1973. No. 223 **[C]**

ROAD TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

Motor Vehicles: Speed Limit on Special Roads

REGULATIONS, DATED 29TH JUNE 1973, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS UNDER SECTION 26 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1970.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Secretary of State and in exercise of the powers vested in it by Section 26 of the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1970(**a**) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Motor Vehicles (Speed Limit on Special Roads) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973 and shall come into operation on the 1st July 1973.

Revocation

2. The Motor Vehicles (Speed Limit on Special Roads) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1963(**b**) are hereby revoked.

Interpretation

3. In these Regulations "special road" means—

(1) a road or part of a road designated as a special road under section 1 of the Special Roads Act (Northern Ireland) 1963(**c**) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act"), and

(2) a trunk road or part of a trunk road to which the provisions of the Act apply by virtue of section 8 thereof,

being a road or, as the case may be, a part of a road which (save as otherwise provided by or under Regulations made under section 17 of the Act) may be used only by traffic of Classes I and II as set out in Schedule 3 of the Act and as for the time being varied by virtue of any Order made by the Ministry of Development under section 16(3) of the Act.

Speed limit

4. The speed at which a motor vehicle is driven on a special road shall not exceed the maximum speed specified in the Schedule for a motor vehicle of the class or description mentioned therein.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland this 29th day of June 1973.

(L.S.)

W. G. Robinson,
Assistant Secretary.

(**a**) 1970. c.2 (N.I.).
(**b**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1963, No. 232.
(**c**) 1963. c.12 (N.I.).

SCHEDULE

Limits of Speed

Class of vehicle	*Maximum speed—miles per hour*
1. Any motor vehicle drawing a trailer (not being an articulated vehicle) if the trailer has less than 4 wheels or is a close-coupled four-wheeled trailer, except when falling within paragraph 2	50
2. Any motor vehicle having an unladen weight not exceeding 30 hundredweight, when drawing such a trailer as is referred to in paragraph 1 in circumstances where the speed limit under the Schedule to the Motor Vehicles (Maximum Speed) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973(d) for such a vehicle when drawing such a trailer and being driven on a road which is not a special road is 40 miles per hour or less	40

Interpretation

3. In this Schedule "close-coupled", in relation to a trailer, means that the wheels on the same side of the trailer are so fitted that at all times while it is in motion they remain parallel to the longitudinal axis of the trailer and that the distance between the centres of the respective areas of contact with the road surface does not exceed 33 inches.

4. Any expression which is used in this Schedule and to which a meaning is given in the Schedule to the Motor Vehicles (Maximum Speed) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973, has the same meaning in this Schedule as it has in the said Schedule.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These Regulations revoke the Motor Vehicles (Speed Limit on Special Roads) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1963 and replace them by provisions which increase from 40 to 50 m.p.h. the speed limit for motor vehicles when drawing certain types of trailer on a motorway. The increase does not apply in cases where the drawing vehicle has an unladen weight not exceeding 30 hundredweight and certain conditions (set out in the Motor Vehicles (Maximum Speed) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973) with respect to the display of weights and of a plate bearing the number "50" and to the observance of a weight ratio between the drawing vehicle and the trailer are not complied with.

(d) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1973, No. 222.