STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1971 No. 980

ROAD TRAFFIC

The Motor Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) (Amendment) Order 1971

Made - - - 8*th June* 1971

Coming into Operation 14*th July* 1971

The Secretary of State for the Environment, in exercise of his powers under section 64(4) of the Road Traffic Act 1960(**a**) as amended by section 51 of and Schedule 4 to the Road Traffic Act 1962(**b**) and under subsections (5) and (6) of the said section 64 and of all other enabling powers, hereby makes the following Order :—

1.—(1) This Order shall come into operation on 14th July 1971 and may be cited as the Motor Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) (Amendment) Order 1971.

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(**c**) shall apply for the interpretation of this Order as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

2. The Motor Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) General Order 1969(**d**), as amended (**e**), shall be further amended in accordance with the following provisions of this Order.

3. Article 8 (Grass cutting machines and hedge trimmers) shall have effect as though for the words "7 feet 6 inches" there were substituted the words "2·5 metres".

4. For Article 11 there shall be inserted the following Article—

"Pedestrian controlled road maintenance vehicles

11. The Secretary of State authorises the use on roads of motor vehicles constructed or adapted for road maintenance, being vehicles controlled by a pedestrian and not constructed or adapted for use or used for the carriage of a driver or passenger, notwithstanding that such vehicles do not comply in all respects with the requirements of Regulations 9, 11, 41 and 54 of the Construction and Use Regulations, subject to the condition that all other relevant conditions of those Regulations are complied with as respects a vehicle and also subject to the following restrictions and conditions :—

(*a*) the weight of a vehicle whether laden or unladen, shall not exceed 8 hundredweight,

(*b*) the vehicle shall be equipped with an efficient braking system capable of being set or with sufficient other means, not being a braking system, whereby it can be brought to a standstill and held stationary.

(**a**) 1960 c. 16. (**b**) 1962 c. 59.

(**c**) 1889 c. 63. (**d**) S.I. 1969/344 (1969 I, p. 947).

(**e**) There is no relevant amending instrument.

In this Article "road maintenance" means the gritting of roads, the laying of road markings, the clearing of frost, snow or ice from roads or any other work of maintaining roads.".

5. Article 14 (Land tractors used for reaping and threshing) shall have effect as though—

(*a*) for paragraph (*c*) there were substituted the following paragraph—

"(*c*) where the overall width of a vehicle exceeds 3·5 metres, at least one person in addition to the driver shall be employed in attending to that vehicle to give warning to the driver and to any other person of any danger likely to be caused to any such other person by reason of the presence of the vehicle on the road ;" ;

(*b*) for paragraph (*d*) there were substituted the following paragraph:—

"(*d*) no vehicle shall travel at a speed exceeding 12 miles per hour;".

6. Article 16 (Vehicles for moving excavated material) shall have effect as though—

(*a*) for the words "subject to the following restrictions and conditions" immediately preceding paragraph (*a*) of that Article there were substituted the words "subject, in a case where the overall width of a vehicle exceeds 14 feet, to the restrictions and conditions contained in Article 26 of this Order, and also in any case to the following restrictions and conditions" ;

(*b*) in paragraph (*g*), for the words "15 tons" and "25 tons" there were substituted respectively "22½ tons" and "50 tons" ;

(*c*) for paragraph (*j*) there were substituted the following paragraph—

"(*j*) no vehicle shall travel on any road, other than a special road which is open for use as a special road, at a speed exceeding 12 miles per hour ;" and

(*d*) for paragraph (*l*) there were substituted the following paragraph—

"(*l*) where the overall width of a vehicle exceeds 3·5 metres, at least one person, in addition to the person or persons employed as respects a motor vehicle in driving that vehicle, shall be employed in attending to that vehicle and any load carried thereby and any trailer drawn by that vehicle and any load carried on the trailer and to give warning to the driver of the said motor vehicle and to any other person of any danger likely to be caused to any such other person by reason of the presence of the vehicle or the vehicle and trailer on the road :

Provided that, where three or more vehicles authorised by this Article are travelling together in convoy, it shall be a sufficient compliance with this paragraph if only the foremost and rearmost vehicles in the convoy are attended in the manner prescribed in this paragraph ;".

7. Article 19 (Interpretation) shall have effect as though for the definition of "engineering plant" there were substituted the following definition—"engineering plant" means—

(*a*) moveable plant or equipment which consists of a motor vehicle or trailer specially designed and constructed for the special purposes of engineering operations, and which cannot, owing to the requirements of those purposes, comply in all respects with the requirements of the

Construction and Use Regulations or the Track Laying Regulations and which is not constructed primarily to carry a load other than a load being excavated material raised from the ground by apparatus on the motor vehicle or trailer, or materials which the vehicle or trailer is specially designed to treat while carried thereon, or

(*b*) a mobile crane which does not comply in all respects with the requirements of the Construction and Use Regulations or the Track Laying Regulations ;".

