EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Rules, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

The Rules prescribe the rates at which Claims Fund charges are to be imposed in respect of licences for the sale of intoxicating liquor by retail to be granted or renewed during the year ending 30th September, 1961.

1960. No. 91 **[C]**

MOTOR VEHICLES

Public Service Vehicles (Construction)

REGULATIONS, DATED 30TH MAY, 1960, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS UNDER PART II OF THE MOTOR VEHICLES (TRAFFIC AND REGULATION) ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1926.

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The Ministry of Home Affairs (hereinafter referred to as "the Ministry") in exercise of the powers vested in it by Part II of the Motor Vehicles (Traffic and Regulation) Act (Northern Ireland), 1926(a), and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

(a) 16 & 17 Geo. 5. c. 31 (N.I.).

PART I—GENERAL

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Public Service Vehicles (Construction) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1960, and shall come into operation on the first day of July, 1960.

Savings, Revocations

2.—(1) Save as provided in paragraph (2) these Regulations shall not apply to any vehicle registered before 1st July, 1961.

(2) The Regulations set out in the Schedule are hereby revoked, except in relation to any vehicle registered before 1st July, 1961.

Provided that if any vehicle so registered conforms with the requirements of these Regulations the Regulations set out in the Schedule shall not apply to that vehicle.

Interpretation

3.—(1) In these Regulations the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them:—

"deck" means a floor or platform upon which seats are provided for the accommodation of passengers;

"double-decked vehicle" means a vehicle having two decks one of which is wholly or partly above the other and each deck of which is provided with a gangway serving seats on that deck only;

"emergency exit" means an exit which is intended to be used only in case of emergency;

"entrance" means any aperture or space by which passengers are intended to board the vehicle;

"exit" means any aperture or space by which passengers are intended to leave the vehicle;

"gangway" means the space provided for obtaining access from any entrance to the passengers' seats or from any such seat to an exit other than an emergency exit but does not include a staircase or any space in front of a seat or a row of seats which is required only for the use of passengers occupying that seat or that row of seats;

"half-decked vehicle" means any vehicle not being a single-decked vehicle or a double-decked vehicle;

"overall length" means the length of a vehicle measured between vertical planes at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle and passing through the extreme projecting points thereof exclusive of:—

(*a*) any starting handle,

(*b*) any hood when down,

(*c*) any telescopic fog lamp when extended,

(*d*) any snow-plough fixed in front of a vehicle, and

(*e*) any direction indicator;

"overall width" means the width of a vehicle measured between vertical planes parallel to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle and passing through the extreme projecting points thereof exclusive of:—

(*a*) any driving mirror,

(*b*) any direction indicator,

(*c*) any snow-plough fixed in front of the vehicle,

(*d*) so much of the distortion of any tyre as is caused by the weight of the vehicle, and

(*e*) so much of a swivelling window designed to allow the driver to give hand signals as projects when opened not more than 4 inches beyond the side of the vehicle;

"permanent top" means any covering of a vehicle other than a hood of canvas or other flexible material which is capable of being readily folded back so that no portion of such hood or any fixed structure of the roof remains vertically above any part of any seat of the vehicle, or in the case of a double-decked vehicle of any seat of the upper deck of the vehicle;

"registered" means—

(*a*) in the case of a vehicle which was registered at any time under the Roads Act, 1920(**a**), the date on which it was first so registered; and

(*b*) in the case of any other vehicle the date on which it was first registered under the Vehicles (Excise) Act (Northern Ireland), 1954(**b**), or the Vehicles (Excise) Act, 1949(**c**);

"safety glass" means glass so constructed or treated that if fractured it does not fly into fragments capable of causing severe cuts;

"single-decked vehicle" means a vehicle upon which no part of a deck or gangway is vertically above another deck or gangway;

"stage carriage" means a vehicle carrying passengers at separate fares, any of which is less than one shilling;

"vehicle" in Part I means any public service vehicle, in Part II means a public service vehicle seating more than six passengers and in Part III means a public service vehicle seating not more than six passengers.

(2) For the purpose of these Regulations any two wheels of a vehicle shall be regarded as one wheel if the distance between the centres of the areas of contact between such wheels and the road surface is less than 18 inches.

Compliance

4.—(1) No person shall cause or permit a vehicle to be used unless it conforms to the requirements of these Regulations, in addition to the general requirements relating to the construction of motor vehicles of any other statutory instrument.

Provided that if the owner of a vehicle satisfies the Ministry that it is in all respects fit and satisfactory for public service the Ministry may consent to a departure in the case of that vehicle from any of the requirements of these Regulations.

(2) Every vehicle, including all bodywork, upholstery and fittings, shall be soundly and properly constructed of suitable materials, well finished and in good and serviceable condition and of such design that it is capable of withstanding the loads and stresses likely to be met with in operation.

(3) No vehicle shall be so constructed or adapted as to be incapable of being fitted with a lighting system which complies with the requirements of Part IV of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland), 1934(**d**), or

(**a**) 10 & 11 Geo. 5. c. 72.
(**b**) 1954. c. 17.
(**c**) 12, 13 & 14 Geo. 6. c. 89.
(**d**) 24 & 25 Geo. 5. c. 15 (N.I.).

Part IV of the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland), 1955(a), or of any Regulations for the time being in force under those Acts, and no vehicle shall be fitted with a lighting system which is so constructed or adapted as to be incapable of complying with those requirements.

(4) Every vehicle shall be presented for inspection in a thoroughly good and serviceable condition.

(5) A licence shall not be granted in respect of any vehicle notwithstanding that the vehicle conforms with the requirements of these Regulations if the Ministry is of opinion that the construction, form, manner of working or general appearance of the vehicle renders it unfit for further use or undesirable in the public interest.

PART II—REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES SEATING MORE THAN SIX PASSENGERS

Stability

5.—(1) The following conditions shall be complied with by every vehicle to which the said conditions respectively relate:—

(*a*) The stability of a double-decked vehicle shall be such that the point at which overturning occurs would not be passed if, when the vehicle is complete and fully equipped for service and loaded with weights placed in the correct relative positions to represent the driver and conductor (if carried) and a full complement of passengers on the upper deck only, the surface on which the vehicle stands were tilted to either side to an angle of 28 degrees from the horizontal.

(*b*) The stability of a single-decked vehicle and of a half-decked vehicle shall be such that the point at which overturning occurs would not be passed if, when the vehicle is complete and fully equipped for service under any conditions of load, the surface on which the vehicle stands were tilted to either side to an angle of 35 degrees from the horizontal.

(2) For the purpose of conducting tests of stability the height of any stop used to prevent a wheel of the vehicle from slipping sideways shall not be greater than two-thirds of the distance between the surface upon which the vehicle stands before it is tilted and that part of the rim of that wheel which is then nearest to such surface when the vehicle is loaded in accordance with the requirements of this Regulation.

(3) For the purposes of this Regulation 140 lbs. shall be deemed to represent the weight of one person.

Suspension

6.—(1) Every vehicle shall be fitted with an efficient suspension system so designed and constructed that there is no excessive body sway.

(2) Every vehicle shall be so constructed or adapted that a failure of a spring, torsion bar or other resilient component of the suspension system is not likely to cause the driver to lose directional control of the vehicle.

(3) For the purpose of this Regulation a tyre shall not be regarded as forming part of the suspension system.

Turning circle

7. Every vehicle shall be so constructed as to be capable of turning in either direction in a circle which, traced at ground level by a vertical line passing through any part of the vehicle included in the overall length and

(a) 1955, c. 27.