

Haulage of goods

Prohibition on the hire of unlicensed road haulage operators

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Given the increase in thinnings being undertaken by timber growers it is important that growers are aware that under the Road Transport Acts, a person commits an offence if he/she is engaged or uses the services of a haulier for carriage for reward unless that haulier is appropriately licensed by the Department of Transport. Engaging a haulier for the carriage of goods for reward that is not licensed by the Department of Transport is an offence and carries a fine of up to €1,265.

A haulier needs a Road Haulage Operators Licence if he is carrying goods (other than exempted commodities) for hire and reward in a vehicle, the maximum gross vehicle weight (DGWW) of which exceeds 3.5 (metric) tonnes i.e. where the weight of the vehicle, fully laden, including any trailer or semi-trailer exceeds 3.5 tonnes. Operators using light commercial vans not exceeding 3.5 tonnes D.G.V.W such as Ford Transit type vehicles are generally exempt from the requirements of operator licensing.

A person engaging a road haulage contractor for reward should request the haulier to produce a current Road Haulage Operators Licence (National or International) issued by the Department of Transport. The check should include confirmation that the vehicle (s) to be used are appropriately authorised on the licence. The licence includes a schedule of authorised vehicles.

Any queries or clarifications concerning the above can be directed towards the Enforcement Section, Road Safety Authority, Bride Street, Loughrea, Co. Galway on 091-827606 or at enforcement@rsa.ie.

