REGULATIONS DATED 27TH SEPTEMBER, 1956, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS UNDER SECTION FOUR OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1955.

1956. No. 149. [C]

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:—

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Commencement and Citation

1. These Regulations shall come into operation on the first day of October, 1956, and may be cited as "The Motor Vehicles (Use and Construction) (Track Laying Vehicles) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1956".

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them:—

"agricultural trailer" means a trailer the property of a person engaged in agriculture which is not used on a road for the conveyance of any goods or burden other than agricultural produce or articles required for the purposes of agriculture;

"articulated vehicle" means a heavy motor car or a motor car with a trailer so attached to the drawing vehicle that part of the trailer is superimposed upon the drawing vehicle, and when the trailer is uniformly loaded not less than 20 per cent. of the weight of its load is borne by the drawing vehicle;

"indivisible load" means a load which cannot without undue expense or risk of damage be divided into two or more loads for the purpose of conveyance on a road;

"land implement" means any implement or machinery used with a land locomotive or a land tractor in connection with agriculture, grass cutting, forestry, land levelling, dredging or similar operations and includes a living van and any trailer which for the time being carries only the necessary gear or equipment of the land locomotive or land tractor which draws it;

"land locomotive" means a locomotive designed and used primarily for work on the land in connection with agriculture, forestry, land levelling, dredging or similar operations, which is driven on a road only when proceeding to and from the site of such work and which when so driven hauls nothing other than land implements;

"land tractor" means a motor tractor designed and used primarily for work on the land in connection with agriculture, grass cutting, forestry, land levelling, dredging and similar operations, which is driven on a road only when proceeding to and from the site of such work

(a) 1955 c. 27.

and which when so driven hauls nothing other than land implements or agricultural trailers;

"locomotive" means a heavy locomotive or a light locomotive;

"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 ladder forming part of a turntable fire-escape fixed to a vehicle,

(*d*) any telescopic fog lamp when extended, and

(*e*) any snow-plough fixed in front of a vehicle;

"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, and

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

"pneumatic tyre" means a tyre which complies in all respects with the following requirements:—

(i) it shall be provided with a continuous closed chamber containing air at a pressure substantially exceeding atmospheric pressure when the tyre is in the condition in which it is normally used, but is not subjected to any load;

(ii) it shall be capable of being inflated and deflated without removal from the wheel or vehicle;

(iii) it shall be such that, when it is deflated and is subjected to a normal load, the sides of the tyre collapse;

"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;

"track laying" in relation to a vehicle means that the vehicle is so designed and constructed that the weight thereof is transmitted to the road surface either by means of continuous tracks or by a combination of wheels and continuous tracks in such circumstances that the weight

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(**a**) 10 & 11 Geo. 5. c. 72.

(**b**) 1954 c. 17.

(**c**) 12, 13 & 14 Geo. 6. c. 89.

transmitted to the road surface by the tracks is not less than half the weight of the vehicle;

" vehicle in the service of a visiting force " means a vehicle belonging to the service authorities of such a force and used for the purposes of such a force, and any other vehicle when used as aforesaid by a person subject to the orders of any member of such a force;

" visiting force " means any such body, contingent or detachment of the forces of any country as is a visiting force for the purposes of the provisions of the Visiting Forces Act, 1952(a)—

(*a*) which apply to that country by virtue of paragraph (*a*) of subsection (1) of section 1 of that Act, or

(*b*) which from time to time apply to that country by virtue of paragraph (*b*) of subsection (1) of the said section 1 and of any Order in Council made or hereafter to be made under the said section 1 designating that country for the purposes of all the provisions of that Act following subsection (2) of the said section 1;

and " member " and " service authorities " have the same meanings respectively as they have in the Visiting Forces Act, 1952;

" wheel " in the case of a motor vehicle or trailer means a wheel, the tyre or rim of which when the vehicle is in motion on a road is in contact with the ground;

" works trailer " means a trailer designed for use in private premises and used on a road only in passing from one part of any such premises to another, or to other private premises in the immediate neighbourhood;

" works truck " means a motor vehicle designed for use in private premises and used on a road only in passing from one part of any such premises to another, or to other private premises in the immediate neighbourhood.

(2) Except where otherwise provided in these Regulations a tyre shall not be deemed to be of soft or elastic material unless the said material is either:—

(i) continuous round the circumference of the wheel, or

(ii) fitted in sections so that so far as reasonably practicable no space is left between the ends thereof,

and is of such thickness and design as to minimise, so far as reasonably possible, vibration when the vehicle is in motion, and so constructed as to be free from any defect which might in any way cause damage to the surface of a road.

