STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1967 No. 1933

ROAD TRAFFIC

The Road Vehicles (Headlamps) Regulations 1967

Made - - - -	21*st December* 1967
Laid before Parliament	4*th January* 1968
Coming into Operation	1*st April* 1968

The Minister of Transport in exercise of her powers under section 5(1) of the Road Transport Lighting Act 1957(**a**), sections 15 and 16(3) of the Road Traffic Act 1962(**b**) and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with representative organisations in accordance with the provisions of section 13 of the Road Transport Lighting Act 1957, as amended by section 264 of, and Schedule 17 to, the Road Traffic Act 1960(**c**) and as applied by section 15(5) of the said Act of 1962, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

Commencement and Citation

1. These Regulations shall come into operation on the 1st April 1968 and may be cited as the Road Vehicles (Headlamps) Regulations 1967.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations, except where the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby assigned to them respectively, that is to say—

"the 1964 Regulations" means the Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1964(**d**), as amended(**e**);

"dipped beam" means a beam of light emitted by a headlamp, being a beam which is deflected downwards or both downwards and to the left to such an extent that it is at all times incapable of dazzling any person who is on the same horizontal plane as the vehicle at a greater distance than 25 feet from the lamp whose eye-level is not less than 3 feet 6 inches above that plane;

"fog lamp" means a lamp on a vehicle which, when lit, illuminates the road in front of the vehicle, and which is used only in conditions of fog or whilst snow is falling;

"headlamp" means a lamp on a vehicle which, when lit, illuminates the road in front of the vehicle, and which is not an obligatory side lamp or a fog lamp;

"main beam" means a beam of light emitted by a headlamp, being a beam which is not a dipped beam;

"motor vehicle" has the same meaning as in section 253 of the Road Traffic Act 1960;

"obligatory headlamp" means any headlamp required to be carried by a vehicle by Regulation 4(1) of these Regulations;

(**a**) 5 & 6 Eliz. 2. c. 51. (**b**) 10 & 11 Eliz. 2. c. 59. (**c**) 8 & 9 Eliz. 2. c. 16.
(**d**) S.I. 1964/205 (1964 I, p. 345). (**e**) There is no relevant amending Instrument.

"obligatory side lamp" has the meaning assigned to the expression "obligatory front lamp" in Regulation 3(1) of the 1964 Regulations;

"public service vehicle" shall be construed in accordance with sections 117 and 118 of the Road Traffic Act 1960;

"sealed beam lamp" means a lamp unit comprising a reflector system, a lens system and one or more electrical filaments, which has been sealed in the course of manufacture and which cannot be dismantled without rendering the unit unusable as a lamp;

"supplementary main beam" means a main beam which is emitted by a headlamp which can also emit a dipped beam and can be used only in conjunction with a main beam from another headlamp on the same side of the longitudinal axis of the vehicle;

"agricultural implement", "engineering plant", "registered" and "works truck" have the meanings respectively assigned to them in Regulation 3(1) of the 1964 Regulations; and

"land locomotive" and "land tractor" have the meanings respectively assigned to them in Regulation 3(1) of the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1966(a).

(2) Any reference in these Regulations to any enactment or instrument shall be construed, unless the context otherwise requires, as a reference to that enactment or instrument as amended, re-enacted or replaced by any subsequent enactment or instrument.

(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.

Vehicles to which the Regulations apply

3.—(1) Except as provided by paragraph (2) of this Regulation, these Regulations apply to a motor vehicle—

(*a*) which is on a road;

(*b*) which has four or more wheels the tyres or rims of which are in contact with the ground when the vehicle is in motion on a road; and

(*c*) the obligatory side lamps of which are electrically operated.

For the purposes of this paragraph—

(i) a vehicle so constructed that it can be divided into two parts both of which are vehicles and one of which is a motor vehicle shall (when not so divided) be treated as that motor vehicle with the other part attached as a trailer; and

(ii) any two wheels of a motor vehicle shall be treated as one wheel if the distance between the centres of the areas of contact between them and the road surface is less than 18 inches.

(2) These Regulations do not apply—

(*a*) to a vehicle first registered before 1st January 1931; or

(*b*) to a vehicle controlled by a pedestrian and not constructed or adapted for use or used for the carriage of a driver or passengers; or

(a) S.I. 1966/1288 (1966 III, p. 3493). (b) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

(*c*) to an agricultural implement, a land locomotive, a land tractor or a works truck; or

(*d*) to a vehicle not capable of exceeding a speed of 6 miles per hour on the level; or

(*e*) until 1st October 1971 to an electrically propelled goods vehicle first registered before 1st October 1969 and capable of exceeding a speed of 15 miles per hour on the level, and until 1st October 1973 to an electrically propelled goods vehicle first registered before 1st October 1969 and not capable of exceeding a speed of 15 miles per hour on the level; or

