ROAD TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

MOTOR VEHICLES

1955 No. 1038

The Motor Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) General Order, 1955

Made - - - - 11*th July*, 1955
Coming into Operation 25*th July*, 1955

ARRANGEMENT OF ORDER

PART I. GENERAL

	Article
Commencement, Citation, Revocations and Interpretation	1
Speed limits	2

PART II. MISCELLANEOUS VEHICLES

Track laying vehicles	3
Naval, military, air force and civil aviation vehicles	4
Vehicles used in connection with the saving of life at sea	5
Grass cutting machines and hedge trimmers	6
Rotary ploughs	7
Vehicles used for experiments or trials	8
Straddle carriers	9
Land tractors used for reaping and threshing	10
Mechanically propelled hay and straw balers	11
Vehicles for moving excavated material	12

PART III. ABNORMAL INDIVISIBLE LOADS AND ENGINEERING PLANT

Interpretation	13
Vehicles for carriage or drawing of abnormal indivisible loads ...	14
Engineering plant	15
Speed limits for vehicles authorised by Article 14	16
Speed limits for vehicles authorised by Article 15	17
Attendants	18
Notice to police	19
Notice to highway and bridge authorities	20
Restriction on the passage over bridges of vehicles carrying abnormal indivisible loads	21

SCHEDULES

	Page
I. Service and Civil Aviation Vehicles	2238
II. Part I—Form of Notice to Police	2239
Part II—Form of Notice to Highway and Bridge Authorities ...	2240

The Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation in exercise of his powers under section 3 of the Road Traffic Act, 1930(a), and of all other powers him enabling in that behalf hereby makes the following Order :—

PART I. GENERAL

Commencement, Citation, Revocations and Interpretation

1.—(1) This Order shall come into operation on the twenty-fifth day of July, 1955, and may be cited as "The Motor Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) General Order, 1955".

(2) The Motor Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) General Order, 1952(b), is hereby revoked, without prejudice, however, to the validity of anything done thereunder or to any liability incurred in respect of any act or omission before the coming into operation of this Order.

(3) In this Order, except where the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say:—

"Construction and Use Regulations" means the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations, 1955(c);

"Track Laying Regulations" means the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Track Laying Vehicles) Regulations, 1955(d);

"Bank Holiday" means a day which is, or is to be observed as, a Bank Holiday, or a holiday, under the Bank Holidays Act, 1871(e), or the Holidays Extension Act, 1875(f), in the locality in which the road in question is situated;

"Chief Officer of Police" and "police area" have the meanings respectively assigned to them by the Police Pensions Act, 1921(g);

"highway authority" means in relation to a trunk road the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation and in relation to any other highway has the meaning assigned to it by the Road Traffic Act, 1930;

"the Minister" means the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation;

"articulated vehicle", "land locomotive", "land tractor" and "overhang" have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the Construction and Use Regulations.

(4) Any reference in this Order to the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations, 1955, and the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Track Laying Vehicles) Regulations, 1955, shall be construed respectively as a reference to those Regulations as for the time being amended by any regulations made under the Road Traffic Act, 1930, after the coming into operation of this Order.

(5) The Interpretation Act, 1889(h), shall apply to the interpretation of this Order as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

(a) 20 & 21 Geo. 5. c. 43.
(b) S.I. 1952/2173 (1952 III, p. 2873).
(c) S.I. 1955/482 (p. 2242 below).
(d) S.I. 1955/990 (p. 2287 below).
(e) 34 & 35 Vict. c. 17.
(f) 38 & 39 Vict. c. 13.
(g) 11 & 12 Geo. 5. c. 31.
(h) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

Speed limits

2. Nothing in this Order relating to the speed of vehicles shall be taken to authorise any speed which is in excess of any other speed limit imposed by or under any enactment.

PART II. MISCELLANEOUS VEHICLES

Track laying vehicles

3. The Minister authorises the use on roads of track laying motor vehicles and track laying trailers notwithstanding that such vehicles do not comply in all respects with the requirements of the Construction and Use Regulations or the Track Laying Regulations, subject to the following conditions and restrictions:—

(*a*) a vehicle shall be used only for the purpose of—

(i) demonstration; or

(ii) enabling it to proceed to the nearest suitable railway station for conveyance to a port for shipment, or to proceed to a port for shipment from a place in the immediate vicinity of that port where suitable railway facilities are not available;

(*b*) before a vehicle is so used the consent of every highway authority or every person responsible for the maintenance and repair of any road over which it is proposed that the vehicle shall pass shall in each case be obtained in writing; and

(*c*) a vehicle shall not be used for the carriage of goods or burden for hire or reward.

Naval, military, air force and civil aviation vehicles

4. The Minister authorises the use on roads of the vehicles specified in Column 1 of the First Schedule to this Order notwithstanding that such vehicles do not comply in all respects with the requirements of the Regulations of the Construction and Use Regulations or the Track Laying Regulations respectively specified opposite thereto in Column 2 of the said Schedule, subject to the vehicles being the property of, or for the time being under the control of, the persons respectively specified opposite thereto in Column 3 of the said Schedule.

