EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

The Rules prescribe the rates at which Claims Fund charges are to be imposed in respect of licences for the sale of intoxicating liquor by retail to be granted or renewed during the year ending 30th September, 1961.

1960. No. 91 **[C]**

MOTOR VEHICLES

Public Service Vehicles (Construction)

REGULATIONS, DATED 30TH MAY, 1960, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS UNDER PART II OF THE MOTOR VEHICLES (TRAFFIC AND REGULATION) ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1926.

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

PART I—GENERAL

	Regulation
Citation and commencement	1
Savings, Revocations	2
Interpretation	3
Compliance	4

PART II—REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES SEATING MORE THAN SIX PASSENGERS

Stability	5
Suspension	6
Turning circle	7
Clearance	8
Lifeguards	9
Guard rails	10
Side overhang	11
Brakes	12 and 13
Steering	14
Brake and steering connections and transmission shafts	15
Hub projection	16
Fuel tanks, carburettors, shut-off devices	17 and 18
Exhaust pipe	19
Locking of nuts	20
Electrical equipment	21
Body	22
Height of sides of body	23
Steps, platforms and stairs	24 and 25
Number and position of entrances and exits	26
Width of entrances and exits	27
Height of emergency exits	28
Doors	29

	Regulation
Emergency exits	30
Access to exits	31
Width of gangways	32
Height of gangways	33
Seats	34 to 38
Guarding of transverse windows	39
Markings	40 and 41
Ventilation	42
Driver's accommodation	43 to 45
Wind-screens and wind-screen wipers	46
Passengers' communication with driver	47
Wireless apparatus	48
Luggage racks	49
Laden weight	50
Overall length	51
Overall height	52
Overall width	53

PART III—REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES SEATING NOT MORE THAN SIX PASSENGERS

Suspension	54
Wheel-base	55
Road wheels	56
Length	57
Width	58
Brakes	59
Steering arms	60
Steering connections	61
Brake and steering connections	62
Parts subject to severe vibration	63
Vibration and noise	64
Petrol receptacles	65
Undershield	66
Fuel tanks	67
Insulation	68
Heat from motor	69
Exhaust pipe	70
Oil or grease droppings	71
Front seats	72
Steps and rails	73
Floor boards	74
Cushions	75
General condition	76
Luggage	77
Accumulators	78
Electrical equipment	79
Bodywork	80

The Ministry of Home Affairs (hereinafter referred to as "the Ministry") in exercise of the powers vested in it by Part II of the Motor Vehicles (Traffic and Regulation) Act (Northern Ireland), 1926(a), and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

(a) 16 & 17 Geo. 5. c. 31 (N.I.).

PART I—GENERAL

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Public Service Vehicles (Construction) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1960, and shall come into operation on the first day of July, 1960.

Savings, Revocations

2.—(1) Save as provided in paragraph (2) these Regulations shall not apply to any vehicle registered before 1st July, 1961.

(2) The Regulations set out in the Schedule are hereby revoked, except in relation to any vehicle registered before 1st July, 1961.

Provided that if any vehicle so registered conforms with the requirements of these Regulations the Regulations set out in the Schedule shall not apply to that vehicle.

Interpretation

3.—(1) In these Regulations the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them:—

"deck" means a floor or platform upon which seats are provided for the accommodation of passengers;

"double-decked vehicle" means a vehicle having two decks one of which is wholly or partly above the other and each deck of which is provided with a gangway serving seats on that deck only;

"emergency exit" means an exit which is intended to be used only in case of emergency;

"entrance" means any aperture or space by which passengers are intended to board the vehicle;

"exit" means any aperture or space by which passengers are intended to leave the vehicle;

"gangway" means the space provided for obtaining access from any entrance to the passengers' seats or from any such seat to an exit other than an emergency exit but does not include a staircase or any space in front of a seat or a row of seats which is required only for the use of passengers occupying that seat or that row of seats;

"half-decked vehicle" means any vehicle not being a single-decked vehicle or a double-decked vehicle;

"overall length" means the length of a vehicle measured between vertical planes at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle and passing through the extreme projecting points thereof exclusive of:—

(*a*) any starting handle,

(*b*) any hood when down,

(*c*) any telescopic fog lamp when extended,

(*d*) any snow-plough fixed in front of a vehicle, and

(*e*) any direction indicator;

"overall width" means the width of a vehicle measured between vertical planes parallel to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle and passing through the extreme projecting points thereof exclusive of:—

(*a*) any driving mirror,

(*b*) any direction indicator,

(*c*) any snow-plough fixed in front of the vehicle,

(*d*) so much of the distortion of any tyre as is caused by the weight of the vehicle, and

(*e*) so much of a swivelling window designed to allow the driver to give hand signals as projects when opened not more than 4 inches beyond the side of the vehicle;

"permanent top" means any covering of a vehicle other than a hood of canvas or other flexible material which is capable of being readily folded back so that no portion of such hood or any fixed structure of the roof remains vertically above any part of any seat of the vehicle, or in the case of a double-decked vehicle of any seat of the upper deck of the vehicle;

"registered" means—

(*a*) in the case of a vehicle which was registered at any time under the Roads Act, 1920(**a**), the date on which it was first so registered; and

(*b*) in the case of any other vehicle the date on which it was first registered under the Vehicles (Excise) Act (Northern Ireland), 1954(**b**), or the Vehicles (Excise) Act, 1949(**c**);

"safety glass" means glass so constructed or treated that if fractured it does not fly into fragments capable of causing severe cuts;

"single-decked vehicle" means a vehicle upon which no part of a deck or gangway is vertically above another deck or gangway;

"stage carriage" means a vehicle carrying passengers at separate fares, any of which is less than one shilling;

"vehicle" in Part I means any public service vehicle, in Part II means a public service vehicle seating more than six passengers and in Part III means a public service vehicle seating not more than six passengers.

(2) For the purpose of these Regulations any two wheels of a vehicle 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 18 inches.

Compliance

4.—(1) No person shall cause or permit a vehicle to be used unless it conforms to the requirements of these Regulations, in addition to the general requirements relating to the construction of motor vehicles of any other statutory instrument.

