1968. No. 93 **[C]**

MOTOR VEHICLES

Direction Indicators and Stop Lights

REGULATIONS, DATED THE 5TH DAY OF APRIL 1968, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND UNDER SECTION 4 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1955.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, in exercise of the powers vested in it by Section 4 of the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1955(**a**) and all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

Citation

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Motor Vehicles (Direction Indicators and Stop Lights) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1968.

Regulations Revoked

2. The Motor Vehicles (Direction Indicators) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1954(**b**), the Motor Vehicles (Stop Lights) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1954(**c**) and the Motor Vehicles (Stop Lights) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1957(**d**) are hereby revoked.

Interpretation

3. In these Regulations, and in the Schedule thereto, the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say:—

(*a*) "direction indicator" means a device fitted to a motor vehicle or to a trailer for the purpose of intimating the intention of the driver to change the direction of the vehicle to the right or to the left;

(*b*) "trailer" means a vehicle drawn by a motor vehicle;

(*c*) "close-coupled" in relation to a trailer means that the wheels on the same side of the trailer are so fitted that at all times while it is in motion they remain parallel to the longitudinal axis of the trailer, and that the distance between the centres of their respective areas of contact with the road surface does not exceed 33 inches;

(*d*) "stop light" means a device fitted to a motor vehicle or to a trailer drawn by a motor vehicle for the purpose of intimating the intention of the driver of the vehicle to stop or slow down.

Direction Indicators

4.—(1) Save as provided in paragraph (3) of this Regulation, every motor vehicle registered on or after 1st January 1936 which is fitted with a direction indicator shall—

(*a*) if it is a vehicle fitted with electric lighting equipment, comply with the provisions relating to direction indicators contained in either Part I or Part II or Part III of the Schedule to these Regulations, or

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(**a**) 1955, c. 27.
(**b**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1954, No. 75.
(**c**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1954, No. 76.
(**d**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1957, No. 248.

(*b*) if it is a vehicle not so fitted, comply with the provisions relating to direction indicators contained in Part V of the said Schedule.

(2) Save as provided in paragraph (3) of this Regulation, every trailer manufactured after 1st July 1955 which is fitted with a direction indicator shall comply with the provisions relating to direction indicators contained in either Part III or Part VI of the Schedule.

(3) Every motor vehicle (other than a two-wheeled motor cycle with or without a sidecar attached) registered on or after 1st October 1968 which is fitted with a direction indicator shall comply with the provisions relating to direction indicators contained in Part III of the Schedule, and any trailer drawn by such a motor vehicle, or by a motor vehicle registered before that date and fitted with direction indicators in accordance with those provisions, shall be fitted with direction indicators in accordance with those provisions.

Stop Lights

5.—(1) Every stop light fitted to a motor vehicle registered on or after 1st January 1936 or to a trailer shall be fitted at the rear of the vehicle and not to the left of the centre thereof and when in operation shall show a red or amber light:

Provided that nothing in this paragraph shall prevent the fitting of a duplicate stop light on the left or near side of the vehicle which (except when the stop light fitted on the right or offside of the vehicle is showing a flashing light as a direction indicator) comes into operation at the same time as the stop light fitted at the centre or on the right or offside of the vehicle.

(2) Every light shown by a stop light shall be diffused by means of frosted glass or other adequate means and shall be a steady light.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland this 5th day of April 1968 in the presence of

(L.S.) *W. G. Robinson,*
Assistant Secretary.

SCHEDULE

Direction Indicators

Alternative provisions in Part I or II as respects direction indicators on motor vehicles registered before, as well as on certain motor cycles registered after, 1st October 1968 fitted with electric lighting equipment.

PART I

1. Every direction indicator fitted to a vehicle in compliance with this Part of this Schedule shall be, when in operation, in the form of an illuminated sign of a minimum illuminated length of 6 inches and a maximum illuminated breadth not exceeding one-fourth of the illuminated length, and shall show either a steady or a flashing light.

