



Road Traffic Act 1988

CHAPTER 52

ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1988

PART I

PRINCIPAL ROAD SAFETY PROVISIONS

Driving offences

- 1 Causing death by reckless driving
- 2 Reckless driving
- 3 Careless, and inconsiderate, driving

Motor vehicles: drink and drugs

- 4 Driving, or being in charge, when under influence of drink or drugs
- 5 Driving or being in charge of a motor vehicle with alcohol concentration above prescribed limit
- 6 Breath tests
- 7 Provision of specimens for analysis
- 8 Choice of specimens of breath
- 9 Protection for hospital patients
- 10 Detention of persons affected by alcohol or a drug
- 11 Interpretation of sections 4 to 10

Motor racing and motoring events on public ways

- 12 Motor racing on public ways
- 13 Regulation of motoring events on public ways

Protective measures: seat belts, helmets, etc.

- 14 Seat belts: adults

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- 15 Restriction on carrying children not wearing seat belts in motor vehicles
- 16 Wearing of protective headgear
- 17 Protective helmets for motor cyclists
- 18 Authorisation of head-worn appliances for use on motor cycles

Stopping on verges, etc., or in dangerous positions, etc.

- 19 Prohibition of parking of HGVs on verges, central reservations and footways
- 20 Definition of “heavy commercial vehicle” for the purposes of section 19
- 21 Prohibition of driving or parking on cycle tracks
- 22 Leaving vehicles in dangerous positions

Other restrictions in interests of safety

- 23 Restriction of carriage of persons on motor cycles
- 24 Restriction of carriage of persons on bicycles
- 25 Tampering with motor vehicles
- 26 Holding or getting on to vehicle in order to be towed or carried
- 27 Control of dogs on roads

Cycling offences and cycle racing

- 28 Reckless cycling
- 29 Careless, and inconsiderate, cycling
- 30 Cycling when under influence of drink or drugs
- 31 Regulation of cycle racing on public ways
- 32 Electrically assisted pedal cycles

Use of motor vehicles away from roads

- 33 Control of use of footpaths and bridleways for motor vehicle trials
- 34 Prohibition of driving motor vehicles elsewhere than on roads

Directions to traffic and to pedestrians and traffic signs

- 35 Drivers to comply with traffic directions
- 36 Drivers to comply with traffic signs
- 37 Directions to pedestrians

Promotion of road safety

- 38 The Highway Code
- 39 Powers of Secretary of State and local authorities as to giving road safety information and training
- 40 Powers of Secretary of State to subsidise bodies other than local authorities for giving road safety information and training

PART II

CONSTRUCTION AND USE OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

General regulation of construction, use etc.

- 41 Regulation of construction, weight, equipment and use of vehicles
- 42 Offence where regulations are contravened, etc
- 43 Temporary exemption from application of regulations under section 41

- 44 Authorisation of use on roads of special vehicles not complying with regulations under section 41

Tests of vehicles other than goods vehicles to which section 49 applies

- 45 Tests of satisfactory condition of vehicles
- 46 Particular aspects of regulations under section 45
- 47 Obligatory test certificates
- 48 Supplementary provisions about test certificates

Tests of certain classes of goods vehicles

- 49 Tests of satisfactory condition of goods vehicles and determination of plated weights, etc
- 50 Appeals against determinations
- 51 Particular aspects of regulations under section 49
- 52 Supplementary provisions about tests, etc., of goods vehicles
- 53 Obligatory goods vehicle test certificates

Approval of design, construction, equipment and marking of vehicles

- 54 Type approval requirements
- 55 Type approval certificates
- 56 Conditions of, and cancellation or suspension of, type approval certificates
- 57 Certificates of conformity
- 58 Minister's approval certificates
- 59 Supplementary provisions as to certificates of conformity and Minister's approval certificates
- 60 Appeals
- 61 Regulations for the purposes of sections 54 to 60
- 62 Other supplementary provisions
- 63 Obligatory type approval certificates, certificates of conformity and Minister's approval certificates
- 64 Using goods vehicle with unauthorised weights as well as authorised weights marked on it
- 65 Vehicles and parts not to be sold without required certificate of conformity or Minister's approval certificate

Conditions for grant of excise licence

- 66 Regulations prohibiting the grant of excise licences for certain vehicles except on compliance with certain conditions

Testing vehicles on roads

- 67 Testing of condition of vehicles on roads

Maintenance and loading of goods vehicles

- 68 Power to inspect goods vehicles to secure proper maintenance
- 69 Power to prohibit the driving of unfit goods vehicles
- 70 Power to prohibit driving of overloaded goods vehicles
- 71 Offences in connection with unfit or overloaded goods vehicles
- 72 Removal of prohibitions
- 73 Provisions supplementary to sections 69 to 72

