1991 No. 213

ROAD TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Rear Seat Belts by Adults) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1991

Made . . . . . *20th May 1991*

Coming into operation . . *1st July 1991*

To be laid before Parliament under paragraph 3(3) of Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland Act 1974

The Department of the Environment, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Articles 2(2)(**a**), 129A(1) and (2) and 218(1) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981(**b**) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Rear Seat Belts by Adults) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1991 and shall come into operation on 1st July 1991.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

"adult seat belt" means—

(*a*) a three-point belt, or

(*b*) a lap belt,

marked in accordance with regulation 47(8) of the Construction and Use Regulations;

"child restraint" means a seat belt or any other description of restraining device for the use of a young person—

(*a*) which is designed either to be fitted directly to a suitable anchorage or to be used in conjunction with an adult seat belt and held in place by the restraining action of that belt, and

(*b*) which has been marked in accordance with regulation 47(8) of the Construction and Use Regulations,

and any reference to wearing a child restraint is to be construed accordingly;

"Construction and Use Regulations" means the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1989(**c**);

(**a**) *See* definition of "Department" and "prescribed"
(**b**) S.I. 1981/154 (N.I. 1); Article 129A was inserted by Article 3 of S.I. 1982/157 (N.I. 3)
(**c**) S.R. 1989 No. 299 to which there is an amendment not relevant to these Regulations

"medical certificate" means a valid certificate in relation to a person, signed by a medical practitioner, to the effect that it is inadvisable on medical grounds for that person to wear a seat belt;

"rear seat" in relation to a vehicle means a seat not being the driver's seat, a seat alongside the driver's seat or a specified passenger seat;

"trade licence" has the same meaning as in section 35(1) of the Vehicles Excise Act (Northern Ireland) 1972(**a**);

"disabled person's belt", "lap belt", "seat", "specified passenger's seat" and "three-point belt" have the meanings given by regulation 47(9) of the Construction and Use Regulations.

Application

3. These Regulations shall apply to every motor car which is constructed or adapted to carry not more than 8 passengers in addition to the driver.

Requirement for adults to wear seat belts

4. Subject to the following provisions of these Regulations, every person shall wear an adult seat belt if he is aged 14 years or more and riding in the rear of a motor car to which these Regulations apply.

Exceptions

5.—(1) Regulation 4 shall not apply to—

(*a*) a person holding a medical certificate;

(*b*) a person using a vehicle constructed or adapted for the delivery or collection of goods or mail to consumers or addressees, as the case may be, while engaged in making local rounds of deliveries or collections;

(*c*) a member of the police force;

(*d*) a member of the fire brigade while donning operational clothing or equipment;

(*e*) a person riding in a vehicle, being used under a trade licence, for the purpose of investigating or remedying a mechanical fault in the vehicle;

(*f*) a disabled person who is wearing a disabled person's belt;

(*g*) a person riding in a vehicle which is taking part in a procession organised by or on behalf of the Crown;

(*h*) a governor, medical officer or other officer of a prison whether acting in the course of his duties or not; or

(*i*) a member of the regular armed forces of the Crown or of the Ulster Defence Regiment whether on duty or not.

(2) Without prejudice to paragraph (1)(*g*), regulation 4 shall not apply to a person riding in a vehicle which is taking part in a procession held to mark or commemorate an event if notice in respect of the procession was given in accordance with Article 3 of the Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987(**b**).

(**a**) 1972 c. 10 (N.I.)
(**b**) S.I. 1987/463 (N.I. 7)