



TIN 401

Driver Licence Requirements for Equipment Mounted on a Truck-based Rigid Chassis

1.0 Scope

This Technical Information Note deals with the requirements of holding the correct category on a driving licence for those people driving equipment that is mounted permanently on a truck-based rigid chassis whilst on the public highway. This includes but is not restricted to:

- Concrete Pumps
- Suction/Vacuum Excavators
- Vehicle-mounted MEWPs
- Volumetric Mixers
- Cranes

2.0 Legislative Background

The requirements for vehicle driving licencing are given in *The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations 1999*. The requirements vary depending on the category of the mounted equipment and vehicle combination.

3.0 Categories

Vehicle mounted equipment fall into two categories:

3.1 Construction and Use Regulations (C & U) Compliant Vehicles

Vehicle mounted equipment fitted onto a roadgoing rigid chassis with a gross vehicle weight not exceeding:

- Four axles - 30,000kg (or 32,000kg if fitted with Road Friendly Suspension)
- Three axles - 25,000kg (or 26,000kg if fitted with Road Friendly Suspension)
- Two axles - 16,260kg
- Two axles (where distance between axles is at least 3m) - 17,000kg (C & U) or 18,000kg (AW)

which fully comply with *The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986* (as amended).

NOTE: For two axle vehicles with interaxle distances of at least 3m, operators may choose to comply with either *The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986* (as amended) or the *Road Vehicles (Authorised Weight) Regulations 1981* for maximum vehicle weight requirements.

3.2 Non Construction and Use Regulations Compliant Vehicles

Vehicle mounted equipment fitted onto a roadgoing rigid chassis with a gross vehicle weight exceeding the weights listed in 3.1. Such units are classed as “engineering plant” and are operated under *The Road Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) (General) Order 2003* (STGO)

4.0 Driving Licences

4.1 Drivers of vehicle mounted equipment that are C & U compliant must hold category C on a vocational driving licence

4.2 Drivers of vehicle mounted equipment classified as “engineering plant” are exempt from this requirement and only require category B (a standard car licence). (Reg 3(4)a of *The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations 1999*)



5.0 Driver CPC

Drivers of vehicle mounted equipment are exempt from the Driver CPC requirements as the unit is "a vehicle.... which is carrying material or equipment to be used by that person in the course of his or her work, provided that driving that vehicle is not his or her principal activity." (Regulation 3 (2) (g) of the Vehicle Drivers (Certificates of Professional Competence) Regulations 2007)

6.0 Operator Licencing

All vehicle mounted equipment are exempt from operator licencing as they are fitted with a machine, appliance, apparatus etc. (Schedule 3, Part 1, item 15 of the Goods Vehicle (Licencing of Operators Regulations 1995)

7.0 Tachograph Requirements

Drivers of all vehicle mounted equipment are exempt from the EU Drivers Hours rules and the use of tachographs, as they carry fixed equipment and do not carry goods. The UK Domestic Hours rules apply, but written records do not need to be kept, as vehicle mounted equipment is outside the scope of Operator Licencing.

8.0 Definitions and Clarifications

8.1 The Road Vehicle (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986 section 3(2) defines Engineering Plant as:

'movable plant or equipment being a motor vehicle or trailer specially designed and constructed for the special purposes of engineering operations, and which cannot, owing to the requirements of those purposes, comply with all the requirements of these (C & U) Regulations and which is not constructed primarily to carry a load other than a load being either excavated materials raised from the ground by apparatus on the motor vehicle or trailer or materials which the vehicle or trailer is specially designed to treat while carried thereon'.

NOTE: Views from the Department of Transport indicate that if the vehicle is fully compliant with the C & U regulations, then potentially it cannot be classified as engineering plant and the vocational driving licensing requirements will apply.

8.2 Vehicles may have been classed as 'engineering plant' on a V5C Vehicle Registration Document. However, this classification does not override the definition of engineering plant as listed in section 3(2) of the C & U regulations.