

Road Traffic (Motor Vehicles, Seat Belts) Rules

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Legislative History

ROAD TRAFFIC ACT (CHAPTER 276, SECTION 6)

ROAD TRAFFIC (MOTOR VEHICLES, SEAT BELTS) RULES

R 15

G.N. No. S 326/1977

REVISED EDITION 1999

(30th September 1999)

[30th December 1977]

Citation

1. These Rules may be cited as the Road Traffic (Motor Vehicles, Seat Belts) Rules.

Definitions

2. In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires —

“Agreement” means the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Agreement Concerning the Adoption of Uniform Technical Prescriptions for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be Fitted and/or be Used on Wheeled Vehicles and the Conditions for Reciprocal Recognition of Approvals Granted on the Basis of these Prescriptions, formerly known as the Agreement Concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions of Approval and Reciprocal Recognition of Approval for Motor Vehicle Equipment and Parts, done at Geneva on 20th March 1958;

[S 116/2009 wef 01/04/2009]

“body-restraining seat belt” means a seat belt designed to provide restraint for both the upper and lower parts of the trunk of the wearer in the event of an accident to the vehicle;

“business service passenger vehicle” has the meaning given by rule 2(1) of the Road Traffic (Motor Vehicles, Registration and Licensing) Rules (R 5);

[S 250/2019 wef 01/04/2019]

“goods-cum-passengers vehicle” means —

- (a) a station wagon constructed for the carriage of 7 passengers or more, excluding the driver, and registered by the owner for the use by him or a member of his family or any person by his authority without consideration for social or domestic purposes or for the owner’s business and excluding the use for instructional purposes for reward;
- (b) a panel van; or

(c) a twin-cabin goods vehicle;

“heavy goods vehicle” means —

- (a) a goods vehicle the maximum laden weight of which exceeds 3.0 metric tonnes, registered using a certificate of entitlement issued before 1st April 1998; or
- (b) a goods vehicle the maximum laden weight of which exceeds 3.5 metric tonnes, registered using a certificate of entitlement issued on or after 1st April 1998,

but does not include any construction equipment, engineering plant, trivan, recovery vehicle or any vehicle used as a mobile canteen or mobile bank;

“lap belt” means a seat belt, anchored at not less than 2 points, which passes across the front of the wearer’s pelvic region and which restrains the lower part of the wearer’s torso;

“light goods vehicle” means —

- (a) a goods vehicle the maximum laden weight of which does not exceed 3.0 metric tonnes, registered using a certificate of entitlement issued before 1st April 1998; or
- (b) a goods vehicle the maximum laden weight of which does not exceed 3.5 metric tonnes, registered using a certificate of entitlement issued on or after 1st April 1998,

but does not include any construction equipment, engineering plant, trivan, motor cycle with a side-car attached to it, recovery vehicle and any vehicle used as a mobile canteen or mobile bank;

“private hire car” means a motor car which does not ply for hire on any road but is hired under a contract, expressed or implied, for the use of the motor car as a whole;

“seat belt” means a belt intended to be worn by a person in a vehicle and designed to prevent or lessen injury to its wearer in the event of an accident to the vehicle and includes, in the case of a restraining device for a young person, any special chair to which the belt is attached;

“seat with integral seat belt anchorages” means a seat which is fitted with all the anchorage points required for use in connection with the seat belt provided for that seat;

“small bus” means a bus which has —

- (a) a maximum laden weight of not more than 3,500 kilogrammes; and
- (b) a seating capacity for not more than 15 persons (excluding the driver);

[S 116/2009 wef 01/04/2009]

“specified passenger’s seat” means —

- (a) in the case of a vehicle which has a forward-facing front seat alongside the driver’s seat, such seat, and in the case of a vehicle which has more than one such seat, the one furthest from the driver’s seat; or
- (b) if the vehicle has no seat which is the specified passenger’s seat under paragraph (a), the forward-facing front seat for a passenger which is foremost in the vehicle and furthest from the driver’s seat, unless there is a fixed partition separating such seat from the space in front of it alongside the driver’s seat;

“station wagon” means a vehicle with folding seats and side doors and either a tail-board or doors opening at the rear, constructed or adapted for the carriage of goods as well as passengers;

“van” means a goods vehicle which has a permanently enclosed body or a cab integrated into its body;

[S 116/2009 wef 01/04/2009]

“wheelchair restraint system” means a system which is designed to keep a wheelchair restrained within a space provided in a motor vehicle for the carriage of the wheelchair and its user.

[S 116/2009 wef 01/04/2009]

General powers of Registrar or authorised officer

2A.—(1) The Registrar or an authorised officer may, by notice, require the owner of a vehicle to furnish evidence that the vehicle complies with all or any of the provisions of these Rules.

(2) The Registrar or an authorised officer may, in any particular case, upon the application of any person, waive the operation of any provisions in these Rules in relation to that person or a vehicle that is the subject of that application, subject to such conditions as the Registrar or the authorised officer may impose.

(3) In this rule, “authorised officer” has the same meaning as in section 6(4) of the Act.

[S 468/2017 wef 24/08/2017]

Front seat belts

3.—(1) Every motor vehicle to which this rule applies shall be equipped with —

- (a) a body-restraining seat belt designed for use by an adult for the driver's seat;
- (b) a body-restraining seat belt for the specified passenger's seat, if any; and
- (c) subject to paragraph (2), a body-restraining seat belt for any front passenger seat other than the driver's seat and the specified passenger's seat.

(2) Where any vehicle to which this rule applies cannot, by reason of the design of the vehicle, be equipped with a body-restraining seat belt for any front passenger seat other than the driver's seat and the specified passenger's seat, that vehicle shall instead be equipped with a lap belt for that front passenger seat.

(3) This rule shall apply to —

- (a) every motor car, motor car used for instructional purposes, business service passenger vehicle and private hire car registered on or after 1st January 1973;
- (b) every taxi;
- (c) every light goods vehicle and goods-cum-passengers vehicle;
- (d) every ambulance, fire engine, hearse, heavy goods vehicle and medical transport vehicle registered on or after 1st January 1993; and
[\[S 1053/2021 wef 03/01/2022\]](#)
- (e) every bus registered on or after 1st April 2009,

except any omnibus which —

- (i) is registered in the name of the Authority or any bus services contractor; and
[\[S 733/2017 wef 18/12/2017\]](#)
- (ii) is or is to be used for any regular route service.
[\[S 733/2017 wef 18/12/2017\]](#)

(4) In this rule —

“ambulance” means a motor vehicle that is specifically equipped for —

- (a) the transport on roads of; and
- (b) the provision, during such transport, of out-of-hospital clinical care to,