



Primary Producers and Chain of Responsibility

More Common Questions
from farmers who contract
a heavy vehicle
operator



FAQ

Do farmers need to check the driver's work diary?

NO

Farmers should only work with transporters who give them confidence they are managing fatigue effectively.

If a farmer does notice a driver is tired, or complains about needing rest they should report it, take practical steps to allow the driver to rest, or use someone else.

FAQ

Do farmers need to check the vehicle's maintenance records or inspect vehicles for roadworthiness?

NO

Farmers should work with transporters who they are confident are maintaining their vehicles.

Farmers are not required to physically inspect vehicles. However, if farmers see something about the vehicle that they think makes it unsafe they should report the issue to the transporter.

FAQ

Do farmers need to be there when the vehicle is loaded?

NO

So long as farmers can be sure the goods will be safely accessible and the driver will have all the information, equipment and assistance required, the farmers don't need to be present during loading.

FAQ

Do farmers need to make sure the load is restrained?

MAYBE

If farmers load and restrain the goods themselves, they need to make sure the goods are loaded legally and safely.

If a transporter is responsible for loading a farmer's goods, the agreement with them should include a requirement that they load legally and safely.

FAQ

Do farmers need to know how much their produce weighs?

YES

Farmers should be able to advise the transporter of the weight of their produce with a reasonable degree of accuracy by some means of assessment.

Farmers should take into account factors that impact the weight of the product being transported, such as humidity, or the type of feed that stock have eaten before loading.

FAQ

Do farmers need to check driver licences, registration, insurance or permits?

NO

This responsibility sits with the transporter.

Farmers should make this clear in their agreements whether they are verbal or written.

FAQ

Are farmers responsible if the driver speeds?

NO

In most circumstances farmers don't have control or influence over what happens when their goods leave their property.

Farmers should negotiate with their transporters to arrive with enough time to load the vehicle, and drive to its destination legally and safely, factoring in unplanned delays.

Farmers should not make requests that put pressure on drivers to speed.

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