2. Save as provided in the next following paragraph as respects additional indicators, every direction indicator shall be so designed and fitted that—

(*a*) it is not more than 6 feet behind the base of the wind-screen; and

(*b*) when in operation—

(i) it temporarily alters the outline of the vehicle to the extent of at least 6 inches measured horizontally;

(ii) the outermost point of the direction indicator is at least 6 inches further from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle than is the outermost point of the driver's cab, or of the side of the body immediately behind the driver's seat;

(iii) the illuminated surface is visible at a reasonable distance both from the front and the rear of the vehicle; and

(iv) it remains steady:

Provided that sub-paragraph (*a*) of this paragraph shall not apply in the case of a pillarless saloon motor car if the direction indicator is not situated behind the widest part of the body. For the purposes of this proviso a pillarless saloon motor car means a motor car which has an enclosed body and four doors and no vertical pillar between the doors on either side and is a passenger vehicle adapted to carry not more than seven passengers exclusive of the driver.

3.—(1) An additional indicator may be fitted at the rear of any vehicle on any side to which there is fitted an indicator not being an additional indicator. Such additional indicator shall either—

(*a*) be in the form specified in paragraph 1 of this Part of this Schedule and shall, except when a trailer is being drawn, be visible at a reasonable distance from any point to the rear of the vehicle; or

(*b*) comply with the requirements of sub-paragraph (1) of paragraph 3 and of paragraph 5 of Part II of this Schedule as respects indicators showing a flashing light to the rear.

(2) An additional indicator may be fitted at the front of any vehicle on any side to which there is fitted an indicator not being an additional indicator. Such additional indicator shall comply with the requirements of sub-paragraph (1) of paragraph 3 and of paragraphs 4 and 5 of Part II of this Schedule as respects indicators showing a flashing light to the front.

4. Any direction indicator intended to indicate a right hand turn shall be fitted only to the right of the longitudinal axis of the vehicle and one intended to indicate a left hand turn shall be fitted only to the left of that axis:

Provided that this paragraph shall not apply to any direction indicator being an additional indicator fitted to a vehicle before 1st April 1955.

5. Every direction indicator shall be at a height of not more than 7 feet 6 inches nor less than 1 foot 5 inches above the level of the ground.

6.—(1) The illuminated colour of every direction indicator shall—

(*a*) if it shows both to the front and to the rear, be amber;

(*b*) if it shows only to the front, be amber or white; and

(*c*) if it shows only to the rear, be amber or red.

(2) The light emitted by every direction indicator shall be diffused by frosted glass or other adequate means.

7. Every direction indicator showing a flashing light shall when in operation show a light which flashes constantly at the rate of not less than 60 nor more than 120 flashes per minute, each flash being of such duration as to permit the light to achieve its full brightness and to be fully observable to the eye at a reasonable distance. The light shall begin to flash not later than one second after the switch of the indicator is operated and between each flash there shall be an interval observable to the eye.

8. The following requirements shall be complied with as respects the direction indicators on a vehicle—

(*a*) not less than one indicator on each side to which indicators are fitted shall be so designed and fitted that the driver when in his seat can readily be aware when it is in operation; or

(*b*) the vehicle shall be equipped with a device or devices so designed and fitted that, when the switch actuating the indicator or indicators on one side of the vehicle is operated, the device or devices shall—

(i) if and so long as every indicator not being an additional indicator fitted on that side of the vehicle is in operation, together with the indicator on that side, if a trailer is drawn, of the trailer (or if more than one trailer is drawn, the rearmost trailer), give a warning readily visible or audible to the driver when in his seat; and

(ii) in any other case give no warning or a warning different from that given if the conditions of head (i) of this sub-paragraph are satisfied.

9. Every direction indicator shall be so fitted that when not in operation it will not be likely to mislead the driver of any other vehicle or any person controlling traffic.

10. Any reference in this Schedule to the side of a vehicle shall be taken to include that part of the front or the back of the vehicle which is on that side of the vehicle.

11. Every direction indicator fitted to either side of a vehicle together with every indicator on that side of any trailer drawn by the vehicle, while so drawn, shall be operated by one and the same switch and not otherwise.

In this Schedule the term "switch" includes any control or device by which a direction indicator can be operated or its operation cancelled.

