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THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT, 2007

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PART I – PRELIMINARY

Interpretation.

1. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires –

Act No. 4
of 1996.

“**Authority**” means the Road Transport Authority established by the Road Transport Authority Act, 1996;

“**carriage of goods**” includes haulage of goods;

“**class**” includes description;

“**commercial vehicle**” means a public service vehicle, a goods and passenger vehicle, a goods vehicle and a breakdown lorry;

“**cycle**” means a bicycle, motor cycle, tricycle, or a cycle having four or more wheels not being in any case a motor vehicle;

“**cycle track**” means track over which the public has a right of way in respect of cycles only;

“**dealer**” includes a person who stocks or exposes motor vehicles for sale, and a person who carries on business as a tester or repairer of motor vehicles;

“**disease**” includes any disability;

“**driver**” means any person who drives any vehicle or guides draught, pack or saddle animals or herds or flocks on a road or who is in active or physical control of the same;

“**footpath**” means a way over which the public has a right of way on foot or pedestrian walkway;

“**invalids carriage**” means a motor vehicle the weight of which unladen does not exceed 254 kilograms which is specially designed and constructed, and adapted for the use solely of a person with a physical disability;

“**Licensing Authority**” means the Road Transport Authority established by the Road Transport Authority Act, 1996 or any other person or organisation appointed under that Act as Licensing Authority;

“**Minister**” means the Minister responsible for transport;

“**motorcycle**” means a mechanically propelled vehicle, not being an invalids carriage, with less than four wheels and the weight of which unladen does not exceed 410 kilograms;

“**motor vehicle**” means a mechanically propelled vehicle intended or adapted for use on roads;

“**owner**” means in relation to a motor vehicle, the person by whom the motor vehicle is kept and used and in the case of a motor vehicle which is the subject of an agreement for hire, hire purchase or loan, the person in possession of the motor vehicle under that agreement;

“**plated particulars**” means the particulars that are required to be marked on a cargo vehicle in pursuance of regulations under this Act;

“**to park**” means to stop a vehicle and to leave that vehicle stationary (whether the driver remains with or on it or not) on a road or other public place for period longer than is reasonably necessary to comply with a traffic direction or to take up and set down a passenger or goods; and cognate words shall be construed accordingly;

“**public service vehicle**” means any motor vehicle used for carrying passengers for hire or reward, whether at separate and distinct fares for their respective places or not, but does not include a goods and passenger vehicle;

“**road**” includes a street, highway and any other road or place to which the public has access by vehicle or cycle and the bridges over which a road passes;

“**spot fine**” means a fine payable at the place where the offence was committed or at the nearest office of the Authority;

“**traffic sign**” means any object or device (whether fixed or portable) for conveying to traffic on roads, or any specified description of traffic warnings, information, requirements, restrictions, or prohibition of any description approved by the Minister and erected, placed or maintained in accordance with section 128, and any line or mark on a highway for so conveying such warnings, information, requirements, restrictions or prohibitions;

“**trailer**” means a vehicle drawn or intended to be drawn by any motor vehicle but does not include a side-car attached to a motor-cycle;

“**vehicle**” includes any motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer, tractor, wagon, carriage, cart, van, lorry, hand-cart, truck, barrow and cycle or tricycle and all other machines for the carriage of goods or persons or both;

“**weights**” means the weights that are required to be marked on motor vehicles.

PART II – REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAILERS

Registration of motor vehicles and trailers.

2. (1) A person shall not own or drive a motor vehicle or a motor trailer unless the motor vehicle or trailer is registered under this Act.

(2) A person seeking registration of a motor vehicle or a trailer shall apply in the prescribed form to the Licensing Authority.

(3) The Authority as the principal licensing authority shall be the central registrar of all motor vehicles and trailers and of all licences, and shall keep the prescribed registers and shall register therein in the prescribed manner all licences issued under this Act and the particulars of every motor vehicle and trailer registered by it or by other Licensing Authorities on its behalf.

(4) The registers kept under subsection (3) shall, during normal working hours, be open to inspection by the public on the payment to the Authority of a fee to be determined by the Authority.

3. (1) Subject to this Act, the owner of a motor vehicle or trailer may in accordance with regulations made under this Act, obtain a licence to use such vehicle for the period prescribed by application to the Licensing Authority in the manner prescribed and on payment of the prescribed fee and such licence shall be valid for the prescribed period. Licensing of motor vehicles.

(2) A licence issued under this section may be renewed on application and on payment of the prescribed fee subject to continued compliance with regulations made under this Act relating to the grant of such licence.

4. (1) Upon the registration of a motor vehicle or trailer under section 2, the Licensing Authority shall assign to the motor vehicle or trailer an identification mark comprising– Identification marks.

(a) the prescribed prefix indicating the registration area in which the motor vehicle or trailer is registered;

(b) a separate number; and

(c) the prescribed suffix indicating the year of the registration of the motor vehicle or trailer.

(2) The Licensing Authority may, in such circumstances as it may determine by regulations, decide whether to withdraw an identification mark for the time being assigned to a motor vehicle or trailer.

(3) The Licensing Authority shall upon any assignment or withdrawal made under subsection (2) make all necessary and consequential amendments to the register and the motor vehicle or trailer licence.

(4) Regulations may require the identification mark assigned to a motor vehicle or trailer to be fixed in a prescribed manner to the motor vehicle or trailer, to any other motor vehicle drawn by the motor vehicle or to both, prescribe the size, the shape, colour, the character of the identification mark to be fixed on any motor vehicle or trailer, and any other matter for the effective implementation of this section.