Provided that if the owner of a vehicle satisfies the Ministry that it is in all respects fit and satisfactory for public service the Ministry may consent to a departure in the case of that vehicle from any of the requirements of these Regulations.

(2) Every vehicle, including all bodywork, upholstery and fittings, shall be soundly and properly constructed of suitable materials, well finished and in good and serviceable condition and of such design that it is capable of withstanding the loads and stresses likely to be met with in operation.

(3) No vehicle shall be so constructed or adapted as to be incapable of being fitted with a lighting system which complies with the requirements of Part IV of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland), 1934(**d**), or

(**a**) 10 & 11 Geo. 5. c. 72.
(**b**) 1954. c. 17.
(**c**) 12, 13 & 14 Geo. 6. c. 89.
(**d**) 24 & 25 Geo. 5. c. 15 (N.I.).

Part IV of the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland), 1955(a), or of any Regulations for the time being in force under those Acts, and no vehicle shall be fitted with a lighting system which is so constructed or adapted as to be incapable of complying with those requirements.

(4) Every vehicle shall be presented for inspection in a thoroughly good and serviceable condition.

(5) A licence shall not be granted in respect of any vehicle notwithstanding that the vehicle conforms with the requirements of these Regulations if the Ministry is of opinion that the construction, form, manner of working or general appearance of the vehicle renders it unfit for further use or undesirable in the public interest.

PART II—REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES SEATING MORE THAN SIX PASSENGERS

Stability

5.—(1) The following conditions shall be complied with by every vehicle to which the said conditions respectively relate:—

(*a*) The stability of a double-decked vehicle shall be such that the point at which overturning occurs would not be passed if, when the vehicle is complete and fully equipped for service and loaded with weights placed in the correct relative positions to represent the driver and conductor (if carried) and a full complement of passengers on the upper deck only, the surface on which the vehicle stands were tilted to either side to an angle of 28 degrees from the horizontal.

(*b*) The stability of a single-decked vehicle and of a half-decked vehicle shall be such that the point at which overturning occurs would not be passed if, when the vehicle is complete and fully equipped for service under any conditions of load, the surface on which the vehicle stands were tilted to either side to an angle of 35 degrees from the horizontal.

(2) For the purpose of conducting tests of stability the height of any stop used to prevent a wheel of the vehicle from slipping sideways shall not be greater than two-thirds of the distance between the surface upon which the vehicle stands before it is tilted and that part of the rim of that wheel which is then nearest to such surface when the vehicle is loaded in accordance with the requirements of this Regulation.

(3) For the purposes of this Regulation 140 lbs. shall be deemed to represent the weight of one person.

Suspension

6.—(1) Every vehicle shall be fitted with an efficient suspension system so designed and constructed that there is no excessive body sway.

(2) Every vehicle shall be so constructed or adapted that a failure of a spring, torsion bar or other resilient component of the suspension system is not likely to cause the driver to lose directional control of the vehicle.

(3) For the purpose of this Regulation a tyre shall not be regarded as forming part of the suspension system.

Turning circle

7. Every vehicle shall be so constructed as to be capable of turning in either direction in a circle which, traced at ground level by a vertical line passing through any part of the vehicle included in the overall length and

(a) 1955, c. 27.

overall width of the vehicle, does not exceed in diameter 65 feet in the case of a vehicle not exceeding 27 feet in overall length and 71 feet in the case of a vehicle exceeding 27 feet in overall length.

Clearance

8. Save as provided in Regulation 9, no part other than the starting handle or any snow-plough of any fully laden vehicle standing on level ground shall, within the limits hereinafter specified, be nearer the ground than 10 inches. The limits shall extend:—

(*a*) in length rearwards from the foremost part of the vehicle for a distance of 13 feet or, if the foremost non-steerable axle is less than 13 feet from the foremost part of the vehicle, up to but not including that axle;

(*b*) in width for a distance on either side of the centre line of the vehicle of not less than one-third of the distance between the centre lines of the tracks of the front wheels:

Provided that this Regulation shall not apply in the case of a vehicle with a seating capacity for not more than 12 passengers.

Lifeguards

9.—(1) Regulation 8 shall not apply in the case of any vehicle fitted with a lifeguard which complies in all respects with the requirements of paragraph (2) if no part of the vehicle (other than the actuating device) which is in front of the foremost part of the tray is nearer to the ground than 10 inches.

(2) (*a*) The lifeguard shall consist of two main parts—

(i) a tray or similar part; and

(ii) an actuating device which, when it is struck by or strikes an object, causes the tray or similar part to come into operation.

(*b*) When the actuating device is struck by or strikes an object the tray shall be brought into operation in the quickest possible manner and shall be retained in the operative position by positive means.

(*c*) The lower edge of the actuating device shall be as close to the ground as practicable and the device shall be hinged along its upper side so as to be free to move backwards through an angle sufficient to give a clearance of 10 inches at least between any part of the device and the ground.

(*d*) When the actuating device is not in operation the distance measured longitudinally from any part of such device to the foremost part of the tray shall be as great as practicable and not less than 2 feet.

(*e*) The tray shall have a minimum clear length from front to back of 2 feet.

(*f*) The actuating device and the tray shall extend across the vehicle for a width at least equal to that of the front wheel track, and shall not project beyond the outside edge of the tyre of either front wheel when such wheel is parallel with the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

(*g*) The tray shall be so designed and constructed that when in operation—

(i) its front edge shall be in contact with the road surface for a width at least equal to that of the front wheel track;

(ii) it shall ride freely over the road surface; and

(iii) a person can be carried and retained thereon.

(*h*) The lifeguard shall be so constructed, designed and fitted to the vehicle that, when brought into operation as aforesaid, the object after passing under the actuating mechanism shall be prevented from coming into contact with the front wheels of the vehicle.

Guard rails

10. If any two wheels on either side of a vehicle have a clear space of more than 2 feet between the nearest points that space shall be effectively guarded to within 9 inches of the front wheel and 6 inches of the rear wheel and to within 1 foot of the ground when the vehicle is carrying no passengers and is standing on level ground.