PART II

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 3 of this Part of this Schedule, every direction indicator fitted to a vehicle in compliance with this Part of this Schedule shall be in the form of a lamp which, when in operation, shows a flashing light visible at a reasonable distance from both the front and rear of the vehicle.

2. Every such indicator shall be so designed and fitted that—

(*a*) it is not more than 6 feet behind the base of the wind-screen;

(*b*) both the minimum illuminated area showing to the front and the minimum illuminated area showing to the rear shall—

(i) be not less than 3½ square inches in extent in the case of either a vehicle the unladen weight of which does not exceed 2 tons or a passenger vehicle adapted to carry not more than 12 passengers, exclusive of the driver, if in either case the vehicle is not being used, except in a case of emergency, to draw a trailer other than one with less than four wheels or a four-wheeled trailer having two close-coupled wheels on each side;

(ii) be not less than 12 square inches in extent in any other case.

3.—(1) Subject to the provisions of sub-paragraph (2) of this paragraph, in lieu of a direction indicator in respect of which the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Part of this Schedule are complied with, two indicators may be fitted to any side of a vehicle and shall be so designed and fitted that—

(*a*) when in operation one of the indicators on one side shall show a flashing light visible from a reasonable distance to the front of the vehicle and the other indicator on that side shall, except when a trailer is being drawn, show a flashing light visible from a reasonable distance to the rear of the vehicle;

(*b*) every such indicator shall be so placed that the centre of its illuminated area is not more than 16 inches nearer to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle than is the outermost part of the vehicle which is comprised in the overall width of the vehicle on the side on which the indicator is placed, except that in the case of a public service vehicle having combined rear and side entrances the near side indicator showing a flashing light to the rear of the vehicle may be so placed that the centre of its illuminated area is not more than 30 inches nearer to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle than the said outermost part of the vehicle; and

(*c*) the minimum illuminated area showing to the front or rear as the case may be shall be that prescribed in paragraph 2 of this Part of this Schedule.

(2) Whilst a vehicle is drawing a trailer or trailers the preceding provisions of this paragraph shall have effect subject to the following modifications:—

(*a*) there shall be carried on either side of the trailer or the rearmost trailer as the case may be an indicator so designed and fitted that when in operation it complies with the provisions of Part III or Part VI of this Schedule; and

(*b*) it shall not be necessary for an indicator showing a flashing light to the rear to be carried on either side of the vehicle.

This sub-paragraph shall not apply where the trailer or the rearmost trailer as the case may be is of an unladen weight not exceeding 2 hundredweight or was manufactured before 1st January 1955, or is a broken down motor vehicle being drawn in consequence of the breakdown.

4.—(1) Save as provided in sub-paragraph (2) of this paragraph, a direction indicator fitted in compliance with this Part of this Schedule and showing a flashing light to the front shall not be combined with nor obscure any lamp showing to the front a white light being a lamp required to be carried by or under any enactment.

(2) In the case of a vehicle on either side of which two direction indicators are fitted in accordance with the preceding paragraph an indicator showing a flashing light to the front may be combined with an electric lamp showing a white light to the front being a lamp required to be carried by or under any enactment provided that—

(*a*) the power of the lamp does not exceed 7 watts; and

(*b*) the indicator is fitted with a separate electric circuit and either a separate electric bulb or a separate electric filament.

5. The total rated wattage of the bulb or bulbs illuminating any indicator carried in compliance with this Part of this Schedule shall be not less than 15 watts nor more than 36 watts.

6.—(1) Where a vehicle is equipped on any side with a direction indicator in respect of which the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Part of this Schedule are complied with, an additional indicator may be carried on that side provided that any such indicator complies with the provisions of paragraph 3 of Part I of this Schedule.

(2) Where a vehicle is equipped on any side with direction indicators in respect of which the provisions of paragraph 3 of this Part of this Schedule are complied with, an additional indicator may be carried on that side (excluding the front or rear of the vehicle). Any such indicator shall be in the form of a lamp which, when in operation, shows a flashing light visible at a reasonable distance to road users alongside the vehicle.