1963. No. 233 **[C]**

ROAD TRAFFIC

REGULATIONS, DATED 11TH DECEMBER, 1963, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS UNDER SECTION 17(3) OF THE SPECIAL ROADS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1963.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, in exercise of the powers vested in it by section 17(3) of the Special Roads Act (Northern Ireland) 1963(a) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act"), and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

Citation

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Motorways Traffic Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1963.

Application

2. These Regulations shall apply—

(*a*) to every road or part of a road designated as a special road under Section 1 of the Act, and

(*b*) to any trunk road or part of a trunk road to which the provisions of the Act apply by virtue of Section 8 thereof,

being a road or, as the case may be, a part of a road which (save as otherwise provided by or under Regulations made under Section 17 of the Act) may be used only by traffic of Classes I and II, and which has been declared by notice published in the *Belfast Gazette* in accordance with Section 17(2) of the Act as open for use by such traffic.

Interpretation

3.—(1) In these Regulations—

(*a*) "carriageway" means that part of a motorway which is constructed with a surface suitable for the regular passage of vehicular motor traffic along a motorway, but does not include any part of a central reservation or verge;

(*b*) "central reservation" means that part of a motorway which separates two carriageways running along the motorway parallel or approximately parallel to each other and which is contiguous on one side to one of those carriageways and on the other side to the other of those carriageways;

(*c*) "excluded traffic" means traffic which is not traffic of Classes I or II;

(*d*) "the Ministry" means the Ministry of Home Affairs;

(*e*) "motorway" means any road or part of a road to which these Regulations apply;

(*f*) "traffic sign" includes any device of any kind, whether mechanical or otherwise, for the warning, direction, guidance or information of persons using a motorway or other roads;

(a) 1963. c. 12 (N.I.).

(*g*) "verge" means that part of a motorway, not being a carriageway or a central reservation, the surface of which is different in colour or texture from that of a carriageway.

(2) A vehicle shall be treated for the purposes of any provision of these Regulations as being on any part of a motorway specified in that provision if any part of the vehicle (whether it is at rest or not) is on the part of the motorway so specified.

(3) Any provision of these Regulations containing any prohibition or restriction relating to the driving, moving or stopping of a vehicle, or to its remaining at rest, shall be construed as a provision that no person shall use a motorway by driving, moving or stopping the vehicle or by causing or permitting it to be driven or moved, or to stop or remain at rest, in contravention of that prohibition or restriction.

(4) In these Regulations references to numbered classes of traffic are references to the classes of traffic of those numbers set out in Schedule 3 of the Act, as for the time being varied by virtue of any Order made by the Ministry under section 16(3) of the Act.

Vehicles to be driven on the carriageways only

4. Subject to the following provisions, no vehicle shall 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, no vehicle shall 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, no vehicle shall 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 shall be driven in such a direction only that that reservation is at all times on the right-hand or off 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) which can be entered at one end only by vehicles driven in conformity with paragraph (1), every 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) Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions of this Regulation, no vehicle which—

(*a*) is on a length of carriageway on which vehicles are required by any of the foregoing provisions of this Regulation 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 be driven or moved so as to cause it to turn and proceed in or face the opposite direction.

Restrictions on stopping

6.—(1) Subject to the following provisions of this Regulation, no vehicle shall stop or remain at rest on a carriageway.

(2) Where it is necessary for a vehicle which is being driven on a carriageway to be stopped while it is on a motorway—

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

(*b*) by reason of any 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,

the vehicle shall, as soon and in so far as is reasonably practicable, be driven or moved off the carriageway on to, and may stop and remain at rest on, the verge which lies on the left-hand or near side of that vehicle while it is proceeding along that carriageway in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 5.

(3) A vehicle which is at rest on a verge in any of the circumstances specified in paragraph (2)—

(*a*) shall so far as is reasonably practicable be allowed to remain at rest on that verge in such a position only that no part of it or of the load carried thereby shall obstruct or be a cause of danger to vehicles using the carriageway, and

(*b*) shall not remain at rest on that verge for longer than is necessary in those circumstances.

(4) Nothing in the foregoing provisions of this Regulation shall preclude a vehicle from stopping or remaining at rest on a carriageway while it is prevented from proceeding along that carriageway by the presence of any other vehicle or any person or object.

Restrictions on reversing

7. No vehicle on a carriageway shall be driven or moved backwards except in so far as it is necessary to back the vehicle to enable it to proceed forwards along the carriageway or to be connected to any other vehicle.

Restrictions on use of verges

8. No vehicle shall be driven or moved or stop or remain at rest on any verge except in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of Regulation 6.

Vehicles not to use the central reservation

9. No vehicle shall be driven or moved or stop or remain at rest on a central reservation.

Vehicles not to be driven by learner drivers

10. No motor vehicle shall be driven on a motorway by a person who is authorised under the Road Traffic Acts (Northern Ireland) 1926 to 1955, to drive that vehicle on a road by virtue only of his being the holder of a provisional licence granted to him under sections 14, 16 or 58 of the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1955(**a**).

(**a**) 1955. c. 27.