1992 No. 111

ROAD TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992

Made . . . . . *11th March 1992*

Coming into operation . . *13th April 1992*

The Department of the Environment, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Articles 2(2)(**a**), 28(1) and 218(1) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981(**b**) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, makes the following Regulations:

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992 and shall come into operation on 13th April 1992.

(2) In these Regulations "the principal Regulations" means the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1989(**c**).

Amendments to regulation 2 (interpretation)

2. Regulation 2(1) of the principal Regulations shall be amended as follows—

(1) After the definition of "large bus", insert—

" "light trailer" means a trailer with a maximum gross weight which does not exceed 3,500 kg;".

(2) After the definition of "longitudinal plane", insert the following definition—

" "low platform trailer" means a trailer fitted with tyres with a rim diameter size code of less than 20 and displaying a rectangular plate which—

(*a*) is at least 225 mm wide and at least 175 mm high; and

(*b*) has a white background bearing two black letters "L", each at least 125 mm high and 90 mm wide with a stroke width of 12 mm;".

(3) After the definition of "m^3", insert the following definition—

" "maximum permitted axle weight" means—

(**a**) *See* definition of "Department"
(**b**) S.I. 1981/154 (N.I.)
(**c**) S.R. 1989 No. 299 as amended by S.R. 1991 No. 147, S.R. 1991 No. 420 and S.R. 1992 No. 54

(*a*) in the case of a vehicle which is equipped with a plate in accordance with regulation 68, the maximum axle weight shown for that axle on the plate in respect of item 9 of Part I of Schedule 7 in the case of a motor vehicle and item 7 of Part II of Schedule 7 in the case of a trailer;

(*b*) in any other case, the weight which the axle is designed or adapted not to exceed when the vehicle is travelling on a road;''.

(4) After the definition of ''maximum gross weight'' insert the following definition—

'' ''maximum total design axle weight'' (an expression used only in relation to trailers) means—

(*a*) in the case of a trailer which is equipped with a plate in accordance with regulation 68, the sum of the maximum axle weights shown on the plate in respect of item 4 of Part II of Schedule 7;

(*b*) in the case of any other trailer, the sum of the axle weights which the trailer is designed or adapted not to exceed when the vehicle is travelling on a road;''.

(5) In the definition of ''overall length'', the word ''or'' immediately following sub-paragraph (*m*) shall be omitted, and after sub-paragraph (*n*) add the following words—

''or

(*o*) any rearward projecting buffer made of rubber or other resilient material.''.

(6) After the definition of ''resilient tyre'' insert the following definitions—

'' ''restricted speed vehicle'' means a vehicle displaying at its rear a plate in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 10A;

''retreaded tyre'' means a tyre which has been reconditioned to extend its useful life by replacement of the tread rubber or by replacement of the tread rubber and renovation of the sidewall rubber;''.

(7) After the definition of ''rigid vehicle'' insert the following definitions—

'' ''rim diameter'' is to be interpreted in accordance with the British Standard BS AU 50: Part II: Section 1: 1980 entitled ''British Standard Automobile Series: Specification for Tyres and Wheels Part II. Wheels and Rims Section 1. Rim profiles and dimensions (including openings for valves)'' which came into effect on 28th November 1980;

''rim diameter size code'' is to be interpreted in accordance with the British Standard referred to in the definition of ''rim diameter'';''.

(8) In the definition of ''statutory undertaker'' for the words ''British Telecommunications'' substitute ''an operator of a telecommunications code system as defined in paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 4 to the Telecommunications Act 1984(**a**)''.

(**a**) 1984 c. 12

Amendments to regulation 6 (length of vehicles)

3. For regulation 6 of the principal Regulations substitute the following—

"**6.**—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (9), the overall length of a vehicle or combination of vehicles of a class specified in an item in column 2 of the Table shall not exceed the maximum length specified in that item in column 3 of the Table, the overall length in the case of a combination of vehicles being calculated in accordance with regulation 79(1)(*g*) and (*h*).