Side overhang

11. No part of a vehicle included within the overall width thereof shall project laterally more than 6 inches beyond the outer face of the outer tyre on the rearmost wheel on the same side of the vehicle:

Provided that in the case of a vehicle with a seating capacity for not more than 12 passengers, this Regulation shall have effect as if "7 inches" were substituted for "6 inches".

Brakes

12. All brakes with which a vehicle is required to be fitted shall act directly on the wheels of the vehicle and not through the transmission gear:

Provided that this Regulation shall not apply to a brake operated by a hand lever without the intervention of any hydraulic, electric or pneumatic device if—

(*a*) no universal joint is interposed between any such brake and the wheel or wheels so braked,

(*b*) the failure of any part through or by means of which the force necessary to apply the brake to any wheel is transmitted would not cause such wheel to become detached from the vehicle, and

(*c*) all the wheels of the vehicle are fitted with brakes all of which are operated by one means of operation.

13. The brakes of one of the braking systems shall be applied by pedal.

Steering

14.—(1) The steering mechanism shall be so constructed or arranged that no overlock shall be possible and that the wheels shall not in any circumstances foul any part of the vehicle.

(2) The steering arms shall, except in the case of a vehicle with a seating capacity for not more than 12 passengers, be polished but shall not be painted or plated, and shall be kept free from rust.

(3) Dust-excluding covers fitted to any joint or connection of the steering mechanism shall be capable of being easily removed to facilitate inspection.

(4) The steering arms and other connections thereof shall be of ample strength and, as far as possible, protected from damage by collision.

(5) The ball and socket joints of steering connections shall not be pendant:

Provided that this paragraph shall not apply in the case of a vehicle with a seating capacity for not more than 12 passengers.

Brake and steering connections and transmission shafts

15.—(1) Where brake and steering connections are secured with bolts or pins, the bolts or pins shall be threaded and effectively locked. All connections made with bolts or pins shall be such that when they are in any position other than horizontal the head of the bolts or pin shall be uppermost.

(2) Open or exposed transmission shafts having an unsupported length of more than two feet shall have eyes or bridles surrounding the shaft so fitted as to reduce the risk of damage being caused to other parts of the vehicle in the event of the transmission shaft breaking.

Provided that this paragraph shall not apply to vehicles fitted with a floor, no section of which can be lifted.

Hub projection

16. No portion of any road wheel or any fittings thereof shall project more than 3½ inches beyond the outer face of the tyre.

Fuel tanks, carburettors, shut-off devices

17.—(1) In the case of a single-decked vehicle with a seating capacity for more than 12 passengers or a half-decked vehicle or the lower deck of a double-decked vehicle, no fuel tank shall be placed under any part of any gangway or under any part of any passage leading to an emergency exit, not being such an exit provided in accordance with condition (*b*) of paragraph (1) of Regulation 26, if that part of the gangway or passage is within 2 feet of any entrance or exit.

(2) In the case of a single-decked vehicle with a seating capacity for not more than 12 passengers no fuel tank shall be placed immediately under any entrance or exit and no filling point for such a tank shall be under or immediately adjacent to any entrance or exit.

(3) No part of any fuel tank or apparatus for the supply of fuel shall be placed in the compartments or other spaces provided for the accommodation of the driver or passengers.

18.—(1) All fuel tanks and all apparatus supplying fuel to the engine shall be so placed or shielded that no fuel overflowing or leaking therefrom can fall or accumulate upon any woodwork or upon any part or fitting where it is capable of being readily ignited or can fall into any receptacle where it might accumulate.

(2) The filling points for all fuel tanks shall be accessible only from the outside of the vehicle and filler caps shall be so designed and constructed that they cannot be dislodged by accidental operation. The vent holes (if any) shall be protected from danger of penetration by fire and shall be so designed as to prevent fuel from being splashed over.

(3) A device shall be provided by means of which the supply of fuel to any carburettor or fuel injection pump can be readily cut off and the following requirements shall be complied with in respect thereof:—

(*a*) the means of operation shall at all times be readily accessible from outside the vehicle and, except in the case of a vehicle fitted with a compression ignition engine, shall be visible from the outside of the vehicle; and

(*b*) if the device is visible from the outside of the vehicle the "off" position of the means of operation thereof shall be clearly marked on the outside

of the vehicle, and if it is not so visible, its position shall be clearly marked on the outside of the vehicle and the means of operation shall be indicated.

Exhaust pipe

19. The exhaust pipe shall be so fitted or shielded that no inflammable material can fall or be thrown upon it from any other part of the vehicle and that it is not likely to cause a fire through proximity to any inflammable material on the vehicle; the outlet thereof shall be placed on the offside and far enough to the rear to prevent, so far as practicable, fumes from entering the vehicle.

Locking of nuts

20. All moving parts and all parts subject to severe vibration connected by bolts or studs and nuts shall be fastened by lock nuts or by nuts and efficient spring or lock nut washers, or by castellated nuts and split pins or by some other efficient device, so as to prevent their working or coming loose.

Electrical equipment

21. Every vehicle shall comply with the following conditions:—

(1) Adequate artificial lighting shall be provided for the illumination of every deck with a permanent top. At least one lamp shall be provided as near as is practicable to the top of every staircase leading to an upper deck without a permanent top.

(2) Adequate artificial lighting shall be provided for any step or platform forming part of any entrance or exit other than an emergency exit.

(3) All electrical leads and cables shall be adequately insulated and where liable to be affected by exposure to water, petrol or oil shall be adequately protected.

(4) The voltage in any distributive electrical circuit, other than a high tension ignition circuit, shall not exceed 120 volts. Apparatus and associated connections having a voltage exceeding 120 volts shall be completely enclosed within a container of non-conducting material or a metal container which is in permanent and substantial electrical connection with a metal part of the vehicle structure.

