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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2003 No. 1998**

**ROAD TRAFFIC**

The Road Vehicles (Authorisation of  
Special Types) (General) Order 2003

*Made* - - - - *4th August 2003*

*Coming into force* *25th August 2003*

THE ROAD VEHICLES (AUTHORISATION OF  
SPECIAL TYPES) (GENERAL) ORDER 2003

PART 1

GENERAL

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2. Revocation

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4. Interpretation: vehicles and their measurement
5. Interpretation: lateral projections of loads and their measurement
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7. Interpretation: axles, wheels, axle weights and wheel weights

*Authorisation of certain vehicles for use on roads*

8. Application of this Order
9. Authorisation of particular vehicles falling within recognised category of special vehicles

*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally made).*

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14. Forward and rearward projections: attendants
15. Width and lateral projections: police notification, Secretary of State notification and attendants
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20. Agricultural vehicles: authorisation requirements
21. General requirements as to construction and use
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33. Local excavation vehicles: authorisation requirements
34. Local excavation vehicles: requirements as to width
35. Local excavation vehicles: requirements as to weight

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37. Vehicles for tests, trials or non-UK use etc: authorisation requirements
38. Vehicles for tests, trials or non-UK use etc: requirements as to length
39. Vehicles for tests, trials or non-UK use etc: requirements as to width
40. Vehicles for tests, trials or non-UK use etc: requirements as to weight

*Track-laying vehicles*

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42. Track-laying vehicles: authorisation requirements
43. Track-laying vehicles: restrictions on use
44. Track-laying vehicles: consent of road authorities

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45. Straddle carriers: recognised category
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PART 5

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  56. Vehicles propelled by natural gas
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SCHEDULE 1 — ABNORMAL INDIVISIBLE LOAD VEHICLES  
PART 1 — DEFINED TERMS

*General*

1. In this Schedule— “AILV” means an abnormal indivisible load vehicle...

*Meaning of abnormal indivisible load*

2. In this Order “abnormal indivisible load” means a load that...

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

*Meaning of abnormal indivisible load vehicle (AILV)*

3. In this Order “abnormal indivisible load vehicle” means a vehicle...

*Category 1, 2 or 3 AILVs or AILV-combinations*

4. (1) For the purposes of this Schedule, an AILV or...  
PART 2 — CONSTRUCTION

*Wheeled vehicles*

5. An AILV must be a wheeled vehicle.

*Tyres*

6. Every wheel of an AILV must be fitted with a...

*Braking requirements*

7. Paragraphs 8 to 12 apply to any AILV or AILV-combination...  
8. (1) An AILV or AILV-combination must have a braking system...  
9. (1) The following modifications apply for the purposes of each...  
10. (1) The requirements of paragraphs 2.2.1.22 and 2.2.2.13 of Annex...  
11. For the purposes of Type I tests conducted, in accordance...  
12. The requirements of paragraph 2.1.3.2 of Annex II to Council...  
PART 3 — PLATES AND SIGNS

*Plates*

13. (1) An AILV falling within Category 2 or 3 must...  
14. Where an AILV-combination consists of two or more modules, each...

*Signs*

15. (1) Each AILV or AILV-combination must be fitted with—  
PART 4 — CONDITIONS RELATING TO USE

*General restrictions*

16. An AILV must not be used on roads for, or...  
17. (1) Except as stated in paragraph 19, an AILV that...  
18. (1) Except as stated in paragraph 19, an AILV that...  
19. At any time when an AILV-combination consisting of two or...

*Restrictions on carriage of multiple loads*

20. (1) An AILV or AILV-combination may carry only one abnormal...  
21. (1) If the conditions specified in sub-paragraph (2) are satisfied,...  
22. (1) If the conditions specified in sub-paragraph (2) are satisfied,...  
23. An AILV, or AILV-combination, that falls within Category 1 or...

*Maximum width*

24. (1) An AILV or AILV-combination must not exceed the maximum...

*Maximum length*

25. (1) The maximum length of an AILV or AILV-combination used...

*Restrictions relating to weight: all AILVs and AILV-combinations*

26. No AILV or AILV-combination may exceed the restrictions as to...
27. (1) An AILV falling within Category 1 must not exceed...

*Restrictions relating to weight: Category 1 AILVs and AILV-combinations*

28. (1) The total weight of any Category 1 AILV carrying...
29. (1) The total weight of— (a) any Category 1 AILV...

*Restrictions relating to weight: Category 2 AILVs and AILV-combinations*

30. (1) The total weight of— (a) any Category 2 AILV...
31. (1) The total weight of— (a) any Category 2 AILV...