Vehicles used in connection with the saving of life at sea

5. The Minister authorises the use on roads of track laying motor vehicles and track laying trailers notwithstanding that such vehicles do not comply in all respects with the requirements of the Construction and Use Regulations or the Track Laying Regulations, subject to the vehicles being used only for drawing or in connection with the launching of lifeboats the property of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Grass cutting machines and hedge trimmers

6. The Minister authorises the use on roads of grass cutting machines and hedge trimmers not constructed, adapted or used for carrying any person notwithstanding that such vehicles do not comply in all respects with the

requirements of the Construction and Use Regulations, subject to the following conditions and restrictions :—

(*a*) a vehicle shall comply with Regulations 15, 20, 21, 73, 77, 79, 81, 82, 83, 89, 90, and 102 of the Construction and Use Regulations ;

(*b*) the unladen weight of a vehicle shall not exceed 8 cwt. ; and

(*c*) the overall width of a vehicle shall not exceed 7 feet 6 inches except when the vehicle is actually engaged in grass cutting or hedge trimming operations.

Rotary ploughs

7. The Minister authorises the use on roads of land locomotives specially designed and constructed as rotary ploughs notwithstanding that such vehicles do not comply with the requirements of Regulations 25 and 26 of the Track Laying Regulations, subject to the following conditions and restrictions :—

(*a*) the overall width of a vehicle shall not exceed 11 feet 6 inches ;

(*b*) the unladen weight of a vehicle shall not exceed 26 tons ;

(*c*) no vehicle shall draw a trailer other than a living van or a trailer or trailers carrying the necessary gear and equipment of or fuel for the vehicle ;

(*d*) where a vehicle exceeds 8 feet in overall width, and

(i) is not drawing a trailer, three persons inclusive of the driver or drivers shall be in attendance upon it, one of whom shall whenever necessary by reason of the width of the road or otherwise proceed at a reasonable distance in front of the vehicle, and another of whom shall whenever so necessary as aforesaid proceed at a reasonable distance behind the vehicle to give warning to other traffic on the road, and

(ii) is drawing one or more trailers, two persons shall drive or attend the vehicle and in addition at least one person shall be in attendance upon each trailer and such person or one of such persons in attendance upon the trailer or trailers as the case may be shall whenever necessary by reason of the width of the road or otherwise proceed at a reasonable distance behind the trailer or rearmost trailer to give warning to other traffic on the road ; and

(*e*) before using a vehicle upon a road for a journey exceeding 5 miles the owner shall give four clear days' notice to the Chief Officer of Police of every police area through which it is proposed that the vehicle shall pass and to the highway authority for every road on which it will travel, and every such notice shall contain such particulars as are necessary to identify the vehicle and the time and route of the proposed journey.

Any such Chief Officer of Police or highway authority may in special cases or circumstances dispense with any of the foregoing requirements as to the length of notice or particulars to be given.

The owner shall carry out the journey in accordance with the particulars given by him in the notices provided that, if so required by the highway authority on the ground that owing to adverse weather conditions or other special circumstances the road surface is abnormally susceptible to damage, they may require him to postpone the journey until such time as they notify him that he may undertake it.

Vehicles used for experiments or trials

8. The Minister authorises the use on roads of vehicles in or in connection with the conduct of experiments or trials under section 6 of the Roads Improvement Act, 1925(a), notwithstanding that such vehicles do not comply with the requirements of the Construction and Use Regulations or the Track Laying Regulations.

Straddle carriers

9. The Minister authorises the use on roads of motor vehicles constructed to straddle and lift their loads for the purpose of transportation and commonly known as straddle carriers notwithstanding that such vehicles do not comply in all respects with the requirements of Regulations 9, 37 and 38 of the Construction and Use Regulations, subject to the following conditions and restrictions :—

(*a*) no vehicle shall be used otherwise than for the purpose of demonstration or in the course of delivery on sale and, when so used, shall carry no load other than its necessary gear or equipment:

Provided that a vehicle which complies with the said Regulations 9 and 37 but not with the said Regulation 38 may be used whether laden or unladen for the purpose of passing from one part of any timberyard, factory, docks, works or other premises where the vehicle is being used to any other part thereof or to any other timberyard, factory, docks, works or other premises in the immediate neighbourhood;

(*b*) no vehicle shall draw a trailer;

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

(*d*) no vehicle shall be used on a road if the overall length of the vehicle, or of its load, or of the vehicle when laden exceeds 30 feet except with the consent of the Chief Officer of Police of every police area through which it is proposed that the vehicle shall pass or in which it is proposed to be operated. Every application for such consent shall contain such particulars as are necessary to identify the vehicle and particulars of its overall length (including any load proposed to be carried) and of the roads on which it is proposed to be used and shall be made not less than two clear days (exclusive of Sundays, Bank Holidays, Christmas Day and Good Friday) before the day on which it is desired that the consent should take effect, provided that any Chief Officer may in any special case or in special circumstances dispense with any of the foregoing requirements as to the length of notice or particulars to be given; and

(*e*) the overall width of a vehicle shall not exceed 9 feet 6 inches.