(5) In every electrical circuit, other than a high tension ignition circuit, in which the voltage exceeds 50 volts:—

(*a*) all connections external to electrical apparatus shall be fully insulated;

(*b*) a manually-operated isolating switch shall be connected in each pole of the main circuit and shall be located in a position readily accessible to the driver or conductor;

(*c*) all metal forming part of an electrical system (other than metal carrying a current) shall be completely shielded by non-conducting material or shall be in permanent and substantial electrical connection with a metal part of the vehicle structure. Lamp holders shall be so constructed of or so shrouded in insulating material as to prevent a person from coming into contact with any metal part thereof or of the lamp cap when removing lamps or placing lamps in position.

Body

22. The body shall be securely affixed to the chassis. Every trap door in the floor of a vehicle shall be so fitted or fastened that it cannot become dislodged by vibration. No lifting device fitted to a trap door shall project above the level of the floor.

Height of sides of body

23.—(1) In the case of a vehicle without a permanent top the top of the side rails or panels shall be at least 3 feet above the deck and 1 foot 6 inches above the highest part of any passenger seat and the top of the front and back rails or panels shall be at least 4 feet above any part of the deck.

(2) For the purposes of this Regulation a back rest shall not be deemed to be part of a seat, and the expression "deck" means the upper deck in the case of a vehicle with more than one deck.

Steps, platforms and stairs

24. A rear platform or the top of the tread of the lowest step for any entrance or exit to a vehicle, other than an emergency exit, shall not be more than 1 foot 5 inches or less than 10 inches above the ground when the vehicle is empty. All steps and the outer edge of a rear platform shall be fitted with non-slip treads. Fixed steps shall be not less than 9 inches wide and shall in no case project laterally beyond the body of the vehicle unless they are so protected by the front wings (or otherwise) that they are not liable to injure pedestrians. For the purposes of this Regulation "rear platform" means a platform from which passengers can step directly to the ground through an exit without any step intervening.

25. The following conditions shall be complied with in the case of a double-decked vehicle:—

(1) The risers of all steps leading from the lower to the upper deck shall be closed. No unguarded aperture shall be left at the top landing board.

(2) All steps leading from the lower to the upper deck shall be fitted with non-slip treads.

(3) The horizontal distance from the nearest point of the riser of the top step to the vertical line passing through the nearest point of the seat opposite to the top tread of the staircase, excluding any grab rail which does not project more than 4 inches from the back of the seat, shall not be less than 2 feet 2 inches.

(4) The outer stringer of an outside staircase shall be so constructed, or a band shall be so placed, as to act as a screen to persons ascending or descending, and the height of the outer guard rail shall not be less than 4 feet above the front of the tread of each step.

Number and position of entrances and exits

26.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Regulation the following conditions shall be complied with by every vehicle to which the said conditions respectively relate:—

(*a*) A half-decked vehicle, a single-decked vehicle with a permanent top and the lower deck of a double-decked vehicle shall be provided with not less than two exits (one of which may be an emergency exit) which shall not both be situated on the same side of the vehicle.

(*b*) Where, in the case of a single-decked vehicle and the lower deck of a double-decked vehicle, the seating capacity, in either case, exceeds 30 passengers, and the exits provided in accordance with condition (*a*) of this paragraph are so placed that the distance between lines drawn at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle and passing through the centres of such exits at gangway level is less than 10 feet, an additional exit shall be provided at a distance of not less than 10 feet from one of the two exits measured between lines drawn as aforesaid and passing through the nearest points of the openings thereof.

(*c*) A half-decked vehicle shall be provided with an emergency exit in the roof of the vehicle in addition to the two exits provided in accordance with condition (*a*) of this paragraph.

The emergency exit provided in accordance with this condition shall be so placed that the transverse centre line thereof shall be within 2 feet of the mid-point between the front edges of the foremost and the rearmost passenger seats of the vehicle.

(*d*) Where access is obtained to the upper deck of a double-decked vehicle by means of an enclosed staircase and that deck is provided with a permanent top an emergency exit, which need not be provided with a staircase and shall not be on the nearside of the vehicle, shall be provided on the upper deck.

(*e*) Every entrance of every vehicle shall be on the nearside.

(*f*) In the case of every vehicle a grab handle shall be fitted to each entrance or exit other than an emergency exit to assist passengers in boarding or alighting from the vehicle.

(2) It will be a sufficient compliance with conditions (*a*) and (*e*) of paragraph (1) if—

(*a*) in the case of a double-decked vehicle provided with a rear platform (as defined in Regulation 24), that platform communicates with the lower deck by means of a doorless opening and has a doorless opening on the nearside of the vehicle continuous with one at the rear serving together as a means of both entrance and exit to the vehicle; and

(*b*) in the case of a vehicle with a seating capacity for not more than 14 passengers, one means of exit and entrance is provided which is behind the rear wheels but not on the offside.

Width of entrances and exits

27. Every entrance and exit shall be at least 1 foot 9 inches in width:

Provided that—

(1) where in accordance with the provisions of sub-paragraph (*a*) of paragraph (2) of Regulation 26 one exit only is provided, the width of such exit measured along the rear of the vehicle may be less than 1 foot 9 inches but not less than 1 foot 6 inches if the width of the exit to the side of the vehicle is not less than 1 foot 9 inches;

(2) the size of an emergency exit in the roof of a half-decked vehicle and the size of an emergency exit from the upper deck of a double-decked vehicle shall not be less than 5 feet by 1 foot 6 inches and the size of an additional emergency exit from a single-decked vehicle and the lower deck of a double-decked vehicle provided in accordance with condition (*b*) of paragraph (1) of Regulation 26 shall be not less than 3 feet by 1 foot 9 inches;

(3) where the same entrance is used for both the upper and the lower deck of a double-decked vehicle no part of the entrance measured along the nearside of the vehicle shall be less than 3 feet in width. For the purpose of this proviso any stanchion may be disregarded.

Height of emergency exits

28. The clear height at the centre line of any emergency exit (other than an emergency exit complying with the dimensions specified in paragraph (2) of Regulation 27) shall not be less, in the case of a vehicle with a seating capacity for not more than 14 passengers, than 4 feet or, in any other case, than 4 feet 6 inches.

