STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2015 No. 241

ROAD TRAFFIC
SPECIAL ROADS

The M3 Motorway (Junctions 2 to 4a) (Variable Speed Limits) Regulations 2015

Made - - - -	*13th February 2015*
Laid before Parliament	*19th February 2015*
Coming into force - -	*8th April 2015*

The Secretary of State for Transport makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by section 17(2) and (3) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984(**1**).

Representative organisations have been consulted in accordance with section 134(2) of that Act.

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the M3 Motorway (Junctions 2 to 4a) (Variable Speed Limits) Regulations 2015 and come into force on 8th April 2015.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

"the 1982 Regulations" means the Motorways Traffic (England and Wales) Regulations 1982(**2**);

"the 2002 Regulations" means the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002(**3**); and

"carriageway", "hard shoulder", "motorway" and "verge" have the same meaning as in the 1982 Regulations.

(**1**) 1984. c. 27. Section 17(2) was amended by the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (c. 22), Schedule 8, Part 2, paragraph 28(3); section 17(2)(b) was amended by the Road Traffic Act 1991 (c. 40), Schedule 8; section 17(2)(d) was inserted by the Road Traffic Act 1991 (c. 40), Schedule 4, paragraph 25. There are other amendments to sections 17 and 134 which are not relevant to these Regulations.

(**2**) S.I. 1982/1163, as amended by S.I. 1984/1479, 1992/1364 and 2004/3258. There are other amending instruments but none is relevant.

(**3**) S. I. 2002/3113; as amended by S. I. 2005/1670. There are other amending instruments but none is relevant.

Variable speed limits

3.—(1) No person shall drive a vehicle on a section of a road which is subject to a variable speed limit at a speed exceeding that indicated by a speed limit sign.

(2) A section of a road is subject to a variable speed limit in relation to a vehicle being driven along it if—

(a) the road is specified in the Schedule;

(b) the vehicle has passed a speed limit sign; and

(c) the vehicle has not subsequently passed—

(i) another speed limit sign indicating a different speed limit; or

(ii) a traffic sign which indicates that the national speed limit is in force.

(3) In relation to a vehicle, the speed limit indicated by a speed limit sign is the speed shown at the time the vehicle passes the sign, or, if higher, the speed limit shown by the sign ten seconds before the vehicle passed the sign.

(4) For the purpose of this regulation a speed limit sign is to be taken as not indicating any speed limit if, ten seconds before the vehicle passed it, the sign had indicated no speed limit or that the national speed limit was in force.

(5) In this regulation—

"national speed limit" has the meaning given by regulation 5(2) of the 2002 Regulations and a traffic sign which indicates that the national speed limit is in force means a traffic sign of the type shown in diagram 671 in Schedule 2 to the 2002 Regulations which is—

(a) placed on or near a road; and

(b) directed at traffic on the carriageway on which the vehicle is being driven;

"road" includes the adjacent hard shoulder and verge;

"speed limit sign", in relation to a vehicle, means a traffic sign of the type shown in diagram 670 in Schedule 2 to the 2002 Regulations which is—

(a) situated on or near any part of a road specified in the Schedule; and

(b) directed at traffic on the carriageway on which the vehicle is being driven.

Amendment of Regulations

4.—(1) The M3 and M25 (Thorpe Interchange) (Speed Limit) Regulations 2009(**4**) are amended as follows.

(2) In regulation 2 (interpretation), for the definition of "the westbound carriageway", substitute —

""the westbound carriageway" means the westbound carriageway of the M3 Motorway beginning at a point 840 metres before the eastern edge of Lyne Lane Overbridge and ending at a point 505 metres before the eastern edge of Bridge Lane Overbridge.".

(**4**) S.I. 2009/1421.