Land tractors used for reaping and threshing

10. The Minister authorises the use on roads of land tractors constructed for the combined purpose of reaping and threshing notwithstanding that such vehicles do not comply with the requirements of Regulations 33 and 34 of the Construction and Use Regulations, subject to the following conditions:—

(*a*) no vehicle shall draw a trailer other than a two-wheeled trailer used solely for the carriage of the necessary gear and equipment of the vehicle;

(*b*) the overall width of a vehicle if used during the months of July, August, September, October or November in any year shall not exceed 14 feet and if used at any other time shall not exceed 10 feet;

(a) 15 & 16 Geo. 5. c. 68.

(*c*) where the overall width of a vehicle—

(i) exceeds 8 feet, but does not exceed 9 feet, one person, in addition to the driver, shall be in attendance;

(ii) exceeds 9 feet, two persons, in addition to the driver, shall be in attendance, one of whom shall whenever necessary proceed at a reasonable distance in front of the vehicle and the other of whom shall whenever necessary proceed at a reasonable distance behind the vehicle, in each case to give warning to other traffic on the road;

(*d*) before using upon a road for a journey exceeding 5 miles a vehicle the overall width of which exceeds 8 feet, the owner shall give not less than 24 hours' notice to the Chief Officer of Police of every police area through which it is proposed that the vehicle should pass, such notice containing such particulars as are necessary to identify the vehicle and particulars of the overall width of the vehicle and the time and route of the proposed journey.

Any such Chief Officer of Police may in special cases or circumstances dispense with any of the foregoing requirements as to the length of notice and particulars to be given. The owner shall carry out the journey in accordance with the particulars given by him in the notice subject to any variations in the time or route which he may be directed to make by any such Chief Officer of Police; and

(*e*) no vehicle the overall width of which exceeds 10 feet shall travel at a speed exceeding 5 miles per hour and no other vehicle shall travel at a speed exceeding 10 miles per hour.

Mechanically propelled hay and straw balers

11. The Minister authorises the use on roads of motor tractors constructed for the purpose of picking up, baling and binding hay or straw notwithstanding that such vehicles do not comply with the requirements of Regulations 33 and 34 of the Construction and Use Regulations, subject to the following conditions and restrictions:—

(*a*) the overall width of a vehicle shall not exceed 8 feet;

(*b*) the overhang of a vehicle shall not exceed 8 feet; and

(*c*) no vehicle shall travel on a road at a speed exceeding 10 miles per hour.

Vehicles for moving excavated material

12. The Minister authorises the use on roads of movable plant or equipment (other than engineering plant as defined in Article 13 of this Order) being a heavy motor car or trailer or an articulated vehicle specially designed and constructed for use in private premises for the primary purpose of moving excavated material and fitted with a tipping body, moving platform or other similar device for discharging its load, and which cannot, owing to the requirements of such special purpose, comply in all respects with the requirements of the Construction and Use Regulations, subject to the following conditions and restrictions:—

(*a*) a vehicle shall only be used in proceeding to and from private premises and shall carry no load other than its necessary gear or equipment;

(*b*) no heavy motor car not forming part of an articulated vehicle shall draw any trailer;

(*c*) where a trailer is drawn by a motor vehicle, the motor vehicle shall not draw any other trailer;

(*d*) in the case of a heavy motor car not forming part of an articulated vehicle all Regulations of the Construction and Use Regulations, other than Regulations 9, 37, 41 and 63, shall, subject as provided in paragraph (*g*) of this Article, apply;

(*e*) in the case of a trailer not forming part of an articulated vehicle all Regulations of the Construction and Use Regulations, other than Regulations 9, 53, 54 and 58, shall, subject as provided in paragraph (*h*) of this Article, apply;

(*f*) in the case of an articulated vehicle all Regulations of the Construction and Use Regulations, other than paragraph (1) of Regulation 6 and Regulations 9, 37, 41, 54, 58 and 63, shall, subject as provided in paragraphs (*g*) and (*h*) of this Article, apply;

(*g*) in the case of a heavy motor car with not more than four wheels, whether or not forming part of an articulated vehicle the sum of the weights transmitted to the road surface by all the wheels of the heavy motor car shall not exceed 15 tons notwithstanding the limit of 14 tons imposed by Regulation 68 of the Construction and Use Regulations;

(*h*) in the case of a trailer, whether or not forming part of an articulated vehicle, sub-paragraphs (*b*) and (*c*) of paragraph (1) of Regulation 55 shall not apply, if the trailer is equipped with an efficient brake or with suitable scotches or similar devices to hold it stationary when necessary;

(*i*) the overall length of a trailer shall not exceed 28 feet and the overall length of an articulated vehicle shall not exceed 44 feet;

(*j*) the overall width of a vehicle shall not exceed 11 feet;

(*k*) no vehicle the overall width of which exceeds 9 feet 6 inches shall travel at a speed exceeding 8 miles per hour and no other vehicle shall travel at a speed exceeding 12 miles per hour;

(*l*) every wheel of the vehicle shall be equipped with a pneumatic tyre;

(*m*) where the overall width of a vehicle exceeds 9 feet 6 inches at least three persons inclusive of the driver or drivers shall be in attendance to attend the vehicle, and where the overall width of a vehicle exceeds 8 feet but does not exceed 9 feet 6 inches at least one person in addition to the driver or drivers shall be in attendance to attend the vehicle;

(*n*) before using a vehicle, the overall width of which exceeds 8 feet, on any road on which a tramcar is operated or a vehicle the overall width of which exceeds 9 feet 6 inches on any road, the owner shall give two clear days' notice (exclusive of Sundays, Bank Holidays, Christmas Day, and Good Friday) to the Chief Officer of Police of every police area through which it is proposed that the vehicle shall pass, such notice containing such particulars as are necessary to identify the vehicle and particulars of the overall width of the vehicle and the time and route of the proposed journey.

