

No. 6540

**GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS,
NICARAGUA and COSTA RICA**

Central American Agreement on Road Traffic (with annexes). Signed at Tegucigalpa, on 10 June 1958

Official text: Spanish.

Registered by the Organization of Central American States, acting on behalf of the Contracting Parties in accordance with article 64 of the Agreement, on 25 February 1963.

**GUATEMALA, SALVADOR, HONDURAS,
NICARAGUA et COSTA RICA**

Accord centraméricain sur la circulation routière (avec annexes). Signé à Tegucigalpa, le 10 juin 1958

Texte officiel espagnol.

Enregistré par l'Organisation des États d'Amérique centrale, agissant au nom des Parties contractantes conformément à l'article 64 de l'Accord, le 25 février 1963.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 6540. CENTRAL AMERICAN AGREEMENT¹ ON ROAD TRAFFIC BETWEEN GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA AND COSTA RICA. SIGNED AT TEGUCIGALPA, ON 10 JUNE 1958

The Governments of the Republics of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, desirous of facilitating the integration of the economies of the Central American Isthmus through the improvement of the conditions of inter-Central American road transport, and recognizing that the adoption, by mutual agreement, of uniform principles and rules for traffic in their respective territories and across the borders between them, would facilitate their accession to the Convention on Road Traffic, opened for signature in Geneva on 19 September 1949,² for the purpose of promoting the development and safety of international road traffic, have agreed to conclude the following Central American Agreement on Road Traffic :

TITLE I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

While reserving its jurisdiction over the use of its own roads, each Contracting State agrees to the use of its roads for international traffic under the conditions set out in this Agreement.

¹ In accordance with article 61, the Agreement came into force in respect of El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala on 17 December 1959, the thirtieth day following the deposit of the third instrument of ratification. It came into force in respect of Honduras on 10 September 1962, the thirtieth day following the date of deposit of the instrument of ratification for this State. The instruments of ratification were deposited with the Secretary-General of the Organization of Central American States on the dates indicated :

El Salvador	29 April 1959	Guatemala	17 November 1959
Nicaragua	5 May 1959	Honduras	10 August 1962

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 125, p. 3 ; Vol. 133, p. 367 ; Vol. 134, p. 389 ; Vol. 137, p. 394 ; Vol. 139, p. 464 ; Vol. 141, p. 399 ; Vol. 147, p. 395 ; Vol. 150, p. 395 ; Vol. 151, p. 386 ; Vol. 157, p. 387 ; Vol. 173, p. 407 ; Vol. 179, p. 220 ; Vol. 182, p. 228 ; Vol. 189, p. 364 ; Vol. 227, p. 324 ; Vol. 230, p. 436 ; Vol. 251, p. 376 ; Vol. 253, p. 353 ; Vol. 260, p. 449 ; Vol. 265, p. 330 ; Vol. 266, p. 411 ; Vol. 268, p. 359 ; Vol. 271, p. 390 ; Vol. 273, p. 249 ; Vol. 274, p. 345 ; Vol. 280, p. 354 ; Vol. 286, p. 343 ; Vol. 302, p. 360 ; Vol. 312, p. 414 ; Vol. 314, p. 340 ; Vol. 317, p. 326 ; Vol. 325, p. 342 ; Vol. 327, p. 359 ; Vol. 328, p. 318 ; Vol. 337, p. 407 ; Vol. 345, p. 357 ; Vol. 348, p. 348 ; Vol. 349, p. 324 ; Vol. 354, p. 396 ; Vol. 356, p. 356 ; Vol. 360, p. 388 ; Vol. 372, p. 356 ; Vol. 376, p. 415 ; Vol. 381, p. 402 ; Vol. 384, p. 360 ; Vol. 387, p. 346 ; Vol. 390, p. 358 ; Vol. 392, p. 352 ; Vol. 394, p. 268 ; Vol. 395, p. 270 ; Vol. 402, p. 313 ; Vol. 405, p. 316 ; Vol. 415, p. 428 ; Vol. 419, p. 356 ; Vol. 422, p. 333 ; Vol. 423, p. 306 ; Vol. 424, p. 347 ; Vol. 429, p. 278 ; Vol. 431, p. 294 ; Vol. 433, p. 352 ; Vol. 434, p. 288 ; Vol. 435, p. 322 ; Vol. 437, p. 348 ; Vol. 438, p. 344 ; Vol. 442, p. 314 ; Vol. 443, p. 338 ; Vol. 444, p. 334, and Vol. 453, p. 354.

Article 2

For the purpose of applying the provisions of this Agreement the following expressions shall have the meaning hereby assigned to them :

“Road” means any way open to the public for the circulation of vehicles, pedestrians and other users.

“Carriageway” means that portion of a road normally used for vehicular traffic.

“Lane” means any of the parts into which the carriageway is divisible, each sufficient in width for one moving line of vehicles.