TABLE (regulation 6(1))

1	2	3
Item	*Class of vehicle*	*Maximum length (metres)*
	Vehicle combinations	
1	A motor vehicle drawing one trailer, where the combination of vehicles does not meet the requirements of paragraph (8) and the trailer is not a semi-trailer.	18
2	A motor vehicle drawing one trailer where the combination meets the requirements of paragraph (8) and the trailer is not a semi-trailer.	18.35
3	An articulated bus.	18
4	An articulated vehicle the semi-trailer of which does not meet the requirements of paragraph (9) and is not a low loader.	15.5
5	An articulated vehicle, the semi-trailer of which meets the requirements of paragraph (9) and is not a low loader.	16.5
6	An articulated vehicle, the semi-trailer of which is a low loader.	18
	Motor vehicles	
7	A wheeled motor vehicle.	12
8	A track-laying motor vehicle.	9.2
	Trailers	
9	An agricultural trailed appliance manufactured on or after 1st December 1985.	15

TABLE *(continued)* (regulation 6(1))

1	2	3
Item	*Class of vehicle*	*Maximum length (metres)*
10	A semi-trailer manufactured on or after 1st May 1983 which does not meet the requirements of paragraph (9) and is not a low loader.	12.2
11	A composite trailer drawn by— (*a*) a goods vehicle being a motor vehicle having a maximum gross weight exceeding 3,500kg; or (*b*) an agricultural motor vehicle.	14.04
12	A trailer (not being a semi-trailer or composite trailer) with at least 4 wheels which is— (*a*) drawn by a goods vehicle being a motor vehicle having a maximum gross weight exceeding 3,500kg; or (*b*) an agricultural trailer.	12
13	Any other trailer not being an agricultural trailed appliance or a semi-trailer.	7

(2) In the case of a motor vehicle drawing one trailer where—

(*a*) the motor vehicle is a showman's vehicle as defined in paragraph 7 of Schedule 3 to the 1972 Act; and

(*b*) the trailer is a living van,

item 1 in the Table applies with the substitution of 22m for 18m and item 2 in the Table does not apply.

(3) Items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Table do not apply to—

(*a*) a vehicle combination which includes a trailer which is constructed and normally used for the conveyance of indivisible loads of exceptional length, or

(*b*) a vehicle combination consisting of a broken down vehicle (including an articulated vehicle) being drawn by a motor vehicle in consequence of a breakdown, or

(*c*) an articulated vehicle, the semi-trailer of which is a low loader manufactured before 1st April 1991.

(4) Items 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the Table do not apply to—

(*a*) a trailer which is constructed and normally used for the conveyance of indivisible loads of exceptional length,

(*b*) a broken down vehicle (including an articulated vehicle) which is being drawn by a motor vehicle in consequence of a breakdown, or

(*c*) a trailer being a drying or mixing plant designed for the production of asphalt or of bituminous or tar macadam and used mainly for the construction, repair or maintenance of roads, or a road planing machine so used.

(5) Furthermore item 9 does not apply to—

(*a*) a semi-trailer which is a car transporter,

(*b*) a semi-trailer which is normally used on international journeys any part of which takes place outside the United Kingdom.

(6) Where a motor vehicle is drawing—

(*a*) two trailers, then only one of those trailers may exceed an overall length of 7m;

(*b*) three trailers, then none of those trailers shall exceed an overall length of 7m.

(7) Where a motor vehicle is drawing—

(*a*) two or more trailers; or

(*b*) one trailer constructed and normally used for the conveyance of indivisible loads of exceptional length—

then—

(i) the overall length of that motor vehicle shall not exceed 9.2m; and

(ii) the overall length of the combination of vehicles, calculated in accordance with regulation 79(1)(*g*) and (*h*), shall not exceed 25.9m, unless the conditions specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part I of Schedule 10 have been complied with.

(8) The requirements of this paragraph, in relation to a combination of vehicles, are that at least one of the vehicles in the combination is not a goods vehicle or, if both vehicles in the combination are goods vehicles that—

(*a*) the maximum distance measured parallel to the longitudinal axis of the combination of vehicles from the foremost point of the loading area behind the driver's cab to the rear of the trailer, less the distance between the rear of the motor vehicle and the front of the trailer, does not exceed 15.65m; and

(*b*) the maximum distance measured parallel to the longitudinal axis of the combination of vehicles from the foremost point of the loading area behind the driver's cab to the rear of the trailer does not exceed 16m;

but sub-paragraph (*a*) shall not apply if both vehicles in the combination are car transporters.

(9) The requirements of this paragraph, in relation to a semi-trailer, are that—