Doors

29.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Regulation, the following conditions shall be complied with by every vehicle:—

(*a*) Every entrance and exit door shall be capable of being readily opened from inside and outside the vehicle by one operation of the locking mechanism.

(*b*) The device provided outside the vehicle for operating the locking mechanism of a door (not being an emergency exit on the upper deck of a double-decked vehicle or in the roof of a half-decked vehicle) shall be easily accessible to persons of normal height standing at ground level outside the vehicle.

(*c*) Means shall be provided for holding every entrance and exit door securely in the closed position.

(*d*) All locks and fastenings fitted to entrance and exit doors shall be so designed and fitted that they cannot become dislodged or operated accidentally.

(*e*) Where any entrances are provided with doors which are intended to remain open when the vehicle is in motion suitable fastenings shall be provided to hold such doors securely in the open position.

(*f*) Every sliding door and every folding door fitted to an entrance or exit shall be provided with suitable fastenings to prevent it from being closed by the movement of the vehicle.

(*g*) All doors shall open so as not to obstruct clear access to any entrance or exit either from inside or outside the vehicle.

(*h*) In the case of any door which is operated by power a means by which the door may be opened shall be provided inside the vehicle on or adjacent to the door, and its position shall be clearly marked. The storage and transmission systems of such power shall be such that operation of the doors does not adversely affect the efficient operation of the braking system of the vehicle. The apparatus shall be so designed and constructed that in the event of the system becoming inoperative the door shall be capable of being operated manually from both inside and outside the vehicle.

(2) A vehicle shall not be deemed to fail to comply with condition (*a*) of paragraph (1) by reason only of the fact that, for the purpose of securing the vehicle when unattended, any entrance or exit door has been fitted with a supplementary lock with or without an actuating mechanism if such lock is so designed and constructed that the door can at all times be opened by a person inside the vehicle by one operation of the ordinary locking mechanism.

Emergency exits

30. Subject to the provisions of this Regulation, the following conditions shall be complied with as respects every vehicle:—

(1) The means of operation of all emergency exits shall be clearly indicated.

(2) All emergency exits shall—

(*a*) be clearly marked as such inside and outside the vehicle;

(*b*) be fitted with doors which open outwards and which are fitted on the inside with a check chain to restrict the opening of the door fully until such chain has been released by the operation of a snap hook or similar suitable device;

(*c*) except in the case of an emergency exit provided in the roof of a half-decked vehicle in accordance with Regulation 26 be easily accessible to the passengers;

(*d*) in the case of a single-decked or half-decked vehicle or the lower deck of a double-decked vehicle be so situated that passengers can step directly from the passage referred to in condition (3) of this paragraph to the outside of the vehicle:

Provided that this requirement shall not apply in respect of an emergency exit in the roof of the vehicle or an additional exit provided in accordance with condition (*b*) of paragraph (1) of Regulation 26.

(3) Between every exit, other than an emergency exit provided in the roof of a half-decked vehicle in accordance with Regulation 26, and a gangway there shall be a passage which—

(*a*) is not of smaller dimensions than those prescribed for a gangway in condition (*a*) of paragraph (1) of Regulation 32;

(*b*) is so designed that a vertical line projected upwards from the centre line of the passage at floor level shall, to a height of 2 feet 6 inches from the level of the deck, be laterally not less than 6 inches from any part of the vehicle (other than any cowling or cover which projects not more than 9 inches from the bulkhead into the passage at floor level and not more than 9 inches above the deck level and the provision of which is required by the projection of part of the chassis or mechanism of the vehicle into the body);

(*c*) shall have a clear height at every point along the centre line of the passage of 5 feet from the deck level:

Provided that—

(i) for the purposes of sub-paragraphs (*a*) and (*b*) of this condition a seat placed below or in front of an emergency exit on the upper deck of a double-decked vehicle or an additional exit provided in accordance with condition (*b*) of sub-paragraph (1) of Regulation 26 may be deemed to form part of such a passage; and

(ii) sub-paragraph (*c*) of this condition shall not apply in the case of a passage leading to an emergency exit on the upper deck of a double-decked vehicle or an additional exit provided in accordance with condition (*b*) of paragraph (1) of Regulation 26 and shall not apply in the case of a passage on a single-decked vehicle fitted with a permanent top if the vehicle either has a seating capacity for not

more than 14 passengers or is constructed and used solely for the purpose of conveying school-children and any necessary attendants to or from school.

(4) No emergency exit shall be fitted with any system of power operation for opening the doors thereof.

(5) The means of operation of all emergency exits other than those fitted to an upper deck of a double-decked vehicle or the roof of a half-decked vehicle shall be easily accessible to persons of normal height standing on ground level outside the vehicle.

Access to exits

31. The following conditions shall be complied with by every vehicle to which the said conditions respectively relate:—

(1) In every vehicle there shall be unobstructed accessibility from every seat to at least two exits or to one exit where one exit only is required by these Regulations:

Provided that this condition shall not apply in the case of—

(*a*) any seats beside the driver's seat, if there is access to such seats by an entrance other than the driver's entrance;

(*b*) seats on any deck of a vehicle if that deck is not provided with a permanent top and if there is unobstructed accessibility from every seat on that deck to some exit.

(2) No seat shall be fitted to any door of any vehicle.

(3) In the case of a half-decked vehicle there shall be no obstruction between the floor in front of any passenger seat and the roof of the vehicle.

Width of gangways

32.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Regulation, every vehicle shall comply with the following conditions:—

(*a*) The width of every gangway shall be not less than—

(i) 1 foot up to a height of 2 feet 6 inches above the level of the deck;

(ii) 1 foot 2 inches at heights exceeding 2 feet 6 inches but not exceeding 4 feet above the level of the deck; and

(iii) 1 foot 6 inches at heights exceeding 4 feet above the level of the deck.

(*b*) A vertical line projected upwards from the centre line of any gangway at deck level shall, to the height prescribed in Regulation 33 as the height of that gangway, be laterally not less than 6 inches from any part of the vehicle other than the roof over the gangway.

