STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1971 No. 601

ROAD TRAFFIC

The Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1971

Made - - - -	*28th January* 1971
Laid before Parliament	*4th February* 1971
Coming into Operation	*15th April* 1971

The Secretary of State for the Environment, in exercise of his powers under section 78(2) and (4) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967(**a**) and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with representative organisations in accordance with section 107(2) of that Act, hereby makes the following Regulations :—

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1971 and shall come into operation on the tenth day following the day they are approved by Parliament.

(2) In these Regulations "the Act" means the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967.

(3) The Interpretation Act 1889(**b**) shall apply for the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament, and as if for the purposes of section 38 of that Act these Regulations were an Act of Parliament and the Regulations revoked by Regulation 3 of these Regulations were an Act of Parliament thereby repealed.

2. The provisions of Schedule 5 to the Act shall, in relation to vehicles while being driven on a special road, be varied so as to have effect as set out in the Schedule to these Regulations, but this provision shall not have effect in relation to any special road until the date on which it is open for use as a special road.

3. The Motor Vehicles (Speed Limit on Motorways) Regulations 1966(**c**) are hereby revoked.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State.

John Peyton,
Minister for Transport Industries,
Department of the Environment.

28th January 1971.

(a) 1967 c. 76. (b) 1889 c. 63. (c) S.I. 1966/980 (1966 II, p. 2355).

SCHEDULE

LIMITS OF SPEED

Class of Vehicle	*Maximum speed, miles per hour.*
1. A goods vehicle having an unladen weight exceeding 3 tons, except when falling within paragraph 3 below	60
2. A passenger vehicle in respect of which a public service vehicle licence granted under section 127 of the Road Traffic Act 1960 is in force, when drawing a trailer	50
3. Any other 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	40

INTERPRETATION

4. 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.

5. Any expression which is used in this Schedule and to which a meaning is given in Schedule 5 to the Act has the same meaning in this Schedule as it has in the said Schedule 5.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

Schedule 5 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967, which has effect as varied by the Motor Vehicles (Speed Limit on Motorways) Regulations 1966 as respects vehicles driven on motorways, specified speed limits for certain classes of vehicles while being driven on a motorway. These Regulations revoke and re-enact the Regulations of 1966 and further vary the provisions of the said Schedule 5 by providing that goods vehicles having an unladen weight exceeding 3 tons and when not drawing certain types of trailers may be driven at a maximum speed of 60 m.p.h. on a motorway.