Any such Chief Officer of Police may in special cases or circumstances dispense with any requirements as to the length of notice or the particulars to be given. The owner shall carry out the journey in accordance with the particulars given by him in the notice, subject to any variations in the time or route which he may be directed to make by the Chief Officer of Police.

PART III. ABNORMAL INDIVISIBLE LOADS AND ENGINEERING PLANT

Interpretation

13. In this Part of the Order, except where the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say :—

" abnormal indivisible load " means a load which—

(*a*) cannot without undue expense or risk of damage be divided into two or more loads for the purpose of carriage on roads, and

(*b*) cannot, owing to its dimensions or weight, be carried by a heavy motor car or trailer complying in all respects with the requirements of the Construction and Use Regulations ;

" tractor " means a motor tractor ;

" engineering plant " means :—

(*a*) movable plant or equipment being a motor vehicle or trailer (not constructed primarily to carry a load) specially designed and constructed for the special purposes of engineering operations, and which cannot, owing to the requirements of such special purposes, comply in all respects with the requirements of the Construction and Use Regulations or the Track Laying Regulations, 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 ;

" locomotive ", " registered ", " track laying " and " wheeled " have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the Construction and Use Regulations.

Vehicles for carriage or drawing of abnormal indivisible loads

14. The Minister authorises the use on roads of heavy motor cars and trailers specially designed and constructed for the carriage of abnormal indivisible loads and of locomotives and tractors specially designed and constructed to draw trailers specially so designed and constructed notwithstanding that such vehicles do not comply in all respects with the requirements of the Construction and Use Regulations, subject to the conditions and restrictions contained in Articles 16, 18, 19, 20 and 21 of this Order and also to the following conditions and restrictions :—

(*a*) a heavy motor car or trailer shall be used only, save as provided in paragraph (*k*) of this Article, for, or in connection with, the carriage of an abnormal indivisible load ;

(*b*) a locomotive or tractor shall be used only, save as provided in paragraph (*k*) of this Article, for, or in connection with, the drawing of trailers the use of which upon roads is authorised by this Article ;

(*c*) a heavy motor car shall comply with all Regulations of the Construction and Use Regulations, other than Regulations 9, 37, 40, 41, 63, 68, 70, 71, 72, 102 and 104 ;

(*d*) a trailer shall comply with all Regulations of the Construction and Use Regulations, other than Regulations 6, 9, 13, 54, 56, 57, 58, 63, 66, 69 to 72, 102 and 104 :

Provided that it shall not be necessary for a trailer constructed before the 15th day of January, 1931, to comply with Regulation 8 of the Construction and Use Regulations;

(*e*) a locomotive or tractor shall comply with all Regulations of the Construction and Use Regulations, other than Regulations 9, 28, 33, 63, 66, 70 and 104;

(*f*) the overall width of a heavy motor car, locomotive or tractor shall not exceed 9 feet 6 inches and the overall width of a trailer shall not exceed 9 feet 6 inches except where a greater width (but in no case exceeding 20 feet) is necessary for the safe carriage of the particular load carried by the trailer;

(*g*) the overall width of the load carried by any vehicle or of the vehicle and its load shall not exceed 20 feet;

(*h*) a vehicle shall be so constructed that it is a wheeled vehicle;

(*i*) every wheel of a vehicle shall be equipped with a pneumatic tyre or a tyre of soft or elastic material:

(*j*) the following restrictions on weight shall apply to vehicles, including articulated vehicles, carrying an abnormal indivisible load:—

(i) the sum of the weights transmitted to the road surface by all the wheels of the vehicle or vehicles carrying the load shall not exceed 150 tons;

(ii) the weight transmitted to the road surface by any one wheel shall not exceed 11½ tons:

Provided that this sub-paragraph shall not apply to any heavy motor car registered on or before the 31st day of December, 1951, or any trailer constructed before the first day of January, 1952.

For the purpose of this sub-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;

(iii) the weight transmitted to any strip of road surface upon which the wheels rest contained between any two parallel lines drawn on that surface at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle or vehicles carrying the load 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;

(iv) the total weight transmitted to the road surface by any wheels 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 cwt.;

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

Provided that, 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 and any vehicles used in combination 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.