(*c*) No part of any gangway which serves as a joint means of access from any entrance to both the upper and the lower deck of a double-decked vehicle shall be less than 3 feet in width.

(*d*) No part of any gangway which is within 3 feet of an exit (other than an emergency exit) to which it leads shall be less than 1 foot 9 inches in width.

(2) For the purposes of this Regulation when any space in front of a seat is required for the accommodation of seated passengers the space within 9 inches of the seat shall not be taken into account in measuring the width of a gangway.

(3) In the case of a vehicle with a seating capacity for not more than 12 passengers condition (*d*) of paragraph (1) and paragraph (2) shall not apply.

(4) For the purposes of this and the next succeeding Regulation, in the case of a vehicle where two passenger seats are placed lengthwise and face each other and the space between those seats is not required for the purpose of obtaining access from an entrance to any other seat or from any other seat to an exit not being an emergency exit, that space shall not be treated as forming part of the gangway.

In this paragraph the expression "passenger seat" means a seat for one passenger only, or the measured portion of a continuous seat allowed for one passenger only in accordance with Regulation 34.

Height of gangways

33.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Regulation every vehicle shall comply with the following conditions:—

(*a*) The clear height at every point along the centre line of any gangway between the limits specified in paragraph (2) shall be as follows:—

(i) in the case of a single-decked vehicle (other than a vehicle referred to in sub-paragraph (iii) of this condition), fitted with a permanent top, and a half-decked vehicle and the lower deck of a double-decked vehicle, not less than 5 feet 10 inches if the seating capacity of the vehicle exceeds 14 passengers and not less than 5 feet 3 inches in any other case;

(ii) in the case of the top deck of a double-decked vehicle fitted with a permanent top not less than 5 feet 8 inches; and

(iii) in the case of a single-decked vehicle the seating capacity of which exceeds 14 passengers and which is constructed and used solely for the purpose of conveying school-children and any necessary attendants to and from school not less than 5 feet 6 inches.

(*b*) Except as regards any part of any gangway on the right or offside of the vehicle which is required only to provide access to the foremost passenger seat, the clear height at every point along the centre line of any gangway shall, outside the limits specified in paragraph (2), be not less than the clear height prescribed in condition (*a*) of this paragraph reduced by 4 inches.

(*c*) In the case of a single-decked vehicle without a permanent top, when the hood is extended or raised its height from the level of the deck shall in no place be less than 5 feet along the centre line of the vehicle except over the driver's seat.

(*d*) In the case of the top deck of a double-decked vehicle, no part of any gangway shall project into the compartment or other space provided for the accommodation of the driver.

(2) The clear height prescribed in condition (*a*) of paragraph (1) shall extend from the front edge of the foremost passenger seat adjacent to the gangway to the front edge of the rearmost passenger seat adjacent to that gangway:

Provided that where the gangway is on the right or offside of the vehicle it shall be a sufficient compliance with the requirements of sub-paragraph (ii) of condition (*a*) of paragraph (1) if the clear height of 5 feet 8 inches extends from a point 1 foot 6 inches behind the front edge of the foremost passenger

seat adjacent to that gangway to the front edge of the rearmost passenger seat adjacent to that gangway.

(3) In the case of a vehicle with a seating capacity for not more than 12 passengers, the foregoing provisions of this Regulation shall not apply, but, in the case of such a vehicle, the clear height along the centre line of any gangway shall be not less than 4 feet 8 inches except for a distance of 12 inches measured along the centre line of the gangway from each entrance or exit along which distance the clear height shall not be less than 4 feet.

Seats

34.—(1) The supports of all seats shall be securely fixed in position.

(2) At least 1 foot 4 inches measured in a straight line lengthwise along the front of each seat shall be allowed for each passenger:

Provided that in the case of a continuous seat fitted with arms for the purpose of separating the seating spaces the seat shall be measured for the purposes of this paragraph as though it was not fitted with arms if the arms are so constructed that they can be folded back or otherwise put out of use.

35.—(1) Every vehicle shall comply with the following conditions:—

(*a*) Every seat shall have a back rest so closed or otherwise constructed as to prevent as far as possible the pockets of passengers from being picked.

(*b*) Passenger seats shall be so fitted that—

(i) the distance between any part of the back rest of any seat placed lengthwise and the corresponding part of the back rest of the seat facing it shall not be less, in the case of a vehicle with a seating capacity for not more than 12 passengers, than 4 feet 6 inches or, in any other case, than 5 feet 3 inches; and

(ii) there is a clear space of at least 2 feet in front of the back rest of any seat measured at the centre of each complete length of at least 1 foot 4 inches provided for each passenger in accordance with Regulation 34, and 8 inches in front of any part of such seat:

Provided that in the case of a seat for more than three passengers fitted to a stage carriage access to which can be obtained only from one end of the seat, the said clear spaces shall be at least 2 feet 3 inches and 1 foot respectively.

(*c*) There shall be a clear space of at least 1 foot 7 inches between any part of the front edge of any transverse seat and any part of any other seat which faces it.

For the purpose of this condition, any support for a table may be disregarded if there is a clear space of at least 9 inches between such support and the front edge of the nearest seat and the support is not in such a position as to cause discomfort to passengers occupying the seats.

(2) For the purpose of this Regulation the expression "back rest" includes any part of the vehicle which is available for seated passengers to lean against.

36. No seat shall be placed in such a position as to cause discomfort to passengers. There shall be a clear space measured vertically at the centre of each complete length of 1 foot 4 inches allowed for each passenger in accordance with Regulation 34; such clear space shall not be less, in the case of a vehicle with a seating capacity for not more than 12 passengers, than 3 feet, or, in any other case, than 3 feet 2 inches.

37. Where any seat is so placed that a passenger seated upon it is liable to be thrown through any exit or entrance or down a stairway an effective screen or guard shall be placed so as to provide protection for any passenger occupying that seat.

38. The shortest distance between the edge of any step well and a vertical plane passing through the front edge of a seat shall not be less than 9 inches.

