

CHAPTER 51

An Act to consolidate certain enactments relating to the lighting of vehicles on roads. [31st July, 1957]

BE it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Lights and reflectors to be carried by vehicles at night.

1.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act and of any regulations made thereunder by the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation (in this Act referred to as " the Minister "), every vehicle on any road shall during the hours of darkness carry—

(*a*) two lamps, each showing to the front a white light visible from a reasonable distance ; and

(*b*) two lamps, each showing to the rear a red light visible from a reasonable distance,

and, while a vehicle is on any road during the hours of darkness, every lamp carried by the vehicle in accordance with this subsection shall be kept properly trimmed, lighted, and in a clean and efficient condition, and shall be attached to the vehicle in such position and manner as the Minister may by regulations prescribe.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, every vehicle on any road shall during the hours of darkness carry attached to it two unobscured and efficient red reflectors each facing to the rear.

(3) It shall be the duty of any person who causes or permits a vehicle to be on any road during the hours of darkness to provide the vehicle with lamps in accordance with the requirements of this Act and of any regulations made thereunder, and with

reflectors in accordance with the provisions of the foregoing subsection and any regulations made for the purposes thereof under this Act.

Restriction on the nature of lamps to be carried.

2.—(1) No vehicle shall, subject to the provisions of section eleven of this Act, show—

(*a*) a red light to the front, or

(*b*) any light to the rear, other than a red light or a white light for the purpose of reversing.

(2) Paragraph (*b*) of the foregoing subsection shall not prevent a vehicle from carrying a lamp showing a light to the rear for the purposes of—

(*a*) the internal illumination of the vehicle,

(*b*) illuminating a number plate, taxi meter, or any device for giving signals to overtaking traffic, or

(*c*) in the case of a public passenger vehicle, illuminating boards, plates or devices indicating the route or destination of the vehicle.

Restriction on movement of lamps.

3. Unless otherwise provided by the Minister by regulation, no light shown by a vehicle, other than a dipping headlight, shall be moved by swivelling, deflecting or otherwise while the vehicle is in motion.

Multi-purpose lamps and combined lamps and reflectors.

4.—(1) Nothing in this Act shall, subject to the provisions of section eleven thereof, require a vehicle to carry separate lamps for different purposes, if it carries a lamp satisfying all the requirements which would be applicable to separate lamps carried by it for those purposes.

(2) Where a vehicle's tail lamp is so constructed that, when not showing a light, it is an efficient red reflector facing to the rear and complying with any regulations made for the purposes of subsection (2) of section one of this Act and for the purposes of this subsection which apply to the vehicle, it shall be treated for those purposes as being such a reflector when it is, as well as when it is not, showing a light.

Regulations as to position and use of lamps and reflectors.

5.—(1) The Minister may by regulations prescribe the conditions subject to which—

(*a*) any lamp carried by a vehicle and showing a light to the front, and

(*b*) any lamp carried by a vehicle and showing a white light to the rear for the purpose of reversing,

may be used, and those conditions may include conditions as to all or any of the following matters, that is to say—

(i) the angles at which beams of light may be projected,

(ii) the height, width and range of illumination of those beams of light,

(iii) the extent and method of obscuration to be applied, and

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ERRATUM

Section 5(3). The last three lines should read:—

"to separate lamps shall not include the requirements of any regulations as to the position of a separate lamp carried for the purposes of the said paragraph (a) or (b)."

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