“Intersection” means the place where two or more carriageways join or intersect, whatever the angle or angles of their axes.

“Driver” means any person who drives a vehicle, including cycles, or guides draught, pack or saddle animals or herds or flocks on a road, or who is in actual physical control of the same.

“Motor vehicle” means any self-propelled vehicle normally used for the transport of persons or goods upon a road, other than vehicles running on rails or connected to electric conductors.

“Articulated vehicle” means any motor vehicle with a trailer having no front axle and so attached that part of the trailer is superimposed upon the motor vehicle and a substantial part of the weight of the trailer and of its load is borne by the motor vehicle. Such a trailer shall be called a “semi-trailer”.

“Trailer” means any vehicle designed to be drawn by a motor vehicle.

“Permissible maximum weight” of a vehicle means the unladen weight of the vehicle and of its maximum load.

“Unladen weight” of a vehicle means the weight of the vehicle when it is ready for the road, including chassis, filled batteries and radiator, filled liquid fuel or gas tanks, body, normal equipment, spare wheels and tires and the tools that are customarily supplied with the vehicle.

“Bicycle” means any two-wheeled vehicle operated by pedals which is not fitted with a self-propelling device.

“Motorized bicycle” means any two-wheeled vehicle fitted with an auxiliary internal combustion engine having a cylinder capacity of not more than 50 cm³ and retaining the normal characteristics of a bicycle with respect to its possible use.

“Motor cycle” means any two-wheeled vehicle fitted with an internal combustion engine and which does not conform to the definition of “motorized bicycle”.

TITLE II

GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO ROAD TRAFFIC APPLICABLE
TO ALL USERS*Article 3*

DRIVING OF VEHICLES AND GUIDING OF ANIMALS

1. Every vehicle or combination of vehicles proceeding as a unit shall have a driver.

2. Draught, pack or saddle animals and cattle, alone or in herds, shall be under the guidance of some person.

3. Drivers shall at all times be able to control their vehicles or guide their animals. When approaching other road users, they shall take such precautions as may be necessary for mutual safety.

4. Every driver, pedestrian or other road user shall conduct himself in such a way as not to endanger or obstruct traffic. All behaviour that might cause damage to persons, or to public or private property shall be avoided.

5. Under normal conditions, the driver shall drive his vehicle or animals on the right hand side of the carriageway and keep as far to the right as practicable when another road user is approaching from the opposite direction or is about to overtake him, as well as in all cases when visibility ahead is insufficient.

6. Every driver shall :

- a) On two-lane carriageways built for two-way traffic, keep his vehicle in the lane appropriate to the direction in which he is travelling ;
- b) On carriageways with more than two lanes, keep his vehicle in the lane nearest the edge of the carriageway appropriate to the direction in which he is travelling.

7. a) When a carriageway has two lanes separated by a continuous line, the driver proceeding in one lane shall not cross that line or travel on it ;

b) When the carriageway has lanes separated by a broken line, the driver under normal conditions, take the lane on his right and cross the broken line only to overtake another vehicle in the cases specified in Article 5 of this Agreement.

8. Every driver intending to make an important change in the speed or direction of his vehicle or animals, shall make sure beforehand that he can do so without danger and give notice of his intention to other road users.

9. Every driver coming out of a place or building located on the edge of the road shall enter the road only after having made sure beforehand that he can do so

without endangering traffic and at a speed which will permit him to stop at any given moment.

10. The movement of military columns, police forces or marching parades shall not be interrupted.

11. In open country, motor vehicles, with or without trailers, having a total laden weight of more than 3 500 kg, or a length of more than 11 m shall keep a distance between them of not less than 50 metres when proceeding at the same speed.

Convoys of vehicles shall be divided into groups of not more than three, with a distance of not less than 50 metres between groups.

12. Any structure, butt, raised walk or monument on a carriageway, square or road-intersection constituting an obstruction to the forward movement of a vehicle must be bypassed on the right, unless signs, signals or traffic officers indicate otherwise.

Article 4

SPEED

1. Every driver shall maintain reasonable speed and drive his vehicle or guide his animals prudently. He shall adjust his speed to traffic conditions or foreseeable obstacles, and reduce it appreciably :

- a) When driving through built-up areas ;
- b) In open country : when the road is not clear ; when visibility is not good ; on curves, pronounced descents sections of the road that are narrow, or obstructed, or bordered by houses, at crossroads and when approaching the top of a hill ; and when meeting or overtaking draught, pack or saddle animals or cattle.

2. The competent authorities shall have powers to establish, by means of appropriate signs, the maximum speeds for road users.

3. The provisions relating to maximum speeds do not apply to vehicles accorded the right of free way, which shall announce their presence by means of sirens.

Article 5

MEETING AND OVERTAKING

1. When two vehicles proceeding in opposite directions meet, the driver of each shall keep as far to his right as permitted by the presence of other road users.