Guarding of transverse windows

39. Transverse glass windows or panels which are liable to be broken by passengers being thrown against them shall be adequately guarded unless they are made of safety glass.

Markings

40. Every vehicle shall be marked in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 35 of the Public Service Vehicles Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1951(a) (which provides for marks to be carried on public service vehicles showing the number of persons the vehicles are licensed to carry and the name and address of the licensee).

41. All markings required by these Regulations (other than Regulation 40) shall be clearly visible and shall be in letters not less than 1 inch in height in colours which contrast with their background.

Ventilation

42. There shall be adequate ventilation for both passengers and driver without the necessity for opening any main window or wind-screen.

Driver's accommodation

43. Every vehicle shall comply with the following conditions:—

(1) Every vehicle shall be so designed that the driver has adequate room and can easily reach and quickly operate the controls.

(2) The steering pillar shall be on the right or offside of the vehicle and the driver's seat shall be so placed as to permit him to give by hand the usual traffic signals on the offside of the vehicle.

(3) The controls shall be so placed as to allow reasonable access to the driver's seat.

(4) The accommodation for the driver shall be so arranged as to afford adequate protection during bad weather.

(5) Means shall be provided where necessary to prevent light from the interior of the vehicle from incommoding the driver. The means so provided in respect of any window on the offside of the centre line of the vehicle shall be capable of being operated by the driver when occupying his seat.

(6) Except in the case of a vehicle with a seating capacity for not more than 12 passengers, the driver's seat shall be capable of being adjusted in the vertical direction and in the horizontal direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle and of being firmly secured in any desired position within the limits of such adjustments. The range of adjustments shall permit the seat to be fixed in a position such that the horizontal distance between the

(a) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1951, No. 54.

nearest part of the steering wheel and the back-rest of the seat is 1 foot 2 inches and the vertical distance between the lowest part of the steering wheel and a horizontal plane level with the top of the seat cushion is 8 inches and also permit the seat to be adjusted at least 2 inches in each direction forwards, backwards, upwards and downwards from that position.

44.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Regulation, every vehicle shall comply with the following conditions:—

(*a*) Direct and reasonable access shall be provided to the driver's seat either from the offside of the vehicle or by means of a passage which shall be not less than 1 foot in width up to a height of 2 feet 6 inches above the floor and not less than 1 foot 2 inches above that height and shall comply with the requirement prescribed for the gangway of the vehicle by condition (*b*) of paragraph (1) of Regulation 32.

(*b*) Where the access to the driver's seat is from the offside of the vehicle—

(i) an opening in the side of the vehicle shall be provided which shall have a clear width of not less than 1 foot 6 inches, except where this dimension cannot be provided only by reason of the presence of a portion of the wheel arch in the opening;

(ii) a grab handle shall be fitted to assist the driver in boarding and alighting from the vehicle; and

(iii) a step shall be provided on the vehicle at a convenient position and height adjacent to the opening if the lowest point of the sill of such opening is more than 2 feet 3 inches from ground level when the vehicle is unladen.

(*c*) Where there is a separate and enclosed compartment for the driver and access to the driver's seat is from the offside of the vehicle an emergency escape window which shall be easily accessible to the driver and shall have a clear opening of not less than 1 foot 9 inches by 1 foot 6 inches shall be provided which shall not be on the offside of the compartment.

(2) In the case of a vehicle with a seating capacity for not more than 12 passengers, condition (*a*) and sub-paragraph (ii) of condition (*b*) shall not apply but direct and reasonable access shall be provided to the driver's seat.

45.—(1) There shall not be any seat on the right-hand side of the driver's seat.

(2) Where the driver's seat is continuous with a seat for passengers on the left-hand side of the driver, a space of at least 1 foot 6 inches from the centre of the steering column to the left thereof shall be reserved for the driver and shall be divided off from such passengers by means of a solid partition at least 9 inches high from seat level and extending for the whole depth of the seat.

Wind-screens and wind-screen wipers

46. Where a vehicle is fitted with a front wind-screen for the driver, at least one efficient automatic wind-screen wiper shall be fitted and the wind-screen shall, except where an adequate demisting and defrosting device is fitted, be capable of being opened, if necessary, so as to give the driver a clear view of the road ahead.

Passengers' communication with driver

47. Except in the case of a vehicle with a seating capacity for not more than 12 passengers, efficient means shall be provided to enable passengers on any deck to signal to the driver.

Wireless apparatus

48. No wireless receiving apparatus or speech transmitting apparatus shall be fitted in any vehicle in such a position that the controls (other than volume controls and controls designed and constructed to operate only in positively located steps or positions) can be operated by the driver when occupying his seat.

Luggage racks

49. Luggage racks, when fitted, shall be so designed and constructed that there is no likelihood that any article thereon which may become dislodged whilst the vehicle is in motion would fall on the driver or interfere with his control of the vehicle.

Laden weight

50.—(1) The total weight transmitted to the road surface by any two wheels of a vehicle in line transversely shall not exceed 9 tons, and the sum of the weights so transmitted by all the wheels shall not exceed 14 tons.

(2) For the purpose of this Regulation the weight transmitted to the road surface by a vehicle shall be taken to be the weight so transmitted by the vehicle when it is complete and fully equipped for service with a full supply of water, oil and fuel and loaded with weights of 140 lbs. per person placed in the correct relative positions for each passenger for whom a seat is provided and for the driver and conductor (if carried), and, in the case of a vehicle in which by or under any enactment more than eight standing passengers may be carried, with additional weights of 140 lbs. per person for each standing passenger in excess of eight reasonably distributed in the space in which any such passengers may be so carried.

Overall length

51. The overall length of a vehicle shall not exceed 30 feet.

Overall height

52. The overall height of a vehicle shall not exceed 15 feet.

Overall width

53. The overall width of a vehicle shall not exceed 8 feet.

PART III—REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES SEATING NOT MORE THAN SIX PASSENGERS

Suspension

54.—(1) Every vehicle shall be fitted with an efficient suspension system so designed and constructed that there is no excessive body sway.

