1984 No. 160

ROAD TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

Motorways Traffic Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1984

Made	*16th May 1984*
Coming into operation . . .	*1st July 1984*

The Department of the Environment in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 19(3) of the Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1980(**a**) (hereinafter referred to as "the Order") and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following regulations:—

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Motorways Traffic Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1984 and shall come into operation on 1st July 1984.

(2) In these regulations:—

"central reservation" means that part of a motorway other than the hard shoulder, which separates the carriageway used by vehicles travelling in one direction from the carriageway used by vehicles travelling in the opposite direction;

"excluded traffic" means traffic which is not traffic of Classes I or II in Schedule 1 to the Order;

"hard shoulder" means a part of the motorway adjacent to the carriageway designed to take the weight of a vehicle;

"motorway" means a road designated as a special road under Article 14 of the Order or under any statutory provision repealed by the Order and includes trunk roads to which Part III of the Order applies by virtue of paragraph 7 of Schedule 7 to the Order;

"traffic sign" has the meaning assigned to it by Article 2(2) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981(**b**);

"verge" means any part of a motorway which is not a carriageway, a hard shoulder, or a central reservation.

(3) A vehicle shall be treated for the purposes of these regulations as being on any part of a motorway if any part of the vehicle (whether it is at rest or not) is on any part of the motorway.

Revocation

2. The Motorways Traffic Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1963(**c**) are hereby revoked.

Application

3. These regulations shall apply to a motorway which may be used only by traffic of Class I or II, as set out in Schedule 1 to the Order and which has been declared by notice published in the Belfast Gazette in accordance with Article 19(2) of the Order as open for use by such traffic.

(**a**) S.I. 1980/1085 (N.I. 11)
(**b**) S.I. 1981/154 (N.I. 1)
(**c**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1963 No. 233

Vehicles to be driven on the carriageway only

4. Subject to regulations 7(2), 13(1)(*a*), 13(2) and 14, a vehicle shall not be driven on any part of a motorway which is not a carriageway.

Direction of driving

5.—(1) Where there is a traffic sign indicating that there is no entry to a carriageway at a particular place, a vehicle shall not be driven or moved on to that carriageway at that place.

(2) Where there is a traffic sign indicating that there is no left or right turn into a carriageway at a particular place, a vehicle shall not be so driven or moved as to cause it to turn to the left or (as the case may be) to the right into that carriageway at that place.

(3) Every vehicle on a length of carriageway which is contiguous to a central reservation or to a hard shoulder which is itself contiguous to a central reservation shall be driven in such a direction that the central reservation is at all times on the right-hand side of the vehicle.

(4) Where traffic signs are so placed that there is a length of carriageway (being a length which is not contiguous to a central reservation or a hard shoulder which is itself contiguous to a central reservation) which may be entered at one end only by vehicles driven in conformity with paragraph (1) a vehicle on that length of carriageway shall be driven in such a direction only as to cause it to proceed away from that end of that length of carriageway towards the other end thereof.

(5) A vehicle which—

(*a*) is on a length of carriageway on which vehicles are required by paragraphs (3) and (4) to be driven in one direction only and is proceeding in or facing that direction; or

(*b*) is on any other length of carriageway and is proceeding in or facing one direction,

shall not be driven or moved so as to cause it to turn and proceed in or face the opposite direction.

Restriction on stopping

6. Subject to regulations 7(1) and (4) and 14, a vehicle shall not stop or remain at rest on a carriageway.

Exemptions from restriction on stopping

7.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) it shall be lawful for a vehicle being driven on a carriageway to stop—

(*a*) because of a breakdown or mechanical defect or lack of fuel, oil or water required for the vehicle; or

(*b*) because of an accident, illness or other emergency; or

(*c*) to permit any person carried in or on the vehicle to recover or move any object which has fallen on a motorway; or

(*d*) to permit any person carried in or on the vehicle to give help which is required by any other person in any of the circumstances specified in the foregoing provisions of this paragraph.

(2) Where a vehicle is stopped on a carriageway for any of the reasons mentioned in paragraph (1) the vehicle shall, as soon and insofar as is reasonably practicable, be driven or moved off the carriageway on to, and may stop and remain at rest on, the left-hand hard shoulder except that in the case of a carriageway made up of four or more traffic lanes the vehicle may stop and remain at rest on the hard shoulder which is equidistant or nearest to the vehicle.

(3) (*a*) A vehicle at rest on a hard shoulder shall so far as is reasonably practicable be allowed to remain at rest on that hard shoulder in such a position only that no part of it or of the load carried on it shall obstruct or be a cause of danger to vehicles using the carriageway.

(*b*) A vehicle shall not remain at rest on a hard shoulder for longer than is necessary in the circumstances.

(4) The prohibition in regulation 6 shall not apply to a vehicle which is prevented from proceeding along the carriageway by the presence of any other vehicle, a person or object.

Restriction on reversing

8. Subject to regulation 14 a vehicle on a carriageway shall not be driven or moved backwards except insofar as it is necessary to back the vehicle to enable it to proceed forward along the carriageway or to be connected to any other vehicle.

Restriction on the use of hard shoulder

9. Subject to regulations 7(2) and (3) and 14 a vehicle shall not be driven or stop or remain at rest on any hard shoulder.

Vehicles not to use the central reservation or verge

10. Subject to regulation 14 a vehicle shall not be driven or moved or stop or remain at rest on a central reservation or verge.

Vehicles not to be driven by learner drivers

11. (*a*) A motor vehicle shall not be driven on a motorway by a person who is authorised to drive that vehicle only by virtue of him being the holder of a provisional licence under Article 8 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981, unless since the date of coming into force of that licence, he has passed a test under Article 11 of that Order, entitling him to be granted a licence, other than a provisional licence, authorising him to drive that vehicle on a road.

(*b*) A motor vehicle shall not be driven on a motorway by a person who holds a driving licence authorising its holder to drive motor vehicles of certain classes or description but which also authorises him under Article 5(3) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 to drive motor vehicles of all other classes or description unless the vehicle belongs to the first mentioned classes or descriptions.

Restrictions affecting animals carried in vehicles

12. A person in charge of an animal which is carried by a vehicle using a motorway shall, so far as is practicable, secure that—

(*a*) the animal shall not be removed from or permitted to leave the vehicle while the vehicle is on a motorway; and

(*b*) if it escapes from, or it is necessary for it to be removed from, or permitted to leave, the vehicle:—

(i) it shall not go or remain on any part of a motorway other than a verge or hard shoulder; and

(ii) it shall whilst it is not on or in the vehicle be held on a lead or otherwise kept under proper control.