



# Road Traffic Act 1972

## 1972 CHAPTER 20

### PART I

#### PRINCIPAL ROAD SAFETY PROVISIONS

*Ancillary provisions for preventing, or mitigating effects of, accidents*

#### **29 Penalisation of tampering with motor vehicles**

If, while a motor vehicle is on a road or on a parking place provided by a local authority, a person otherwise than with lawful authority or reasonable cause gets on to the vehicle or tampers with the brake or other part of its mechanism, he shall be guilty of an offence.

#### **30 Penalisation of holding or getting on to vehicle in order to be towed or carried**

- (1) If a person otherwise than with lawful authority or reasonable cause takes or retains hold of, or gets on to, a motor vehicle or trailer while in motion on a road, for the purpose of being carried, he shall be guilty of an offence.
- (2) If a person takes or retains hold of a motor vehicle or trailer while in motion on a road for the purpose of being drawn he shall be guilty of an offence.

#### **31 Control of dogs on roads**

- (1) A person who causes or permits a dog to be on a designated road without the dog being held on a lead shall be guilty of an offence.
- (2) In this section " designated road " means a length of road specified by an order in that behalf of the local authority in whose area the length of road is situated; and the powers which under this subsection are exercisable by a local authority in England or Wales shall, in the case of a road part of the width of which is in the area of one local authority and part in the area of another, be exercisable by either authority with the consent of the other.

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- (3) An order under this section may provide that subsection (1) above shall apply subject to such limitations or exceptions as may be specified in the order, and (without prejudice to the generality of this subsection) subsection (1) above shall not apply to dogs proved to be kept for driving or tending sheep or cattle in the course of a trade or business, or to have been at the material time in use under proper control for sporting purposes.
- (4) An order under this section shall not be made except after consultation with the chief officer of police.
- (5) The Secretary of State may make regulations prescribing the procedure to be followed in connection with the making of orders under this section and requiring the authority making such an order to publish in such manner as may be prescribed by the regulations notice of the making and effect of the order.
- (6) In England or Wales a local authority may institute proceedings for an offence under this section relating to a road in their area.
- (7) In this section " local authority " means the council of a county borough or county district, the Common Council of the City of London or the council of a London borough, or in Scotland a county council or a town council.
- (8) The power conferred by this section to make an order shall include power, exercisable in like manner and subject to the like provisions, to vary or revoke it.

### **32 Wearing of protective headgear**

- (1) The Secretary of State may make regulations requiring, subject to such exceptions as may be specified in the regulations, persons driving or riding (otherwise than in side-cars) on motor cycles of any class specified in the regulations to wear protective headgear of such description as may be so specified.
- (2) Regulations under this section may make different provision in relation to different circumstances.
- (3) Any person who drives or rides on a motor cycle in contravention of regulations under this section shall be guilty of an offence.

### **33 Protective helmets for motor cyclists**

- (1) The Secretary of State may make regulations prescribing (by reference to shape, construction or any other quality) types of helmet recommended as affording protection to persons on or in motor cycles, or motor cycles of different classes, from injury in the event of accident.
- (2) If a person sells, or offers for sale, a helmet as a helmet for affording protection as aforesaid, and the helmet is neither—
  - (a) of a type prescribed under this section, nor
  - (b) of a type authorised under regulations made under this section and sold or offered for sale subject to any conditions specified in the authorisation,he shall, subject to subsection (3) below, be guilty of an offence.

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- (3) A person shall not be convicted of an offence under this section in respect of the sale or offer for sale of a helmet if he proves that it was sold or, as the case may be, offered for sale for export from Great Britain.
- (4) In England or Wales the council of a county, of a borough or of an urban district, the Greater London Council or the Common Council of the City of London may institute proceedings for an offence under this section.
- (5) The provisions of Schedule 1 to this Act shall have effect in relation to contraventions of this section.
- (6) In this section and in the said Schedule "helmet" includes any head-dress, and references in this section to selling or offering for sale include respectively references to letting on hire and offering to let on hire.