8. Article 20 (Vehicles for carrying or drawing abnormal indivisible loads) shall have effect as though—

(*a*) for paragraph (*l*) there were substituted the following paragraph—

"(*l*) the overall length of a vehicle shall not exceed 90 feet, and

(i) where a load is carried in such a manner that its weight rests on one vehicle being a heavy motor car or a trailer, the overall length of the heavy motor car or, as the case may be, of the trailer together with the length of any forward and of any rearward projection of its load shall not exceed 90 feet ; and

(ii) where a load is carried in such a manner that its weight rests on more than one vehicle and the vehicles consist of

(*a*) a motor vehicle drawing one trailer whether forming part of an articulated vehicle or not, or

(*b*) any other combination of vehicles,

then, in the case at (*a*) above, the overall length of the trailer together with the length of any forward projection of the load extending beyond the foremost point of the trailer and of any rearward projection of the load shall not exceed 90 feet and, in the case at (*b*) above, the overall length of the vehicles together with the distance between vehicles and the length of any forward and of any rearward projection of the load shall not exceed 90 feet ;" ;

(*b*) in paragraph (*o*)(ii) for the words "11½ tons" there were substituted the words "11¼ tons" ;

(*c*) for paragraph (*p*) there were substituted the following paragraph—

"(*p*) no vehicle or combination of vehicles shall carry more than one abnormal indivisible load at any one time :

Provided that—

(i) subject to compliance with all the requirements of the Construction and Use Regulations with respect to the laden weights of vehicles and the weights transmitted to the road surface by all or any of the wheels, it shall be permissible for a vehicle or any vehicles comprised in a combination of vehicles to carry more than one abnormal indivisible load of the same character and, where any abnormal indivisible load is carried, to carry any articles of a similar character ;

(ii) in the case of vehicles not falling within the foregoing proviso, it shall be permissible for a vehicle or any vehicles comprised in a combination of vehicles to carry more than one abnormal indivisible load each of the same character if—

(*a*) the sum of the weights transmitted to the road surface by all the wheels of the vehicle or vehicles carrying the loads does not exceed 75 tons ;

(*b*) the overall length in relation to the vehicle or vehicles carrying the loads is such that the provisions of sub-paragraph (i) or (ii) of paragraph (*l*) above would be complied with were "60 feet" substituted for "90 feet" except that, where such compliance would be impossible by reason of the length of one of the loads if that were the only one carried, the aforesaid distance of 60 feet may be increased to such greater distance not exceeding 90 feet as may be necessary to permit the carriage of that load;

(*c*) the overall width of any vehicle together with the width of any lateral projection of its load does not exceed 9 feet 6 inches or, where it would be impossible for the aforesaid distance to be complied with by reason of the width of one of the loads if that were the only one carried, such greater distance not exceeding 20 feet as may be necessary to permit the carriage of that load; and

(*d*) all the loads carried are loaded at the same place and conveyed to the same destination.".

9. Article 21 (Engineering plant) shall have effect as though—

(*a*) at the end of paragraph (*a*) there were added the words "or which have been excavated and raised from the ground by apparatus on the motor vehicle or trailer";

(*b*) after paragraph (*q*) there were added the following paragraph—

"(*r*) the following additional restrictions on weight shall apply—

(i) the weight transmitted to the road surface by any one wheel of a vehicle shall not exceed 11¼ tons,

(ii) the weight transmitted to any strip of road surface upon which the wheels of a vehicle rest contained between any two parallel lines drawn on that surface at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle shall not exceed, if the parallel lines are not more than 2 feet apart, 45 tons and, thereafter, additional weight shall be permitted, for any distance apart of the parallel lines in excess of 2 feet but not exceeding a total distance apart of 7 feet, at a rate of 9 tons per foot and, thereafter, additional weight shall be permitted, for any distance apart of the parallel lines in excess of 7 feet, at a rate of 3 tons per foot,

(iii) the total weight transmitted to the road surface by any wheels of a vehicle in line transversely not fitted with pneumatic tyres shall be such that the average weight per inch width of tyre in contact with the road surface shall not exceed 15 hundredweight:

Provided that the restrictions contained in item (i) of this paragraph shall not apply to any heavy motor car registered on or before 31st December 1951 or any trailer manufactured before the 1st January 1952.

For the purposes of item (i) of this paragraph any two wheels 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 2 feet, and

(iv) in the case of a track laying vehicle, in addition to the foregoing restrictions, the weight transmitted by each track thereof to any

strip of road surface contained between any two parallel lines drawn on that surface at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle shall not exceed, if the parallel lines are not more than 2 feet apart, 11¼ tons, and, thereafter, additional weight shall be permitted, for any distance apart of the parallel lines in excess of 2 feet but not exceeding a total distance apart of 7 feet, at a rate of 2¼ tons per foot and, thereafter, additional weight shall be permitted, for any distance apart of the parallel lines in excess of 7 feet, at a rate of ¼ ton per foot.".