(2) Springs shall be properly hung and of sufficient strength and flexibility to meet all purposes which may be required of them. The front springs shall be as far apart as possible.

Wheel-base

55. The wheel-base shall in all cases be so proportioned that skidding or improper movements shall be as far as possible avoided.

Road wheels

56. The road wheels shall be of sufficient and suitable strength and diameter and not of undue weight.

Length

57. The total length of the vehicle shall not exceed 15 feet 6 inches in the case of a vehicle which is used to stand or ply for hire on any street, road or public place in the City of Belfast.

Width

58. The width of a vehicle shall not be greater than 6 feet 3 inches in any part.

Brakes

59. Brakes shall be of sufficient strength and capable of stopping and holding the vehicle under all conditions. The brakes shall be so affixed as to be capable of easy adjustment.

Steering arms

60. The steering arms and other connections thereof shall be of ample strength and, as far as possible, protected from damage by collision.

Steering connections—

61. All steering connections shall be properly fitted and secured and dust-excluding covers, which would prevent ready inspection shall not be fitted to any joint or connection of the steering mechanism.

Brake and steering connections

62. Where brake and steering connections are secured with bolts or pins, the bolts or pins shall be threaded and effectively locked, except that, in the case of brake connections, unthreaded and headed pins may be used if properly split-pinned. All connections made with bolts or pins shall be such that, when they are in any position other than horizontal, the head of the bolt or pin shall be uppermost. The whole of the brake and steering parts shall be maintained in perfect order.

Parts subject to severe vibration

63. All parts connected by bolts, or studs and nuts subject to severe vibration, shall be fastened by lock nuts or self lock nuts or by nuts and approved spring or lock nut washers to prevent their working loose.

Vibration and noise

64. The machinery, body and fittings shall be so constructed that no undue noise or vibration arises from their use.

Petrol receptacles

65. Carburettors or other petrol receptacles, unless they are suitably encased or screened, shall not be placed in close proximity to magnetos, connections of wires carrying electric current, or to the engine exhaust pipe.

Undershield

66. Where a guard, tray or undershield is fixed beneath the engine and adjacent machinery it shall be so constructed that any overflow of petrol or other fuel shall not be retained in it.

Fuel tanks

67. Tanks for petrol or other liquid fuel shall be made of suitable materials, properly constructed and of sufficient strength. They shall be so placed that any overflow shall not fall upon any woodwork or accumulate where it can be readily ignited.

Insulation

68. All wires carrying electric current shall be properly insulated and protected from injury, and so placed that they cannot be the cause of danger.

Heat from motor

69. Effective means shall be adopted for preventing the heat of the motor, generator or exhaust pipe connections from injuriously affecting any parts of the vehicle or the comfort of the passengers.

Exhaust pipe

70. The exhaust pipe shall not be led inside the tray or undershield or be fixed so that oil or other vaporizable or inflammable material is likely to be dropped upon it.

Oil or grease droppings

71. The machinery shall be so constructed or placed that oil from any part cannot drop on the roadway.

Front seats

72. Not more than one passenger shall be carried in any front seat of the vehicle alongside the driver.

Steps and rails

73. Suitable steps and hand rails shall be provided where necessary.

Floor boards

74. The floor boards of the inside shall be so arranged that they cannot be a cause of danger to a passenger.

Cushions

75. All vehicles which are used to stand or ply on any street, road or public place in the City of Belfast shall be properly upholstered with leather or good quality artificial leather and shall not be fitted with cloth seat covers. All other vehicles shall be properly upholstered with suitable material but rubber-cloth will not be considered a suitable material.

General condition

76. Doors, windows, seats, roof, springs, wheels, cushions, linings, panels, etc., and all furniture appointments, etc., shall be in proper order and repair, the paint and varnish or cellulose in good condition and the inside of the vehicle perfectly clean.

Luggage

77. Provision shall be made for conveyance of a reasonable quantity of luggage and efficient means provided of securing it. If the roof is to be used to carry luggage an approved fixed roof guard rail shall be provided.

Accommodation for luggage shall be provided on the roof of every vehicle which is used to stand or ply for hire in the City of Belfast, unless the vehicle is fitted with a suitable luggage platform on the left of the driver's seat with a doorless opening thereto.

Accumulators

78. Accumulators or other electrical appliances used for illumination shall be so placed as not to be a source of danger and shall be of an approved type and capacity.

Electrical equipment

79. All electrical leads and cables shall be adequately insulated, and where liable to be affected by exposure to water, petrol or oil, shall be adequately protected.

Bodywork

80. Every vehicle used to stand or ply for hire on any street, road or public place in the City of Belfast shall be fitted with an enclosed body, containing a solid partition dividing the driver's seat from the passengers' compartment, the partition to extend from the floor to the roof of the vehicle and be fitted with a sliding window capable of being opened by the passengers.

The height of every such vehicle inside the passengers' compartment shall not be less than 4 feet from the floor to the roof and the distance from the partition to the front of the cushion of the back seat shall not be less than 2 feet 6 inches.

The distance from the front of the back seat cushion to the back squab shall not be less than 18 inches.

Every such vehicle shall be provided with separate entrances to the driver's and passengers' compartment.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland this 30th day of May, nineteen hundred and sixty, in the presence of

(L.S.) *J. B. O'Neill,*
Assistant Secretary.

SCHEDULE

The Public Service Vehicles (Construction) Regulations, 1932(**a**).
The Public Service Vehicles (Construction) (Amendment) Regulations, 1947(**b**).
The Public Service Vehicles (Construction) (Amendment) Regulations, 1949(**c**).
The Public Service Vehicles (Construction) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1950(**d**).
The Public Service Vehicles (Construction) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1951(**e**).
The Public Service Vehicles (Construction) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1958(**f**).

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These Regulations consolidate the previous requirements relating to the construction and use of public service vehicles with various amendments to bring them closer into line with those in force in Great Britain. The principal

(**a**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1932, No. 68.
(**b**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1947, No. 189.
(**c**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1949, No. 131.
(**d**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1950, No. 198.
(**e**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1951, No. 204.
(**f**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1958, No. 177.