
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1995 No. 2994

The Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995

PART II

Principal Road Safety Provisions

Protective measures: seat belts, helmets, etc.

Seat belts: adults

23.—(1) The Department may make regulations requiring, subject to such exceptions as may be prescribed, persons who are driving or riding in motor vehicles on a road to wear seat belts of such description as may be prescribed.

(2) Regulations under this Article—

(a) may make different provision in relation to different classes of vehicles, different descriptions of persons and different circumstances;

^{F1}(b)

(c) shall include exceptions for—

[^{F2}(i) the driver of, or a passenger in, a motor vehicle constructed or adapted for carrying goods, while on a journey which does not exceed the prescribed distance and which is undertaken for the purpose of delivering or collecting any thing,]

(ii) the drivers of vehicles while performing a manoeuvre which includes reversing;

(iii) any person holding a valid certificate signed by a medical practitioner to the effect that it is inadvisable on medical grounds for him to wear a seat belt;

(d) [^{F3}may] include an exception for any person holding a certificate to the like effect as that mentioned in sub-paragraph (c)(iii) which was issued in a member State ^{F4}... and which, under the law of that State, is valid for purposes corresponding to those of this Article;

(e) may make any prescribed exceptions subject to such conditions as may be prescribed; and

(f) may prescribe cases in which a fee of a prescribed amount may be charged on an application for any certificate required as a condition of any prescribed exception.

(3) A person who drives or rides in a motor vehicle in contravention of regulations under this Article is guilty of an offence; but notwithstanding any enactment or rule of law no person other than the person actually committing the contravention is guilty of an offence by reason of the contravention.

(4) If the holder of any such certificate as is referred to in paragraph (2)(c) or (d) is informed by a constable that he may be prosecuted for an offence under paragraph (3), he is not in proceedings for that offence entitled to rely on the exception afforded to him by the certificate unless—

(a) it is produced to the constable at the time he is so informed; or

(b) it is produced—

Changes to legislation: *The Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, Section 23 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

- (i) within 7 days after the date on which he is so informed, or
 - (ii) as soon as is reasonably practicable,
- at such police station as he may have specified to the constable; or
- (c) where it is not produced at such police station, it is not reasonably practicable for it to be produced there before the day on which the proceedings are commenced.
- (5) For the purposes of paragraph (4), the service of a summons on the accused shall be treated as the commencement of the proceedings.
- (6) Regulations under this Article requiring the wearing of seat belts by persons riding in motor vehicles shall not apply to children under the age of 14 years.

^{F5}(7)

F1	Art. 23(2)(b) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/512) , regs. 1(1), 5(2)(a)(i) ; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
F2	Art. 23(2)(c)(i) substituted (27.6.2007) by Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/916 (N.I. 10)) , arts. 1(3), 26 ; S.R. 2007/302, art. 2 , Sch.
F3	Word in art. 23(2)(d) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/512) , regs. 1(1), 5(2)(a)(ii)(aa) ; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
F4	Words in art. 23(2)(d) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/512) , regs. 1(1), 5(2)(a)(ii)(bb) ; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
F5	Art. 23(7) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/512) , regs. 1(1), 5(2)(b) ; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Order associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act amended by [1996 c. 25 s.79Sch.4 para.26](#)
- Act amended by [1996 c. 25 s.79Sch.4 para.26](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Order (including any effects on those provisions):

- art. 13A inserted by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 2\(3\)](#)
- art. 17(8)(b)(v) and word added by [2008 c. 4 \(N.I.\) Sch. 2 para. 7\(b\)](#)
- art. 17D(1B) inserted by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 5\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- art. 17D(2)(aa) substituted for word by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 5\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- art. 17D(2A)(a) substituted for words by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 5\(2\)\(c\)\(i\)](#)
- art. 17D(2A)(b) inserted by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 5\(2\)\(c\)\(ii\)](#)
- art. 55(2)(m) inserted by [S.I. 2008/1216 \(N.I.\) art. 54\(1\)](#)
- art. 110(3A) inserted by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 22\(b\)](#)