10. Article 24 (Attendants) shall have effect as though for paragraphs (1) and (2) there were substituted the following paragraphs :—

"(1) This Article applies in the case of a vehicle the use of which on roads is authorised by Article 22 of this Order and in the case where—

(*a*) the overall width of a vehicle the use of which on roads is authorised by Article 20 or 21 of this Order or of the vehicle together with the width of any lateral projection or projections of its load exceeds 3·5 metres, or

(*b*) the overall length of a vehicle the use of which on roads is authorised by the said Article 20 or 21 or of the vehicle together with the length of any forward projection and of any rearward projection of its load exceeds 60 feet, or

(*c*) as respects a motor vehicle (whether or not its use is authorised by the said Article 20 or 21) which is drawing a trailer or trailers the use of which is so authorised, a load is carried in such a manner that its weight rests on more than one of the vehicles being—

(i) the motor vehicle and one trailer whether forming part of an articulated vehicle or not, or

(ii) any other combination of vehicles,

and, in the case of (i) above, the overall length of the trailer together with the length of any forward projection of the load extending beyond the foremost point of the trailer and of any rearward projection of the load exceeds 60 feet and, in the case at (ii) above the overall length of the vehicles together with the distance between vehicles and the length of any forward and of any rearward projection of the load exceeds 60 feet, or

(*d*) a motor vehicle (whether or not its use is authorised by the said Article 20 or 21) is drawing a trailer or trailers the use of which is so authorised and the overall length of the combination of vehicles together with the length of any forward projection of any load extending beyond the foremost point of the drawing vehicle comprised in the combination and the length of any rearward projection of any load extending beyond the rearmost point of the rearmost vehicle comprised therein exceeds 85 feet, or

(*e*) a vehicle the use of which is authorised by the said Article 20 or 21 is carrying a load having a forward projection exceeding 6 feet in length or a rearward projection exceeding 10 feet in length or is fitted with any special appliance or apparatus having such a projection as aforesaid.

(2) As respects a vehicle falling within a case to which this Article applies at least one person, in addition to the person or persons employed as respects a motor vehicle in driving that vehicle, shall be employed in attending to that vehicle and its load and any other vehicle or vehicles drawn by that vehicle and the load carried on the vehicle or vehicles so drawn and to give

warning to the driver of the said motor vehicle and to any other person of any danger likely to be caused to any such other person by reason of the presence of the said vehicle or vehicles on the road :

Provided that, where three or more vehicles to which this paragraph applies are travelling together in convoy, it shall be a sufficient compliance with this paragraph if only the foremost and rearmost vehicles in the convoy are attended in the manner prescribed in this paragraph.".

11. Article 25 (Marking of projecting loads and fixed appliances or apparatus which project) shall have effect as though—

(*a*) for paragraph (1) of that Article there were substituted the following paragraph—

"(1) This Article applies in a case where a vehicle the use of which is authorised by Article 20 or 21 of this Order—

(*a*) carries a load which—

(i) has a forward projection or a rearward projection exceeding 6 feet in length, or

(ii) has a rearward projection exceeding 3 feet 6 inches in length but not exceeding 6 feet in length, or

(*b*) is fitted with a special appliance or apparatus which—

(i) has a forward projection exceeding 6 feet in length or a rearward projection exceeding 10 feet in length, or

(ii) has a rearward projection exceeding 3 feet 6 inches in length but not exceeding 10 feet in length." ;

(*b*) in paragraph (2)(*a*), for the words "in sub-paragraph (*a*)" there were substituted the words "in sub-paragraph (*a*)(i) or in sub-paragraph (*b*)(i)" ;

(*c*) in paragraph (2)(*b*), for the words "in sub-paragraph (*b*)" there were substituted the words "in sub-paragraph (*a*)(ii) or in sub-paragraph (*b*)(ii).".

12. Article 26 (Approval of the Secretary of State as to the time, date and route of a journey by a vehicle or a vehicle and its load exceeding 14 feet in width) shall have effect as though in paragraph (1) for sub-paragraph (*a*) there were substituted the following sub-paragraphs—

"(*a*) by Article 16 of this Order, where the overall width of a vehicle exceeds 14 feet ; or

(*aa*) by Article 22 of this Order, or".