*Restrictions relating to weight: Category 3 AILVs and AILV-combinations*

32. (1) The total weight of— (a) any Category 3 AILV...
33. (1) The total weight of— (a) any Category 3 AILV...

*Speed restrictions*

34. (1) An AILV falling within Category 2 or 3 must...  
PART 5 — APPLICATION OF REGULATIONS MADE UNDER SECTION  
41 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1988

*Category 1 AILVs and AILV-combinations*

35. Any AILV or AILV-combination falling within Category 1 must, unless...

*Category 2 or 3 AILVs and AILV-combinations*

36. Any AILV or AILV-combination falling within Category 2 or 3...

*AILVs manufactured before 1st October 1989*

37. Instead of paragraphs 35 and 36, article 18(2)(p) of the...

SCHEDULE 2 — MOBILE CRANES  
PART 1 — DEFINED TERMS

*General*

1. In this Schedule— “Goods Vehicles Type Approval Regulations” means the...

*Meaning of mobile crane*

2. (1) In this Order “mobile crane” means a motor vehicle...

*Category A, B or C mobile cranes*

3. (1) For the purposes of this Schedule, a mobile crane...  
PART 2 — CONSTRUCTION

*Wheeled vehicles*

4. A mobile crane must be a wheeled vehicle.

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

*Tyres*

5. Every wheel of a mobile crane must be fitted with...

*Suspension*

6. A mobile crane must have suspension on all axles.

*Braking requirements*

7. A mobile crane must be fitted with—
8. (1) A mobile crane is to be treated as being...
9. (1) The following modifications apply for the purposes of each...
10. (1) The requirements of paragraphs 2.2.1.22 and 2.2.2.13 of Annex...
11. For the purposes of Type I tests conducted, in accordance...
12. The requirements of paragraph 2.1.3.2 of Annex II to Council...

*Design speed*

13. (1) A mobile crane that is specially adapted for the...

*Warning beacon*

14. A warning beacon emitting an amber light must be fitted...  
PART 3 — PLATES
15. (1) A mobile crane must be equipped with a plate...
16. (1) Where, in accordance with regulation 66 (plates for goods...
17. (1) In this paragraph “qualified person” means—
18. Any additional plate that is specially fitted to a vehicle...  
PART 4 — CONDITIONS RELATING TO USE

*General restrictions*

19. A mobile crane may only be used on roads for—...
20. A mobile crane that has an overall width exceeding 3...
21. (1) When a mobile crane is used on roads, the...

*Restriction on carriage of loads etc*

22. (1) Any mobile crane that is used on roads must...
23. A mobile crane may carry its own necessary gear and...
24. A mobile crane may lift or transport goods or burden...

*Restriction on towing trailers*

25. A mobile crane must not tow any trailer.

*Maximum width*

26. The overall width of a mobile crane, together with the...

*Maximum length*

27. The overall length of a mobile crane, together with any...

*Restrictions relating to weight: all mobile cranes*

28. No mobile crane may exceed any of the restrictions as...

29. No mobile crane may exceed— (a) any of the maximum...

*Restrictions relating to weight: Category A mobile cranes*

30. (1) For a Category A mobile crane, the maximum axle...

*Restrictions relating to weight: Category B mobile cranes*

31. (1) For a Category B mobile crane, the maximum axle...

*Restrictions relating to weight: Category C mobile cranes*

32. (1) For a Category C mobile crane, the maximum axle...

*Speed restrictions*

33. (1) A mobile crane falling within Category A, B or...

PART 5 — APPLICATION OF REGULATIONS MADE UNDER SECTION  
41 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1988

*Category A mobile cranes*

34. (1) A Category A mobile crane must comply with—

*Category B or C mobile cranes*

35. (1) A Category B or C mobile crane must comply...

SCHEDULE 3 — ENGINEERING PLANT  
PART 1 — DEFINED TERMS

*General*

1. In this Schedule— “Goods Vehicles Type Approval Regulations” means the...

*Meaning of engineering plant*

2. (1) In this Order “engineering plant” means any moveable plant...  
PART 2 — CONSTRUCTION

*Wheeled or track-laying vehicles*

3. Engineering plant must be a wheeled vehicle, a track-laying vehicle...

*Provisions applying to wheeled vehicles*

4. (1) Any wheel of engineering plant which is not fitted...  
5. Engineering plant which has wheels and may (in accordance with...

*Braking requirements*

6. Engineering plant that is designed and constructed to operate on...  
7. (1) Any other engineering plant must be fitted with—  
PART 3 — CONDITIONS RELATING TO USE

*General restrictions*

8. Engineering plant must not be used on roads for, or...

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

9. Engineering plant may only be used on roads for—
10. Engineering plant which has an overall width exceeding 3 metres...

