



# Road user charges

## Light vehicles

You need to buy road user charges (RUC) if your vehicle is powered by diesel, electricity, or another fuel not taxed at source.

This factsheet applies to vehicles up to 3500kg. Heavy vehicles (over 3500kg) must also buy RUC. For more information about heavy vehicles and RUC go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/ruc](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/ruc)

### Who must buy RUC

You must buy RUC if your vehicle uses:

- diesel
- electricity
- another fuel not taxed at source.

This includes diesel hybrids and plug-in hybrids.

### Fuels taxed at source

You don't have to buy RUC if your vehicle only uses:

- petrol
- compressed natural gas (CNG)
- liquified petroleum gas (LPG).

This includes petrol hybrids that **can't** plug in to charge.

### Some vehicles are exempt

Some vehicles are exempt from RUC if they're:

- unsuitable for road use, or
- used almost exclusively off-road, or
- electric and weigh 1000kg or less (eg electric moped).

To find out more about exempt vehicles go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/ruc-exemptions](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/ruc-exemptions)

### Buy a RUC licence before you drive

When you buy RUC, you're paying ahead of time for the distance you're going to travel. You can't legally drive a RUC vehicle on the road if you haven't already paid for the distance you'll travel.

You need to buy a RUC licence based on the vehicle's RUC weight and RUC type. A permanent RUC weight is allocated to each vehicle. To find out more about how the RUC weight is allocated go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/about-RUC](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/about-RUC)

### Electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids

Electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids become RUC vehicles from 1 April 2024. You have until 31 May 2024 to buy your first RUC licence.

To find out more go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/ruc-ev](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/ruc-ev)


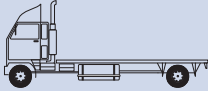

### How much it costs

You buy RUC in units of 1000 kilometres (621 miles). See the table below for the RUC rates for light vehicles.

### Admin fee

You'll pay an admin fee each time you buy a RUC licence. The admin fee depends on where you buy your licence.

Payment method	Admin fee (per licence)
Online <a href="http://www.nzta.govt.nz/buy-ruc">www.nzta.govt.nz/buy-ruc</a>	\$12.44
Over the counter at a RUC agent	\$13.71

RUC type	Description	RUC rate (per 1000km, GST incl)
1	Powered vehicles with 2 axles up to 3500kg 	\$76
2	Powered vehicles with one single-tyred spaced axle and one twin-tyred spaced axle up to 6000kg 	\$80
12	Plug-in petrol hybrid vehicles with 2 axles 1001kg to 3500kg 	\$38

## How to buy a RUC licence

To buy a RUC licence online, go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/buy-ruc](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/buy-ruc)

You can also buy RUC from selected branches of the following agents:

- Automobile Association (AA)
- Post Shops
- Vehicle Inspection New Zealand (VINZ)
- Vehicle Testing New Zealand (VTNZ).

RUC licences are also available from some independent agents that display the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency logo.

## Display your RUC licence

Once you've bought your RUC licence, you must display it at all times on the inside of the passenger's side of the front windscreen. The face of the licence label, which shows the plate number, must be visible from outside the vehicle.

## Buying a RUC vehicle

If the vehicle's RUC is overdue at the time of sale, the seller is committing an offence under the Road User Charges Act 2012. The new registered person may become responsible for the outstanding fees.

We recommend you consider unpaid RUC when setting or negotiating the sale price. This is between the seller and the buyer – Waka Kotahi doesn't become involved.

**If you're considering buying a vehicle that needs a RUC licence, call us on 0800 655 644 to find out if the RUC licence is current.**

Selling a vehicle 'as is, where is' doesn't remove the seller's legal requirements under consumer law and transport law, including the requirement to provide a current RUC licence.

If a vehicle is being reregistered, any outstanding RUC must be paid at the time of reregistration.

## Penalties

You could be fined or prosecuted if you:

- operate a vehicle on the road without a current RUC licence
- tamper with or have an incorrect distance recorder
- display a RUC licence with incorrect details
- sell a vehicle without a current RUC licence.

Find out more about what it means to be the registered person at [www.nzta.govt.nz/registered-person-responsibilities](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/registered-person-responsibilities)

## Why road user charges are important

All users of New Zealand roads contribute to their upkeep. Most road users pay levies in the price of their fuel. Others, such as users of diesel-powered vehicles, pay through road user charges.

All the revenue collected from road user charges goes into the National Land Transport Fund (NLTF). The NLTF funds important road improvements and maintenance, public transport, road safety, and walking and cycling.



This factsheet is a general guide only. It doesn't replace legal advice, and your exact requirements will depend on current legislation.

Make sure you have the most up-to-date version of this factsheet by checking [www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets)



[www.nzta.govt.nz](http://www.nzta.govt.nz)



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