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

Miscellaneous provisions about vehicles and vehicle parts

- 74 Operator's duty to inspect, and keep records of inspections of, goods vehicles
- 75 Vehicles not to be sold in unroadworthy condition or altered so as to be unroadworthy
- 76 Fitting and supply of defective or unsuitable vehicle parts
- 77 Testing condition of used vehicles at sale rooms, etc
- 78 Weighing of motor vehicles
- 79 Further provisions relating to weighing of motor vehicles
- 80 Approval marks

Pedal cycles and horse-drawn vehicles

- 81 Regulation of brakes, bells etc., on pedal cycles.
- 82 Regulation of brakes on horse-drawn vehicles

Miscellaneous

- 83 Offences to do with reflectors and tail lamps
- 84 Appointment of officials and destination of fees
- 85 Interpretation of Part II
- 86 Index to Part II

PART III

LICENSING OF DRIVERS OF VEHICLES

Requirement to hold licence

- 87 Drivers of motor vehicles to have driving licences
- 88 Exceptions

Tests

- 89 Tests of competence to drive
- 90 Review of conduct of test
- 91 Repayment of test fees

Physical fitness

- 92 Requirements as to physical fitness of drivers
- 93 Revocation of licence because of disability or prospective disability
- 94 Provision of information, etc. relating to disabilities
- 95 Notification of refusal of insurance on grounds of health
- 96 Driving with uncorrected defective eyesight

Granting of licences, their form and duration

- 97 Grant of licences
- 98 Form of licence
- 99 Duration of licences

Appeals

- 100 Appeals relating to licences

Disqualification (otherwise than on conviction)

- 101 Disqualification of persons under age
- 102 Disqualification to prevent duplication of licences
- 103 Obtaining licence, or driving, while disqualified

Miscellaneous

- 104 Conduct of proceedings in certain courts by or against the Secretary of State
- 105 Regulations
- 106 Destination of fees for licences, etc
- 107 Service of notices
- 108 Interpretation
- 109 Provisions as to Northern Ireland drivers' licences

PART IV

LICENSING OF DRIVERS OF HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES

Requirement for HGV licence

- 110 Drivers of heavy goods vehicles to be licensed

Grant, duration and revocation of licences

- 111 Licensing authority, and applications, for HGV drivers' licences
- 112 Grant of HGV drivers' licences
- 113 Duration of HGV drivers' licences
- 114 Disqualification on revocation of HGV driver's licence

Appeals and review of tests

- 115 Review of conduct of test
- 116 Appeals relating to HGV drivers' licences

General and supplemental

- 117 Regulations
- 118 Fees and expenses
- 119 Common test of competence to drive for the purposes of Parts III and IV
- 120 Interpretation
- 121 Provisions as to Northern Ireland heavy goods vehicle drivers' licences
- 122 Protection of public interests

PART V

DRIVING INSTRUCTION

Instructors to be registered or licensed

- 123 Driving instruction for payment to be given only by registered or licensed persons
- 124 Exemption of police instructors from prohibition imposed by section 123

Registration

- 125 The register of approved instructors

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- 126 Duration of registration
- 127 Extension of duration of registration
- 128 Removal of names from register

Licences

- 129 Licences for giving instruction so as to obtain practical experience
- 130 Revocation of licences

Appeals

- 131 Appeals

Examinations and tests

- 132 Examinations and tests of ability to give driving instruction
- 133 Review of examinations

General and supplemental

- 134 Power to alter conditions for entry or retention in, and removal from, register and for grant or revocation of licences
- 135 Power to prescribe form of certificate of registration, etc
- 136 Surrender of certificates and licences
- 137 Production of certificates and licences to constables and authorised persons
- 138 Offences by corporations
- 139 Service of notices
- 140 Receipts
- 141 Regulations
- 142 Index to Part V

PART VI

THIRD-PARTY LIABILITIES

Compulsory insurance or security against third-party risks

- 143 Users of motor vehicles to be insured or secured against third-party risks
- 144 Exceptions from requirement of third-party insurance or security
- 145 Requirements in respect of policies of insurance
- 146 Requirements in respect of securities
- 147 Issue and surrender of certificates of insurance and of security
- 148 Avoidance of certain exceptions to policies or securities
- 149 Avoidance of certain agreements as to liability towards passengers
- 150 Insurance or security in respect of private use of vehicle to cover use under car-sharing arrangements
- 151 Duty of insurers or persons giving security to satisfy judgment against persons insured or secured against third-party risks
- 152 Exceptions to section 151
- 153 Bankruptcy, etc., of insured or secured persons not to affect claims by third parties
- 154 Duty to give information as to insurance or security where claim made
- 155 Deposits
- 156 Power to require evidence of insurance or security on application for vehicle excise licence