Engineering Plant

15. The Minister authorises the use on roads of engineering plant notwithstanding that such vehicles do not comply in all respects with the requirements of the Construction and Use Regulations or the Track Laying Regulations, subject to the conditions and restrictions contained in Articles 17, 18, 19 and 20 of this Order and also to the following conditions and restrictions:—

(*a*) engineering plant other than a mobile crane shall only be used on a road in proceeding to and from the site of engineering operations, or when actually engaged in such operations, and shall carry no load other than its necessary gear or equipment or in the case of plant when actually engaged on the construction, maintenance and repair of roads, materials which it is specially designed to treat while carried on the vehicle;

(*b*) a mobile crane shall only be used on a road in proceeding from one place to another and not for the purpose of the lifting or transportation of goods or burden otherwise than when actually engaged in engineering operations;

(*c*) no engineering plant other than a mobile crane shall draw any trailer other than a trailer which is engineering plant, or a living van or office hut used in connection with the construction, maintenance and repair of roads;

(*d*) no mobile crane shall draw a trailer;

(*e*) a vehicle shall be so constructed that it is either a wheeled vehicle or a track laying vehicle;

(*f*) in the case of a wheeled motor vehicle Regulations 4, 8, 14, 15, 17 to 22, 25 to 27, 73, 75 to 79, 81 to 91, 93, 94, 105 and 106 of the Construction and Use Regulations shall apply provided that in the case of a motor vehicle registered on or before the 31st day of December, 1951, Regulations 17 and 18 shall not apply;

(*g*) in the case of a wheeled trailer Regulations, 4, 8, 25, 26, 64, 73, 76, 78, 81, 89, 93 and 106 of the Construction and Use Regulations shall apply;

(*h*) in the case of a track laying motor vehicle Regulations 4, 6, 9, 13, 14, 16 to 24, 51, 53 to 69, 71, 72, 78 and 79 of the Track Laying Regulations shall apply provided that in the case of a motor vehicle registered on or before the 31st day of December, 1951, Regulations 16 and 17 shall not apply and provided further that in the case of a motor vehicle which is a road roller Regulation 9 shall not apply;

(*i*) in the case of a track laying trailer Regulations 4, 6, 9, 22, 23, 44, 51, 54, 56, 57, 59, 67, 71 and 79 of the Track Laying Regulations shall apply provided that in the case of a trailer which is a road roller Regulation 9 shall not apply;

(*j*) all the wheels of a vehicle, which are not equipped with pneumatic tyres or tyres of soft or elastic material, shall be equipped with smooth tyres and have the edges rounded to a radius of not less than ½ inch and not more than 1 inch:

Provided that in the case of gritting machines designed for use, and used, for gritting frosted and ice-bound roads, all or any of the tyres may be shod with diagonal cross bars of equal width of not less than 1 inch, extending the full breadth of the tyre and so arranged that the distance between adjacent cross bars is not greater than the width of the cross bars;

(*k*) in the case of any vehicle, the weight transmitted to the road surface by any one wheel not equipped with pneumatic tyres where no other wheel is in the same line transversely or by all the wheels not equipped with pneumatic tyres in line transversely shall be such that the average weight per inch width of tyre in contact with such surface shall not exceed 15 cwt.;

(*l*) (i) a motor vehicle shall be equipped with an efficient brake provided that in the case of a motor vehicle propelled by steam the engine shall be deemed to be an efficient brake if the engine is capable of being reversed;

(ii) in the case of a motor vehicle registered on or after the first day of January, 1952, any brake required by the preceding sub-paragraph shall be capable of being set so as to hold the vehicle when stationary unless another brake fitted to the vehicle is capable of being so set;

(*m*) a trailer shall be equipped with an efficient brake or with suitable scotches or other similar devices to hold the vehicle stationary when necessary;

(*n*) no motor vehicle which exceeds 26 feet in overall length shall draw a trailer, provided that this requirement shall not apply to any broken down vehicle which is being drawn by a motor vehicle in consequence of the breakdown.

Speed limits for vehicles authorised by Article 14

16.—(1) No motor vehicle or trailer, the use of which upon roads is authorised by Article 14 of this Order, shall travel on any road at a speed exceeding 5 miles per hour.

(2) The foregoing speed limit of 5 miles per hour shall be extended to 12 miles per hour, subject to compliance in the case of the motor vehicle, trailer and any other vehicles used in combination with the motor vehicle or trailer with the following conditions and restrictions:—

(*a*) the sum of the weights transmitted to the road surface by all the wheels of the vehicle or, if more than one vehicle is being used, by the wheels of all the vehicles used in combination shall not exceed 75 tons;

(*b*) the overall width of the vehicle and its load or of the vehicle or its load shall not exceed 9 feet 6 inches;

(*c*) all the wheels of the vehicle shall be equipped with pneumatic tyres;

(*d*) the vehicle shall comply with the requirement as to springs prescribed in Regulation 9 of the Construction and Use Regulations; and

(*e*) in the case of a trailer constructed before 15th January, 1931, the requirement as to variation of wheel load prescribed in Regulation 8 of the Construction and Use Regulations shall be complied with.

Speed limits for vehicles authorised by Article 15

17.—(1) No engineering plant, the use of which upon roads is authorised by Article 15 of this Order, shall travel on any road at a speed exceeding 5 miles per hour.

(2) The foregoing speed limit of 5 miles per hour shall be extended to 8 miles per hour in the case of wheeled engineering plant all the wheels of which are equipped with pneumatic tyres.