*Restrictions on carriage of loads etc*

11. (1) Engineering plant which is used on roads must not—...
12. Engineering plant may carry its own necessary gear and equipment....
13. (1) This paragraph applies at any time when engineering plant...

*Restrictions on towing of trailers*

14. (1) Except as stated in sub-paragraph (2), engineering plant must...

*Maximum width*

15. The overall width of engineering plant, together with the width...

*Maximum length*

16. The overall length of engineering plant (or of any vehicle-combination...

*Restrictions relating to weight: gross weight*

17. (1) The gross weight of engineering plant, together with the...

*Restrictions relating to weight: weight transmitted to road surface*

18. (1) This paragraph applies to determine the maximum weight that...
19. (1) This paragraph applies to determine the maximum weight that...

*Speed restrictions*

20. (1) Unless paragraph 21 applies, engineering plant must not travel...
21. (1) This paragraph— (a) applies to any engineering plant that...
22. (1) Engineering plant, or a vehicle-combination that includes engineering plant,...
23. Nothing in this Schedule is to be taken to authorise...

PART 4 — APPLICATION OF REGULATIONS MADE UNDER SECTION 41 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1988

*Engineering plant treated as falling within Category 1, 2 or 3*

24. Engineering plant, or a vehicle-combination that includes engineering plant, which...

*Slow plant*

25. (1) Slow plant must comply with— (a) the Construction and...
26. (1) This paragraph applies to any slow plant that is...
27. (1) This paragraph applies to any slow plant that is...
28. (1) This paragraph applies to any slow plant that is...
29. (1) This paragraph applies to any slow plant that is...

SCHEDULE 4 — ROAD RECOVERY VEHICLES

PART 1 — DEFINED TERMS

1. (1) In this Order “road recovery vehicle” means a vehicle...

PART 2 — CONSTRUCTION



2. (1) A road recovery vehicle must be a wheeled vehicle...
3. A warning beacon emitting an amber light must be fitted...  
PART 3 — PLATES
4. A road recovery vehicle must be equipped with a plate...  
PART 4 — CONDITIONS RELATING TO USE

*Restriction on carriage of loads and towing of vehicles*

5. (1) A road recovery vehicle must not carry or tow...
6. A road recovery vehicle may carry its own necessary gear...
7. (1) Except as stated in sub-paragraph (2), a road recovery...
8. (1) At any time when a disabled vehicle or vehicle-combination...
9. A road recovery vehicle must not tow a disabled vehicle...

*Beacons*

10. (1) When a road recovery vehicle is used on roads,...

*Maximum width*

11. (1) The overall width of a road recovery vehicle must...

*Maximum length*

12. (1) The overall length of a road recovery vehicle must...

*Maximum vehicle weight*

13. The gross weight of a road recovery vehicle must not...

*Maximum axle and wheel weights*

14. (1) The distance between any two adjacent axles of a...
15. (1) If a road recovery vehicle has only one front...

*Speed restrictions*

16. (1) A road recovery vehicle must not, at any time...  
PART 5 — APPLICATION OF REGULATIONS MADE UNDER SECTION  
41 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1988
17. A road recovery vehicle must comply with—

SCHEDULE 5 — NOTICES TO POLICE

*Defined term*

1. In this Schedule “single rigid unit”, in relation to a...

*Notices*

2. (1) A notice must be given to the chief officer...
3. The notice must be in a form acceptable to the...
4. (1) The notice must contain— (a) a list of all...

*Use of vehicle in accordance with notice*

5. Except as stated in paragraph 6 or 7, the vehicle...
6. Paragraph 5 does not apply to the extent required to...

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

7. (1) This paragraph applies in relation to the use on...

#### SCHEDULE 6 — ATTENDANTS

1. (1) A person (“an attendant”) must be employed—
2. (1) A person may be employed as an attendant only...
3. (1) In a case where a journey is made by...
4. (1) A person employed by virtue of paragraph 1 must...

#### SCHEDULE 7 — NOTICES TO SECRETARY OF STATE

1. (1) An application for the consent of the Secretary of...
2. (1) If, following an application under paragraph 1, the Secretary...

#### SCHEDULE 8 — MARKING OF PROJECTIONS

##### PART 1 — DEFINED TERMS

1. In this Schedule— “end marker” means a marker fitted to...

##### PART 2 — FORWARD AND REARWARD PROJECTIONS

2. Paragraphs 3 to 6 apply cumulatively.

##### *General visibility of forward or rearward projections*

3. Where the length of a forward or rearward projection of...

##### *Markers for the end of a forward or rearward projection*

4. (1) Where the length of a forward or rearward projection...

