1968. No. 44 **[C]**

MOTOR VEHICLES: CONSTRUCTION AND USE

The Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1968

REGULATIONS, DATED 8TH MARCH 1968, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS 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 four of the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1955(a) 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 (Construction and Use) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1968 and shall come into operation on 1st April 1968.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations the expression "the Principal Regulations" means the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1967(b).

Regulations Amended

3. The Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1967 shall be amended as follows:—

Overall Length

(1) In Regulation 6 for paragraph (2) there shall be substituted the following paragraphs:—

"(2) The overall length of a public service vehicle or a vehicle which is constructed or adapted for use as such a vehicle or a chassis which is constructed for such a vehicle shall not exceed 12 metres.

(3) The overall length of a motor vehicle other than one falling within either of the two foregoing paragraphs shall not exceed 11 metres."

Mirrors

(2) In Regulation 15 after paragraph (2) there shall be added the following paragraph:—

"(3) In the case of a motor vehicle registered on or after 1st April 1969, the edges of any mirror fitted internally to the vehicle to assist any person, if he so desires, to become aware of traffic to the rear of the vehicle, shall be surrounded by some material such as will render those edges and that material unlikely to cause severe cuts in the event of the mirror or that material being struck by any occupant of the vehicle."

(3) For Regulation 41 there shall be substituted the following Regulation:—

(a) 1955. c. 27. (b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1967, No. 75.

"Seat Belts and Anchorage Points

41.—(1) This Regulation applies to every motor car registered on or after 1st May 1967 and which is not:—

(*a*) a goods vehicle the unladen weight of which exceeds 30 hundredweight;

(*b*) a passenger vehicle or a dual-purpose vehicle, being in either case a vehicle adapted to carry more than twelve passengers exclusive of the driver;

(*c*) a land tractor;

(*d*) a works truck;

(*e*) an electrically-propelled goods vehicle;

(*f*) a pedestrian controlled vehicle; or

(*g*) a vehicle constructed before 1st September 1966.

(2) Every motor car to which this Regulation applies shall be provided with anchorage points designed to hold body-restraining seat belts securely in position on the vehicle for—

(*a*) the driver's seat; and

(*b*) the specified passenger's seat:

Provided that this paragraph shall not apply so as to require anchorage points to be provided for any seat which is a seat with integral seat-belt anchorages.

(3) Every motor car to which this Regulation applies shall be provided with—

(*a*) a body-restraining seat belt designed for use by an adult for the driver's seat; and

(*b*) a body-restraining seat belt for the specified passenger's seat:

Provided that this paragraph shall not apply to a vehicle—

(*a*) while it is being used under a trade licence within the meaning of the Vehicles (Excise) Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(**c**) or the Vehicles (Excise) Act 1962(**d**); or

(*b*) while it is being driven from premises of the manufacturer by whom it was made, or of a distributor of vehicles or dealer in vehicles—

(i) to premises of a distributor of vehicles, dealer in vehicles, or purchaser thereof, or

(ii) to premises of a person obtaining possession thereof under a hiring agreement or hire-purchase agreement.

(4) Every seat belt provided in pursuance of this Regulation shall, if the seat for which it is provided is a seat with integral seat-belt anchorages, be properly secured to the integral seat-belt anchorage points forming part thereof, or, if the seat for which it is provided is not such a seat, be properly secured to the structure of the vehicle by the anchorage points provided for it under paragraph (2) of this Regulation.

(5) (*a*) Every vehicle which is provided with seat-belt anchorage points in pursuance of paragraph (2) of this Regulation shall be legibly and permanently marked with the specification number of the British Standard for seat-belt anchorage points, namely B.S. AU48: 1965;

(**c**) 1954. c. 17. (**d**) 10 & 11 Eliz. 2. c. 13.

(*b*) where in the case of any motor car to which this Regulation applies the driver's seat or the specified passenger's seat is a seat with integral seat-belt anchorages, such seat shall be legibly and permanently marked with the specification number of the British Standard for seats with Integral Seat Belt Anchorages followed by the suffix '1', namely B.S. AU140/1: 1967, and if any such seat is provided for a vehicle on or after 1st January 1969, the vehicle for which it is so provided shall also be legibly and permanently marked with the said specification number, namely B.S. AU140: 1967;

(*c*) each seat belt provided for any person in any motor car to which this Regulation applies shall be legibly and permanently marked with the specification number of the British Standard for Seat Belt Assemblies for Motor Vehicles, namely B.S. 3254: 1960, and the registered certification trade mark of the British Standards Institution.

(6) Nothing in this Regulation shall be taken to authorise any person to apply a specification number or registered certification trade mark to a vehicle, seat or seat belt in contravention of the Merchandise Marks Acts 1887 to 1953(**e**).

(7) In this Regulation:—

"body-restraining seat belt" means a seat belt designed to provide restraint for both the upper and lower parts of the trunk of the wearer in the event of an accident to the vehicle;

"seat belt" means a belt intended to be worn by a person in a vehicle and designed to prevent or lessen injury to its wearer in the event of an accident to the vehicle, and includes, in the case of a restraining device for a young person, any special chair to which the belt is attached; and

"specified passenger's seat" means in the case of a vehicle which has one forward-facing front seat for one passenger, such seat, and, in the case of a vehicle which has two or more forward-facing front seats for passengers, the forward-facing front seat furthest from the driver's seat."

Brakes

(4) In Regulation 50

(*a*) in paragraph (1) there shall be substituted for the proviso the following proviso:—

"Provided that the provisions of item (i) of this paragraph shall not apply in the case of a trailer if the brakes of the trailer automatically come into operation on the overrun of the trailer:"

(*b*) in paragraph (2) there shall be substituted for the proviso the following proviso:—

"Provided that the provisions of sub-paragraphs (*a*) and (*b*) of this paragraph shall not apply in the case of a trailer if the brakes of the trailer automatically come into operation on the overrun of the trailer."

Markings on Trailers

(5) Regulation 55 shall be omitted.

(**e**) 50 & 51 Vict. c. 28; 54 & 55 Vict. c. 15; 57 & 58 Vict. c. 19; 1 & 2 Geo. 5. c. 31; 16 & 17 Geo. 5. c. 53; 1 & 2 Eliz. 2. c. 48.