(3) The foregoing speed limit of 5 miles per hour shall be extended to 12 miles per hour in the case of wheeled engineering plant, subject to compliance with the following conditions and restrictions:—

(*a*) the sum of the weights transmitted to the road surface by all the wheels of the vehicle shall not exceed 14 tons;

(*b*) the overall width shall not exceed 9 feet 6 inches;

(*c*) all the wheels shall be equipped with pneumatic tyres;

(*d*) the overall length of a motor vehicle being engineering plant shall not exceed 30 feet and the total overall length of a motor vehicle and trailer being engineering plant and drawn thereby shall not exceed 60 feet;

(*e*) a trailer shall be equipped with an efficient brake which is capable of being applied when it is being drawn; and

(*f*) no vehicle being engineering plant shall draw a trailer.

Attendants

18.—(1) Where the overall width of any vehicle, the use of which upon roads is authorised by this Part of this Order, and its load or of the vehicle or its load exceeds 9 feet 6 inches, at least 3 persons inclusive of the driver or drivers shall while the vehicle is being driven be in attendance to attend the vehicle and load:

Provided that where a vehicle is actually engaged in engineering operations and moves on a road only to the extent necessary for the efficient performance of such operations it shall be sufficient compliance with this paragraph if one person in addition to the driver or drivers is in attendance.

(2) Where the overall width of any vehicle, the use of which upon roads is authorised by this Part of this Order, and its load or of the vehicle or its load exceeds 8 feet but does not exceed 9 feet 6 inches, at least one person in addition to the driver or drivers shall while the vehicle is being driven be in attendance to attend the vehicle and load.

Notice to police

19. Before using upon a road any vehicle, the use of which upon roads is authorised by this Part of this Order, the owner shall, if the overall width of the vehicle and its load or of the vehicle or its load exceeds 8 feet or the total weight of the vehicle (together with any vehicles used in combination) and any loads carried by the vehicles exceeds 75 tons, give two clear days' notice (exclusive of Sundays, Bank Holidays, Christmas Day and Good Friday) in the form and containing all particulars specified in Part I of the Second Schedule to this Order to the Chief Officer of Police of every police area through which it is proposed that the vehicle shall pass. The Chief Officer of Police may in special cases or circumstances dispense with any requirements as to the length of the notice or the particulars to be given. The owner shall carry out the journey in accordance with the particulars given by him in the notice, subject to any variations in the time, date or route which he may be directed to make by the Chief Officer of Police:

Provided that such notice shall not be required to be given to the Chief Officer of Police of any police area in which the vehicle will not travel along roads on which a tramcar is operated if the overall width of the vehicle and its load or of the vehicle or its load does not exceed 9 feet 6 inches and the total weight of the vehicle (together with any vehicles used in combination) and any loads carried by the vehicles does not exceed 75 tons.

Notice to highway and bridge authorities

20.—(1) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) of this Article, before using upon a road a vehicle to which this Article applies, the owner shall—

(*a*) in any case in which the total weight of the vehicle (together with any vehicles used in combination) and any loads carried by the vehicles exceeds 75 tons, give six clear days' notice (exclusive of Sundays, Bank Holidays, Christmas Day and Good Friday); or

(*b*) in any other case in which any of the requirements of the Construction and Use Regulations or the Track Laying Regulations with respect to the weights of vehicles whether laden or unladen or the weights transmitted to the road surface by all or any of the wheels or the wheels and tracks is not complied with in the case of the vehicle or, where more than one vehicle is being used, in the case of the vehicles used in combination or any of them give two clear days' notice (exclusive as aforesaid)

such notice being in all cases in the form and containing all particulars specified in Part II of the Second Schedule to this Order and an indemnity in the form specified in the said Part II to every highway authority and to every bridge authority responsible for the maintenance and repair of any road or bridge over which it is proposed that the vehicle shall pass:

Provided that:—

(i) the highway authority or bridge authority may in special cases or circumstances dispense with any requirements as to the length of notice or the particulars to be given;

(ii) in the case of any part of a trunk road where, by virtue of the provisions of section 5 of the Trunk Roads Act, 1936(**a**), as amended or modified by the Trunk Roads Act, 1946(**b**), the functions of the Minister with respect to maintenance and repair are exercised in England by the Council of a county, county borough or urban district, or by a local authority as defined in the Fourth Schedule to the last mentioned Act, or in Scotland by the Council of a county or large burgh, or where, by virtue of an agreement between the Minister and the British Transport Commission or the London Transport Executive, the maintenance and repair of that part are carried out by the Commission or the London Transport Executive, the notice and indemnity required to be given to the Minister under this paragraph shall be duly given only if it is addressed to, or included in any notice and indemnity given to, such Council, local authority, Commission or London Transport Executive as the case may be;

(iii) any notice and indemnity in respect of any part of a trunk road required by the preceding proviso to be addressed to, or included in any notice and indemnity given to, the British Transport Commission shall be addressed to, or included in a notice and indemnity given to, the Commission at the headquarters of the railway region in which that part of the trunk road is situated; and

(a) 1 Edw. 8 & 1 Geo. 6. c. 5. (b) 9 & 10 Geo. 6. c. 30.