Payments for treatment of traffic casualties

- 157 Payment for hospital treatment of traffic casualties
- 158 Payment for emergency treatment of traffic casualties
- 159 Supplementary provisions as to payments for treatment

General

- 160 Regulations
- 161 Interpretation
- 162 Index to Part VI

PART VII

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

Powers of constables and other authorised persons

- 163 Power of police to stop vehicles
- 164 Power of constables to require production of driving licence and in certain cases statement of date of birth
- 165 Power of constables to obtain names and addresses of drivers and others, and to require production of evidence of insurance or security and test certificates
- 166 Powers of certifying officers and examiners as respects goods vehicles
- 167 Power of arrest in Scotland for reckless or careless driving or cycling

Duty to give name and address

- 168 Failure to give, or giving false, name and address in case of reckless or careless or inconsiderate driving or cycling
- 169 Pedestrian contravening constable's direction to stop to give name and address

Duties in case of accident

- 170 Duty of driver to stop, report accident and give information or documents

Other duties to give information or documents

- 171 Duty of owner of motor vehicle to give information for verifying compliance with requirement of compulsory insurance or security
- 172 Duty to give information as to identity of driver, etc., in certain cases

Forgery, false statements, etc.

- 173 Forgery of documents, etc
- 174 False statements and withholding material information
- 175 Issue of false documents
- 176 Power to seize articles in respect of which offences under sections 173 to 175 may have been committed
- 177 Impersonation of, or of person employed by, authorised examiner

Offences in Scotland

- 178 Taking motor vehicle without authority, etc

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

Inquiries

- 179 General power to hold enquiries
- 180 General provisions as to inquiries
- 181 General provisions as to accident inquiries
- 182 Special provisions as to accident inquiries in Greater London

Application to the Crown

- 183 Application to the Crown
- 184 Application of sections 5 to 10 to persons subject to service discipline

Interpretation

- 185 Meaning of “motor vehicle” and other expressions relating to vehicles
- 186 Supplementary provisions about those expressions
- 187 Articulated vehicles
- 188 Hover vehicles
- 189 Certain vehicles not to be treated as motor vehicles
- 190 Method of calculating weight of motor vehicles and trailers
- 191 Interpretation of statutory references to carriages
- 192 General interpretation of Act
- 193 Exemptions for tramcars, trolley vehicles, railway locomotives, carriages and trucks
- 194 General index

Supplementary

- 195 Provisions as to regulations
- 196 Provision, etc., of weighbridges
- 197 Short title, commencement and extent

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 — Supplementary Provisions in Connection with Proceedings for Offences under Sections 17 and 18(4)

Proceedings in England and Wales

- 1 (1) A person against whom proceedings are brought in England...
- 2 (1) Where— (a) it appears that an offence under section...
- 3 (1) Where proceedings are brought in England and Wales against...

Proceedings in Scotland

- 4 (1) Where a contravention of section 17 or 18(4) of...

Proceedings in Great Britain

- 5 (1) Subject to the provisions of this paragraph, in any...
- 6 (1) An accused who in any proceedings for an offence...
- 7 In this Schedule, “appliance” means an appliance to which section...

SCHEDULE 2 — Deferred Tests of Condition of Vehicles

- 1 Where the driver is the owner of the vehicle, he...

- 2 When the driver is not the owner of the vehicle...
- 3 (1) Where under the preceding provisions of this Schedule a...
- 4 The owner of the vehicle must produce it, or secure...
- 5 (1) References in this Schedule to the owner of a...

SCHEDULE 3 — Appeals under Section 131 Against Decisions of the Registrar

- 1 On an appeal under section 131 of this Act, the...
- 2 (1) The Secretary of State shall refer every such appeal...
- 3 (1) The Secretary of State may by rules made by...
- 4 (1) The Secretary of State may on an appeal under...
- 5 Section 180 of this Act, in its application to an...

SCHEDULE 4 — Provisions Not Applicable to Tramcars, etc.

- 1 Sections 12, 25, 26 and 127 of this Act do...
- 2 Sections 2, 3, 4(1) and 181 of this Act do...
- 3 The provisions of sections 41, 42, 47, 48, 66 and...
- 4 Section 83 of this Act does not apply to railway...
- 5 Part III of this Act and, in the Road Traffic...
- 6 Sections 101 and 109 of this Act do not apply...
- 7 Part VI of this Act does not apply to tramcars...
- 8 Sections 78, 79, 163, 165, 168, 170, 171, 178, 190...
- 9 Section 164 of this Act does not apply to tramcars...
- 10 In this Schedule “operated under statutory powers” means, in relation...
- 11 Paragraphs 1 to 3 and 5 to 9 above shall...