STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1973 No. 748

ROAD TRAFFIC
The Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1973

Made - - -	*28th March* 1973
Laid before Parliament	*29th March* 1973
Coming into Operation	*1st May* 1973

The Secretary of State for the Environment, in exercise of powers conferred by section 78(2) and (4) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967(**a**) and now vested in him(**b**), 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 1973 and shall come into operation on the fifteenth 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(**c**) 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an Act of Parliament and the Regulations revoked by Regulation 3 of these Regulations were an Act of Parliament thereby repealed.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 Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1971(**d**) are hereby revoked.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State.
28th March 1973.

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

(**a**) 1967 c. 76.
(**b**) S.I. 1970/1681 (1970 III, p. 5551).
(**c**) 1889 c. 63.
(**d**) S.I. 1971/601 (1971 I, p. 1592).

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 2 below ..	60
2. 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 3 below	50
3. Any motor vehicle having an unladen weight not exceeding 30 hundredweight, when drawing such a trailer as is referred to in paragraph 2 above in circumstances where the speed limit under Schedule 5 to the Act (as varied (a)) 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

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, as varied by the Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1971, specifies speed limits for certain classes of vehicles when being driven on a motorway. These Regulations revoke the Regulations of 1971 and replace them by provisions which further vary the said Schedule 5 by increasing from 40 to 50 mph 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 (Variation of Speed Limits) Regulations 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.

(a) S.I. 1973/747 (1973 I, p. 2384).

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