(iv) where in the case of any vehicle to which sub-paragraph (*a*) of this paragraph applies, being a trailer, six days' notice has been duly given under this paragraph and it is found impracticable to use any vehicle specified in the notice (not being a vehicle the use of which upon roads is authorised by this Part of this Order) as a vehicle intended to draw the trailer, then any other vehicle similar in type to the vehicle so specified may be substituted for that vehicle, if two clear days' notice of the substitution is given to every authority to whom the previous notice was given, and thereupon the last mentioned notice shall have effect as if the substituted vehicle and not the replaced vehicle had always been specified therein as the vehicle intended to draw the trailer.

(2) In the case of a vehicle to which this Article applies being a vehicle—

(*a*) the use of which upon roads is authorised by Article 14 of this Order; and

(*b*) in relation to which any such notice (including the indemnity) as is required by sub-paragraphs (*a*) or (*b*) of paragraph (1) of this Article to be given to any authority cannot be given in accordance with the said paragraph to that authority in connection with a particular journey on account of the urgency of the journey in the national interest

it shall be sufficient compliance with the provisions of the said paragraph as respects that authority if the notice (including the indemnity) be so given as to be received by that authority or, if sent by post, be posted before the vehicle enters on any road or bridge for the maintenance and repair of which that authority is responsible:

Provided that the provisions of this paragraph shall only apply if:—

(*a*) the vehicle is used solely for carrying any of the vehicles specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 of column 1 of the First Schedule to this Order being the property of, or for the time being under the control of, the persons respectively specified opposite thereto in column 3 of the said Schedule;

(*b*) the owner of the carrying vehicle has previously consulted the Minister on the route proposed to be followed; and

(*c*) it is certified in writing by the proper naval, military or air force authority that the journey is urgent in the national interest.

(3) This Article applies to any vehicle, the use of which upon roads is authorised by this Part of this Order, not being a vehicle which is the property of, or for the time being under the control of, the Admiralty, the Secretary of State for War or the Secretary of State for Air.

Restriction on the passage over bridges of vehicles carrying abnormal indivisible loads

21. No vehicle, the use of which upon roads is authorised by Article 14 of this Order and which is carrying an abnormal indivisible load, shall—

(*a*) enter upon any bridge whilst there is on that bridge any other such vehicle carrying an abnormal indivisible load, the presence of which is known to or could reasonably be ascertained by the driver of the first mentioned vehicle; nor

(*b*) remain stationary on any bridge except in circumstances beyond the control of the driver.

In this Article, the expression "driver" in relation to a vehicle which is a trailer means any person driving a vehicle by which the trailer is being drawn, and a combination of vehicles carrying an abnormal indivisible load shall be deemed to be one vehicle.

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation this eleventh day of July, 1955.

(L.S.)

Denis O'Neill,
An Under Secretary of the
Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation.

FIRST SCHEDULE (See Article 4)

SERVICE AND CIVIL AVIATION VEHICLES

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
1. Motor vehicles or trailers constructed either for actual combative purposes or for naval, military or air force training in connection therewith, or for use with, or for the carriage or drawing of, guns or machine-guns.	Construction and Use Regulations—All. Track Laying Regulations—All.	Admiralty or Secretary of State for War or Secretary of State for Air or Minister of Supply or any contractor making such vehicles for that Minister or any sub-contractor of such contractor.
2. Track laying motor vehicles or track laying trailers constructed either for actual combative purposes, or for use with, or for the carriage or drawing of, guns, machine-guns, ammunition, equipment or stores in connection therewith.	Construction and Use Regulations—All. Track Laying Regulations—All.	Admiralty or Secretary of State for War or Secretary of State for Air or Minister of Supply or any contractor making such vehicles for that Minister or any sub-contractor of such contractor.
3. Motor vehicles or trailers constructed for the carriage of tanks.	Construction and Use Regulations—All. Track Laying Regulations—All.	Admiralty or Secretary of State for War or Minister of Supply or any contractor making such vehicles for that Minister or any sub-contractor of such contractor.
4. Motor vehicles or trailers constructed for the carriage of searchlights or the necessary equipment therefor.	Construction and Use Regulation 9. Track Laying Regulation 7.	Admiralty or Secretary of State for War or Secretary of State for Air or Minister of Supply or any contractor making such vehicles for that Minister or any sub-contractor of such contractor.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
5. Motor vehicles or trailers constructed for the carriage of aircraft or aircraft parts.	Construction and Use Regulations 6, 37, 38, 54 and 102. Track Laying Regulations 5, 30 and 75.	Admiralty or Secretary of State for Air or Minister of Supply or any contractor making such vehicles for that Minister or any sub-contractor of such contractor.
6. Motor tractors, heavy motor cars and trailers, constructed for naval, military or air force purposes before the 1st January, 1949.	Construction and Use Regulations 33, 37, 38, 54 and 55.	Admiralty or Secretary of State for War or Secretary of State for Air or Minister of Supply or any contractor making such vehicles for that Minister or any sub-contractor of such contractor.
7. Heavy motor cars or trailers constructed for use and used only in connection with flying operations where the additional width is made necessary by the design of the equipment or its installation on the vehicle.	Construction and Use Regulations 37 and 54.	Admiralty or Secretary of State for Air or Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation or Minister of Supply or any contractor making such vehicles for that Minister or any sub-contractor of such contractor.
8. Aircraft drawn by motor vehicles.	Construction and Use Regulations 9, 53, 54 and 55.	Admiralty or Secretary of State for Air.

