

## 1973 No. 180

## ROAD TRAFFIC

## The Motor Cycles (Wearing of Helmets) Regulations 1973

*Made* - - - - - 7th February 1973

*Laid before Parliament* 14th February 1973

*Coming into Operation* 1st June 1973

The Secretary of State for the Environment in exercise of his powers under section 32 of the Road Traffic Act 1972(a) and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with representative organisations in accordance with section 199(2) of that Act, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

*Commencement and citation*

1. These Regulations shall come into operation on 1st June 1973 and may be cited as the Motor Cycles (Wearing of Helmets) Regulations 1973.

*Interpretation*

2.—(1) In these Regulations the following expressions have the meanings hereby assigned to them:—

“motor bicycle” means a two wheeled motor cycle, whether having a side-car attached thereto or not, and for the purposes of this definition any wheels of a motor cycle shall, if the distance between the centres of the areas of contact between such wheels and the road surface is less than 460 millimetres, be counted as one wheel;

“protective headgear” means headgear which—

(a) is either—

(i) a helmet bearing a marking applied by the manufacturer indicating compliance with the specification contained in British Standard 2001 published on 25th October 1956, or British Standard 1869 published on 20th April 1960, or British Standard 2495 published on 20th April 1960; or

(ii) a helmet which by virtue of its shape, material and construction could reasonably be expected to afford to persons on motor bicycles a degree of protection from injury in the event of an accident similar to or greater than that provided by a helmet of a type complying with one of the specifications referred to in the preceding sub-paragraph; and

(b) is securely fastened to the head of the wearer by means of the straps or other fastening provided on the headgear for that purpose.

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(b) shall apply for the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

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(a) 1972 c. 20.

(b) 1889 c. 63.

*Wearing of protective headgear*

3.—(1) Save as provided in paragraph (2) of this Regulation, every person driving or riding (otherwise than in a side-car) on a motor bicycle when on a road shall wear protective headgear.

(2) Nothing in paragraph (1) of this Regulation shall apply to any person driving or riding on a motor bicycle if—

- (a) it is a mowing machine; or
- (b) it is for the time being propelled by a person on foot.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State.

*John Peyton,*  
Minister for Transport Industries,  
Department of the Environment.

7th February 1973.

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)*

These Regulations require, subject to exceptions, persons travelling on roads on motor bicycles (except in a side-car) to wear protective headgear of a specified description. The exceptions concern mowing machines and motor bicycles when propelled by pedestrians.

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