(3) For the purpose of these Regulations a brake drum shall not be deemed to form part of a braking system.

(4) For the purpose of these Regulations any two wheels of a motor vehicle or trailer 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.

Application and Exemptions

3.—(1) These Regulations shall apply to track laying vehicles only.

(a) 15 & 16 Geo. 6. & 1 Eliz. 2. c. 67.

(2) Regulations 5, 6, 14, 16, 22 and 26 shall not apply to road rollers.

(3) Every motor vehicle registered before the expiration of one year from the making of any Regulation hereof by which the requirements as regards the construction or weight of any class or description of vehicles is varied shall be exempt from the requirements of that Regulation for a period of 5 years from the making thereof, provided that it complies with the requirements of any enactment to which it would have been subject immediately prior to the making of that Regulation.

(4) Regulations 4 to 6, 8 to 11, 13 to 17 and 20 to 43 inclusive and Regulations 63 and 66 shall not apply to any vehicle in the service of a visiting force.

PART II

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CONSTRUCTION, WEIGHT AND EQUIPMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAILERS

A.—GENERAL

Overall length

4. The overall length of a motor vehicle shall not exceed 30 feet.

Variation of wheel load

5. Every motor vehicle or trailer with more than two wheels shall be provided with such compensating arrangement as will ensure that all the wheels will remain in contact with the road surface and under the most adverse conditions will not be subjected to abnormal variations of load:

Provided that this requirement shall not apply to any steerable wheel of a motor vehicle if the load on such wheel does not exceed $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons.

Springs and resilient material

6.—(1) Save as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3),

(*a*) every motor vehicle and trailer drawn thereby shall be equipped with suitable and sufficient springs between each wheel and the frame of the vehicle;

(*b*) every motor vehicle and every trailer drawn thereby shall have resilient material interposed between the rims of the weight carrying rollers and the road surface so that the weight of the vehicle (other than that borne by the wheels, if any, and not necessarily including that portion of the track in contact with the road surface) is supported by the resilient material; and

(*c*) every heavy motor car and motor car and every trailer drawn thereby shall have suitable and sufficient springs between the frame of the vehicle and the weight carrying rollers.

(2) This Regulation shall not apply to—

(*a*) any vehicle registered on or before 1st January, 1932;

(*b*) any land locomotive, land tractor, land implement, agricultural trailer or trailer used solely for, or empty in connection with, the haulage of round timber; or

(*c*) any mobile crane.

(3) Sub-paragraphs (*a*) and (*c*) of paragraph (1) shall not apply to any works truck or works trailer.

Parking brakes

7. Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a braking system (which may be one of the braking systems hereafter prescribed) so designed and constructed that it can at all times be set to lock the tracks of the vehicle so as to prevent their movement when the vehicle is not being driven or is left unattended:

Provided that this Regulation shall not apply to a land locomotive registered on or before 1st January, 1932.

Tracks

8. In the case of every vehicle those parts of the tracks which come into contact with the road surface shall be flat and have a minimum width of half an inch. The total area of each track actually in contact with the road surface at any one time shall be not less than 36 square inches in respect of each ton of the total weight of the vehicle which is transferred to the road surface by means of the tracks or (in the case of a land locomotive or land tractor registered before 1st January, 1936) in respect of each ton of the unladen weight of the vehicle.

Vacuum or pressure braking systems

9. Every motor vehicle registered on or after 1st October, 1937, which is fitted with a braking system which embodies a vacuum or pressure reservoir or reservoirs shall be provided with a warning device so placed as to be readily visible to the driver of the vehicle when in the driving seat in order to indicate any impending failure or deficiency in the vacuum or pressure system.

Speed indicator

10.—(1) To every motor vehicle, registered on or after 1st October, 1937, other than a land tractor or a vehicle which it is at all times unlawful to drive at a speed exceeding 12 m.p.h., there shall be fitted an instrument so constructed and in such position as at all times to indicate to the driver of the vehicle within a margin of accuracy of plus or minus ten per cent. if and when he is driving at a speed in excess of that specified in paragraph (2).

(2) The speed to which reference is made in paragraph (1) shall be such speed as is specified in the Schedule as the maximum speed for the vehicle to which the instrument aforesaid is fitted in compliance with this Regulation, or if no such speed is prescribed, 30 m.p.h.:

Provided that when, by reason of the fact that a vehicle to which this Regulation applies is drawing a trailer or trailers the maximum speed at which it is lawful to drive such vehicle is lower than the speed at which it is lawful to drive such vehicle without such trailer or trailers, the instrument aforesaid shall not be required to indicate such lower speed.