SECOND SCHEDULE

PART I (See Article 19)

FORM OF NOTICE TO POLICE

The Motor Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) General Order, 1955

In pursuance of Article 19 of the above-mentioned Order I/We..... ..... of ..... being the owner(s) of the undermentioned vehicle(s) to which the Order applies hereby give notice that it is my/our intention to use the said vehicle(s) on the roads specified below from..... to ..... starting at approximately .....a.m./p.m. on the.....day of..... and completing the journey at approximately.....a.m./p.m. on the .....day of ..... The route proposed to be followed is:—

Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation

..... to ..... Classification No. .....

..... to ..... „ „ .....

Note.—Any further particulars of route necessary to define it clearly are to be given overleaf, and where a road is unclassified sufficient information is to be given to enable it to be identified.

Particulars

(to be given in respect of each vehicle)

1. Vehicle(s) to which the Order applies.
Index mark and registration number (if any).....
Carrier's licence number (if any).....
Type .....
Description of load (if any).....
Overall dimensions of vehicle(s) (inclusive of load, if any)—
Maximum height.....
Maximum width .....
Maximum length.....
Weight of vehicle(s) (inclusive of load, if any).....

2. Other vehicle(s) (if any) drawing or drawn by the above-mentioned vehicle(s).
Index mark and registration number (if any).....
Carrier's licence number (if any).....
Type .....
Laden weight .....

Date..... Signed.....

PART II (See Article 20)

FORM OF NOTICE TO HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE AUTHORITIES

The Motor Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) General Order, 1955

In pursuance of Article 20 of the above-mentioned Order I/We.....
..... of .....
being the owner(s) of the undermentioned vehicle(s) to which the Order applies hereby give notice that it is my/our intention to use the said vehicle(s) on the roads specified below from.....
to..... starting at approximately .....a.m./p.m. on the.....day of.....
and completing the journey at approximately.....a.m./p.m. on the .....day of..... The route proposed to be followed is:—

Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation
..... to ..... Classification No. .....
..... to ..... " " .....

Note.—Any further particulars of route necessary to define it clearly are to be given overleaf, and where a road is unclassified sufficient information is to be given to enable it to be identified.

Particulars

1. Total number of vehicles to be used including not only vehicles the use of which is authorised only by the Order, but also other vehicles to be used in conjunction therewith.....
2. Number of such vehicles, the use of which is authorised only by the Order .....
3. Vehicle(s) to which the Order applies.
*(Particulars to be given in respect of each vehicle)
Index mark and registration number (if any).....
Carrier's licence number (if any).....
Type .....
Description of load (if any).....
Overall dimensions of vehicle(s) (inclusive of load, if any)—
Maximum height.....
Maximum width .....
Maximum length.....

* All particulars in respect of an articulated vehicle should be included under 3 as if it were a single vehicle.

Weight of vehicle(s) (inclusive of load, if any).....
Spacing and weight of load carrying axles—
(*a*) first load carrying axle:
(i) number of wheels.....
(ii) approximate weight on axle.....
(iii) distance to second load carrying axle.....
(*b*) second load carrying axle:
(i) number of wheels.....
(ii) approximate weight on axle.....
(iii) distance to third load carrying axle.....
Repeat for all load carrying axles.

In the case of track laying vehicles a dimensioned sketch plan is to be attached showing the number and disposition of all wheels (if any) and tracks in contact with the road surface indicating the weights transmitted by the wheels or tracks of the vehicle(s).

4. Other vehicle(s) (if any) drawing or drawn by the above-mentioned vehicle(s).
Index mark and registration number (if any).....
Carrier's licence number (if any).....
Type .....
Laden weight.....

INDEMNITY

I/We hereby agree to indemnify you and each and every highway or bridge authority responsible for the maintenance and repair of any road or bridge on the journey to which the above notice relates in respect of any damage which may be caused to any such road or bridge by reason of:—

(*a*) the construction of or the weight transmitted to the road surface by the above-mentioned vehicle(s) to which the above-mentioned Order applies not being in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations made by the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation under section 30 of the Road Traffic Act, 1930; [or]

[(*b*) the dimensions, distribution or adjustment of the load carried by any such vehicle:]

Provided that any claim in respect of damage so caused by any vehicle shall be made in writing within twelve months from the date on which the vehicle is last used on the journey to which the above notice relates, stating the occasion and place of the damage.

Date..... Signed.....

Note.—Words in square brackets only apply where vehicles are carrying an abnormal indivisible load and in other cases should be omitted.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

This Order, which re-enacts with amendment the Motor Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) General Order, 1952, authorises, subject to certain conditions and restrictions, the use on roads of various vehicles constructed for special purposes notwithstanding that they do not comply with certain of the requirements of the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations, 1955, or the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Track Laying Vehicles) Regulations, 1955.

The principal change is that straddle carriers which do not comply with Regulations 9 (springs), 37 (overall width) and 38 (overhang) of the Construction and Use Regulations are authorised to be used subject to certain conditions for the purpose of demonstration or in the course of delivery on sale.