special-type vehicles that run on wheels.
- Forklift (F): required for driving special-type vehicles that are forklifts.

FRTW endorsements are required when driving special-type vehicles. This is because these vehicles require the driver to have additional skills or knowledge to that needed to drive a 'normal' vehicle.

Clause 28 of the Land Transport (Driver Licensing) Rule 1999 requires a person driving a special-type vehicle on a road to hold the appropriate special-type endorsement.



You can access the Land Transport (Driver Licensing Rule 1999 via the following weblink.

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/1999/0100/latest/DLM280562.html>

Telehandlers are designed to operate with a wide range of attachments (and not solely/principally as forklifts).

Therefore it would appear the telehandler does not require the driver to hold a F endorsement (even though one of the attachments it is capable of being fitted with is a set of forks).

W Endorsement

Generally speaking, a W endorsement is required if one or both of the following conditions apply:

- the handling characteristics are substantially different from a 'normal' vehicle, for example the vehicle turns by steering the rear wheels, and/or
- the controls are substantially different from a 'normal' vehicle, for example, steering is done by pedals or levers, rather than a steering wheel.

It appears that the driver of a telehandler would require a W endorsement.

Please note: any requirement to hold a W endorsement is in addition to the need to hold the correct licence class for the weight of the vehicle.

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Fact Sheet 40 Vehicle weight covered by licence class

Special-type vehicle	Class 1 (full)	Class 2 (full)	Class 4 (full)
Runs on rollers or self-laying tracks	Not more than 18,000 kg gross laden weight (GLW)	More than 18,000 kg GLW	–
Runs on wheels – when driven on a road at a speed not exceeding 30 km/h	Not more than 18,000 kg gross laden weight (GLW)	More than 18,000 kg GLW	–
Runs on wheels - when driven on a road at a speed exceeding 30 km/h	Not more than 4500 kg gross laden weight (GLW)	More than 4500kg but not more than 18,000kg GLW	More than 18,000 kg GLW

<http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/factsheets/40/r-t-w-endorsements.htm>