

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

Regulation 8 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 specifies the maximum permitted widths of road vehicles. It is an offence to tow a trailer which exceeds the relevant width. A maximum width of 2.3 metres is (with certain exceptions) specified in the case of a trailer drawn by a motor vehicle having a maximum gross weight of 3500 kg or less.

These Regulations amend the 1986 Regulations so that a maximum width of 2.55 metres applies to all types of trailer except for a trailer drawn by a motor cycle. 2.55 metres is the width referred to in section 7.3.2.1 of Annex I of Directive [97/27/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 July 1997 relating to the masses and dimensions of certain categories of motor vehicles and their trailers (OJ L 233, 25.8.1997, p.1).

The Department for Transport has produced an Explanatory Memorandum and an Impact Assessment, showing the effect this instrument will have on the costs of business and public sectors. These documents are available from the Transport Technology and Standards Division, Department for Transport, Zone 2/04a, Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR or may be accessed via the Office of Public Sector Information website at www.opsi.gov.uk. A copy has been placed in the library of each House of Parliament.