13. Article 27 (Notice to police) shall have effect as though—

(*a*) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in sub-paragraph (*b*), for the words "50 feet" there were substituted the words "60 feet" ;

(ii) for sub-paragraph (*a*), there were substituted the following sub-paragraph—

"(*c*) as respects a motor vehicle (whether or not its use is authorised by the said Article 20 or 21) which is drawing a trailer or trailers the use of which is so authorised, a load is carried in such a manner that its weight rests on more than one of the vehicles being—

(i) the motor vehicle and one trailer whether forming part of an articulated vehicle or not, or

(ii) any other combination of vehicles,

and, in the case at (i) above, the overall length of the trailer together with the length of any forward projection of the load extending beyond the foremost point of the trailer and of any rearward projection of the load exceeds 60 feet and, in the case at (ii) above the overall length of the vehicles together with the distance between vehicles and the length of any forward and of any rearward projection of the load exceeds 60 feet, or";

(*b*) for paragraph (4) there were substituted the following paragraph—

"(4) Subject to any variation in the time, date or route of the journey which may be directed by any such chief officer of police as aforesaid, and subject to any delay which may be occasioned by reason of a direction given by a police constable, in the interests of road safety or to avoid undue traffic congestion, to the driver of a vehicle to halt it in a place on or adjacent to the road on which the vehicle is travelling, the vehicle or vehicles shall be used only in circumstances which accord with the particulars given in compliance with the last foregoing paragraph as to the time, date and route of the journey and only if any dimension or measurement relating to the vehicle or the vehicles (including that relating to a combination of vehicles) or to a special appliance or apparatus or to a load to be carried, being a dimension or measurement of which particulars have been given as aforesaid, is not exceeded.".

14. After Article 29 there shall be added the following Article :—

"Breakdown on bridges of vehicles of excessive weight or carrying excessive loads

30. Where a vehicle (including an articulated vehicle) laden or unladen has a gross weight of more than 32 tons, and the use on roads of the vehicle or of the trailer forming part of the articulated vehicle is authorised by Article 6, 7, 12, 16, 17, 20 or 21 of this Order, then in the event of that vehicle being caused to stop for any reason while it is on the bridge, the vehicle shall as soon as practicable be moved clear of the bridge by appropriate action on the part of the person in charge of the vehicle if such movement is practicable without applying any concentrated load to the surface of that part of the road carried by the bridge, but if such movement is not so practicable and it becomes necessary to apply any concentrated load to the said surface by means of jacks, rollers or other similar devices, then before any concentrated load is applied to that surface the advice of the bridge authority responsible for the maintenance of the bridge shall be sought by such person as to the use of spreader plates to reduce the possibility of any damage which might be caused by the application of such concentrated load, and that person shall arrange that no such concentrated load shall be applied to the said surface without using any such spreader plates as the bridge authority may have advised to be used.".

15. In Schedule 1, at the end thereof there shall be added the following paragraph—

"9. Motor vehicles or trailers used for the carriage of generating equipment, being equipment used for naval, military or air force purposes.	Construction and Use Regulations 34, 60, 61, 68, 69, 72, 75 and 121.	The Secretary of State for the Environment.".

16. In Schedule 2, for any reference to a carrier's licence there shall be substituted a reference to an operator's licence.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State 8th June 1971.

L. E. Dale,
An Under Secretary in the
Department of the Environment.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Order.)

This Order further amends the Motor Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) General Order 1969 by altering the provisions of the 1969 Order relating to grass cutting machines and hedge trimmers, tractors for reaping and threshing (commonly known as "combine harvesters"), vehicles for moving excavated material (commonly known as "dump trucks"), vehicles for carrying or drawing abnormal indivisible loads and engineering plant. In addition, it removes Article 11 of the 1969 Order dealing with rotary ploughs and substitutes therefor new provisions with respect to pedestrian-controlled road maintenance vehicles. New provisions are also introduced in Schedule 1 to the 1969 Order as respects vehicles for the carriage of certain generating equipment.

Other main changes in the 1969 Order are:—

1. Articles 14(*c*), 16(*l*) and 24(2) now provide that only one attendant need be employed for a vehicle in the circumstances set out in those Articles;
2. Articles 14(*d*) and 16(*j*) now allow all combine harvesters and dump trucks to travel at 12 miles per hour regardless of their width;
3. Article 16(*g*) increases the permitted maximum axle weight for dump trucks from 15 tons to 22½ tons and their permitted maximum total weight from 25 tons to 50 tons;
4. Articles 20(*l*), 24(1)(*c*) and 27(1)(*c*) now provide that for the purposes of those Articles the relevant overall length dimension of any combination of vehicles on which a load rests, including any articulated vehicle, does not include the length of the drawing vehicle;
5. Article 20(*p*)(ii) permits the carriage of more than one abnormal load of the same character by a vehicle or vehicles not complying with the weight limits laid down in the Construction and Use Regulations, subject to certain restrictions and conditions;
6. A new Article 30 places certain responsibilities on a person in charge of a vehicle having a gross weight in excess of 32 tons in the event of that vehicle breaking down on a bridge.