STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1982 No. 1132

ROAD TRAFFIC

The Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 1982

Made - - - -	4*th August* 1982
Laid before Parliament	16*th August* 1982
Coming into Operation	7*th September* 1982

The Secretary of State for Transport, in exercise of his powers under section 40(1) and (3) of the Road Traffic Act 1972 (**a**) and now vested in him (**b**), and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with representative organisations in accordance with the provisions of section 199(2) of that Act, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

1. These Regulations shall come into operation on 7th September 1982 and may be cited as the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 1982.

2. The Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1978 (**c**) are hereby amended so that for Regulation 102A there is substituted the following new Regulation:—

"**102A.**—(1) This Regulation applies to every seat belt with which a motor vehicle is required to be provided in accordance with Regulation 17 and to the anchorages, fastenings, adjusting device and retracting mechanism (if any) of every such seat belt.

(2) For the purposes of this Regulation the anchorages and anchorage points of a seat belt shall, in the case of a seat with integral seat belt anchorages, include the system by which the seat assembly itself is secured to the vehicle structure.

(3) The anchorage points provided for seat belts shall be used only as anchorages for the seat belts for which they are intended to be used or capable of being used.

(4) Save as provided in paragraph (5) below—

(a) all load-bearing members of the vehicle structure or panelling within 30 centimetres of each anchorage point shall be maintained in a sound condition and free from serious corrosion, distortion or fracture;

(b) the adjusting device and (if fitted) the retracting mechanism of the seat belt shall be so maintained that the belt may be readily adjusted to the body of the wearer, either automatically or manually, according to the design of the device and (if fitted) the retracting mechanism;

(**a**) 1972 c.20.
(**b**) S.I. 1979/571, 1981/238.
(**c**) S.I. 1978/1017; the relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1978/1233, 1979/1062.

(c) the seat belt and its anchorages, fastenings and adjusting device shall be maintained free from any obvious defect which would be likely to affect adversely the performance by the seat belt of the function of restraining the body of the wearer in the event of an accident to the vehicle;

(d) the buckle or other fastening of the seat belt shall—

(i) be so maintained that the belt can be readily fastened or unfastened,

(ii) be kept free from any temporary or permanent obstruction, and

(iii) except in the case of a disabled person's seat belt, be readily accessible to a person sitting in the seat for which the seat belt is provided;

(e) The webbing or other material which forms the seat belt shall be maintained free from cuts or other visible faults (as, for example, extensive fraying) which would be likely to affect adversely the performance of the belt when under stress;

(f) the ends of every seat belt, other than a disabled person's seat belt, shall be securely fastened to the anchorage points provided for them; and

(g) the ends of every disabled person's seat belt shall, when the seat belt is being used for the purpose for which it was designed and constructed, be securely fastened either to some part of the structure of the vehicle or to the seat which is being occupied by the person wearing the belt so that the body of the person wearing the belt would be restrained in the event of an accident to the vehicle.

(5) No requirement specified in paragraph (4) above applies if—

(a) the vehicle is being used on a journey after the start of which the requirement ceased to be complied with; or

(b) the vehicle is being used after the requirement ceased to be complied with and steps have been taken for such compliance to be restored with all reasonable expedition.

(6) Expressions which are used in this Regulation and are defined in Regulation 17 have the same meaning in this Regulation as they have in Regulation 17.".

David Howell,
Secretary of State for Transport.

4th August 1982.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(*This Note is not part of the Regulations.*)

1. These Regulations further amend the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1978 by substituting new provisions as to the maintenance of seat belts and anchorage points.

2. This substitution brings forward the existing provisions, but in respect of those appearing in paragraph (4) of the new Regulation there is attached the saving specified in paragraph (5) thereof.

SI 1982/1132
ISBN 0-11-027132-7

