

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF  
ADARE-RATHKEALE**

**MAY, 2017**

- Letters received on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 from the Road Safety Authority and 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding road worthiness testing of tractors.
- Thank you note to Councillors from staff and students of Colaiste na Trocaire.

# Working To Save Lives



Tom O'Callaghan,  
Meetings Administrator,  
Municipal District – Adare/Rathkeale  
Limerick City & County Council  
Corporate Headquarters  
Merchants Quay  
Limerick



**Re: Correspondence dated March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017.**

Dear Tom,

Thank you for your letter relating to the roadworthiness testing of tractors. The Road Safety Authority notes your members' opposition to testing of agricultural tractors.

Following the introduction of a new EU roadworthiness testing law, tractors with a design speed of more than 40km/h (Vehicle Category T5) will have to be tested when they reach 4 years old, and thereafter every two years. This new European law will come into effect on 20 May 2018 but will only apply to T5 tractors used commercially. This is a mandatory obligation that Ireland must meet in order to comply with the provisions set out in the European Directive pertaining to roadworthiness testing of vehicles.

The Road Safety Authority is currently developing the test for fast tractors based on the contents and methods of testing contained in the European Directive. The test will cover basic road safety items such as braking, lighting, steering and suspension systems, towing device, tyres etc. These test items are similar to those items currently being examined on other categories of commercial vehicle. In line with the Directive, in Ireland, it is proposed to only apply periodic roadworthiness testing to fast tractors which are used for commercial road haulage purposes on the public road.

Once the Road Safety Authority's proposals in relation to this matter have been finalised with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, the RSA will engage with the key stakeholders affected by this pending EU mandated requirement with a view to providing guidance to all concerned on the practical implementation of this Directive in Ireland.

Kind Regards,

Caroline Greene  
Principal Engineer



An Roinn Iompair  
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt

Department of Transport,  
Tourism and Sport



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Date: 09/05/2017

Our Ref: SR/17/16421

Mr Tom O'Callaghan  
Corporate Services  
Limerick City and County Council  
Merchants Quay  
Limerick



Dear Mr O'Callaghan

I write to you in respect of your letter on behalf of members following their meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale.

Following the introduction of a new EU Directive (Directive 2014/45/EU) on periodic roadworthiness testing, tractors with a design speed of more than 40km/h (Vehicle Category T5) will have to be tested when they reach four years old, and every two years thereafter. This new EU roadworthiness testing requirement, which all Member States are obliged to implement, including Ireland, will come into effect on 20 May 2018 but will only apply to T5 tractors used commercially.

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) is currently developing the test for fast tractors based on the contents and methods of testing contained in the European Directive. I understand that the test will cover basic road safety items such as braking, lighting, steering and suspension systems, towing device, tyres etc. These test items are similar to those items currently being examined on other categories of commercial vehicle as part of the Commercial Vehicle

Roadworthiness Test. In line with the Directive, in Ireland, it is proposed to only apply periodic roadworthiness testing to fast tractors which are exclusively used for commercial road haulage purposes on the public road.

I trust that this information will be of some assistance to your members.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shane Ross', is positioned above a horizontal line.

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Minister Shane Ross  
Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport

*The Minister is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015  
(details available on [www.lobbying.ie](http://www.lobbying.ie))*



*Thank You*