##### *Markers for the side of a forward or rearward projection*

5. (1) Where the length of a forward or rearward projection...
6. (1) This paragraph applies where any relevant vehicle is carrying...

##### PART 3 — LATERAL PROJECTIONS

##### *Markers for a lateral projection*

7. (1) This paragraph applies where— (a) any relevant vehicle is...
8. (1) If the user of the vehicle shows that it...
9. Any end marker or side marker which is required by...
10. Between sunset and sunrise, and at all times when visibility...

##### PART 5 — APPEARANCE OF MARKERS

##### *Diagram of end marker surface*

#### SCHEDULE 9 — ROAD AND BRIDGE AUTHORITIES

##### PART 1 — NOTICES

1. (1) In this Schedule “the authority” means—
2. (1) A notice must be given to—
3. The notice must be in a form acceptable to the...
4. (1) The notice must contain— (a) a list of all...
5. (1) This paragraph applies in relation to the use on...

##### PART 2 — INDEMNITIES

6. (1) An indemnity under this Part of this Schedule may...
7. An indemnity is given in accordance with this Part of...

#### SCHEDULE 10 — LOCAL EXCAVATION VEHICLES

PART 1 — MEANING OF LOCAL EXCAVATION VEHICLE

1. (1) In this Schedule “local excavation vehicle” means any moveable...

PART 2 — CONSTRUCTION

*Wheels*

2. Every wheel of a local excavation vehicle must be fitted...

PART 3 — CONDITIONS RELATING TO USE

*General restrictions*

3. (1) A local excavation vehicle may only be used on...

*Restrictions on carriage of loads etc*

4. (1) A local excavation vehicle must not carry any load...

*Restrictions on towing of trailers*

5. (1) A local excavation vehicle that is a heavy motor...  
6. (1) This paragraph applies to a motor vehicle towing a...

*Maximum width*

7. The overall width of a local excavation vehicle must not...

*Maximum length*

8. The overall length of a local excavation vehicle must not...

*Restrictions relating to weight: gross weight*

9. (1) The gross weight of a local excavation vehicle—

*Restrictions relating to weight: axle weight*

10. (1) The axle weight for a local excavation vehicle—

*Speed restrictions*

11. (1) A local excavation vehicle must not travel at speeds...

PART 4 — APPLICATION OF REGULATIONS MADE UNDER SECTION  
41 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1988

12. (1) A local excavation vehicle must comply with—

13. (1) In the case of a local excavation vehicle that...

SCHEDULE 11 — VEHICLES FOR TESTS, TRIALS OR NON-UK USE ETC

PART 1 — INTERPRETATION

1. In this Schedule “relevant vehicle” means any motor vehicle or...

PART 2 — CONDITIONS RELATING TO USE

*General restrictions*

2. A relevant vehicle may only be used on roads for—...  
3. Paragraph 2 does not apply in relation to a relevant...  
4. A relevant vehicle must not be used in such a...

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

*Restriction of carriage of loads etc*

5. (1) A relevant vehicle that is used on roads must...
6. A relevant vehicle may carry— (a) its own necessary gear...
7. (1) A relevant vehicle may carry a load if it...  
PART 3 — CONDITIONS RELATING TO USE
8. (1) A relevant vehicle must comply with—
9. In their application to a relevant vehicle, the Construction and...
10. (1) In their application to a relevant vehicle, regulations 18...

SCHEDULE 12 — VEHICLES PROPELLED BY COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS SYSTEMS

*Defined terms*

1. In this Schedule— “an accredited testing laboratory” means a testing...

*Gas containers*

2. (1) This paragraph applies to any container for gas which...
3. (1) The owner of any vehicle (or, if it is...
4. (1) A gas container must— (a) be suitable to be...

*Gas container isolation*

5. (1) Any gas container must be capable of being isolated...

*Pressure relief devices*

6. (1) Every gas container must be provided with a suitable...

*Pipelines*

7. (1) Every pipeline must be fixed in such a manner...

*Unions and joints*

8. (1) Every union and joint on a pipeline or gas...

*Filling connectors*

9. (1) Any filling connector for the refuelling of the vehicle...

*Valves, safety devices and control equipment*

10. (1) Every gas propulsion system must be so designed and...

*Regulators*

11. (1) Any regulator fitted must be designed so that—

*Special requirements for buses*

12. In the case of a large bus there must be...

*Connections for articulated vehicles*

13. (1) Where a trailer is used for the carriage of...

*Marking and labelling of the vehicle*

14. (1) Every vehicle which is equipped to be fuelled by...

*General requirements*

15. Every part of the gas system must—

Explanatory Note