(*f*) to a vehicle brought temporarily into Great Britain by a person resident outside the United Kingdom provided that it complies in every respect with the requirements as to lighting equipment and reflectors relating thereto contained in Part II of Annex 6 to the Convention on Road Traffic concluded at Geneva on the 19th September 1949(a); or

(*g*) to a vehicle owned by or in the service of the naval, military or air forces of Her Majesty raised in the United Kingdom and used for naval, military or air force purposes; or

(*h*) to a vehicle used for the purposes of any such body, contingent or detachment of the forces of any country as is a visiting force for the purposes of any of the provisions of the Visiting Forces Act 1952(b), or used for the purposes of any headquarters or organisation designated by an Order in Council under section 1 of the International Headquarters and Defence Organisations Act 1964(c).

Headlamps to be carried

4.—(1) Every motor vehicle to which these Regulations apply shall carry—

(*a*) two headlamps, one on each side of the longitudinal axis of the vehicle, both of which are wired to a device the operation of which at the will of the driver can cause to be emitted from them at the same time either main beams (not being supplementary main beams) or dipped beams; or

(*b*) two groups of headlamps, one on each side of the longitudinal axis of the vehicle, each group—

(i) having 2 or more headlamps;

(ii) having the same number of headlamps;

(iii) having its headlamps arranged so that the headlamp on each side of the vehicle which is further or furthest in its group from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle can emit a dipped beam without at the same time emitting a main beam, and so that every other headlamp can emit a main beam; and

(iv) having its headlamps wired to a device the operation of which at the will of the driver can at the same time extinguish every main beam emitted by every headlamp in both groups, and cause either to be emitted or to continue to be emitted the dipped beams from the two headlamps which are further or furthest in their groups from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

(a) Cmd. 7997 and also Treaty Series No. 49 (1958). (b) 15 & 16 Geo. 6. and 1 Eliz. 2. c. 67. (c) 1964. c. 5.

(2) The two obligatory side lamps carried by a vehicle may be combined—

(*a*) in the case of a vehicle which has only two obligatory headlamps, with such lamps, or

(*b*) in the case of a vehicle which has two groups of obligatory headlamps, with the two of such lamps which are further or furthest in their groups from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle,

so as to form two single units each comprising an obligatory headlamp and an obligatory side lamp.

Requirements for every obligatory headlamp

5. Every obligatory headlamp carried by a vehicle shall comply with the following conditions, namely—

(*a*) it shall be securely and permanently fixed to the vehicle;

(*b*) it shall, except in the case of a lamp carried by a vehicle which is engineering plant or a loading shovel, be so positioned on one side of the vehicle that no part of its illuminated area is, in the case of a vehicle first registered before 1st October 1969, less than 35 centimetres, or, in the case of a vehicle first registered on or after that date, less than 60 centimetres, from any part of the illuminated area of any such lamp on the other side;

(*c*) it shall be so constructed and maintained that the direction of the beam of light emitted therefrom can be adjusted whilst the vehicle is stationary so that the lamp when lit emits the type of beam which it is required to be capable of emitting by these Regulations;

(*d*) every main or dipped beam emitted by any such lamp shall be derived from the filament or filaments of an electric bulb or bulbs, the rated wattage of such filament or of at least one of such filaments not being less than 30 watts, or from the filament or filaments of a sealed beam lamp, the rated wattage of such filament or at least one of such filaments not being less than 30 watts; and

(*e*) it shall be kept in a clean and efficient condition.

Requirements for every matched pair of obligatory headlamps

6.—(1) This Regulation applies, in the case of a vehicle which has only two obligatory headlamps, to such pair of lamps, and in the case of a vehicle which has two groups of obligatory headlamps, to the two obligatory headlamps which are further or furthest in their groups from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle and to every succeeding pair of obligatory headlamps next closer to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

(2) Every pair of obligatory headlamps to which this Regulation applies shall comply with the following conditions, namely—

(*a*) each lamp in the pair shall be at the same height above the ground;

(*b*) the distances between the centre of each lamp in the pair and the longitudinal axis of the vehicle shall not vary by more than 2.5 centimetres;

(*c*) both lamps in the pair shall, except in the case of lamps carried by a public service vehicle first registered before 1st October 1969, have the same area and shape when illuminated; and

(*d*) both lamps in the pair shall, except in the case of lamps carried by a public service vehicle first registered before 1st October 1969, have their wiring arranged so that—

(i) if they can emit either main beams or dipped beams, the beams which they can emit can only be switched on or off together;

(ii) if they can emit both main and dipped beams, the dipped beams can only be switched on or off together and the main beams can only be switched on or off together; and

(iii) if they can emit supplementary main beams, such beams can only be switched on or off together with the main beams emitted by another pair of obligatory headlamps.

(*e*) both lamps in the pair shall, when lit, emit beams of the same colour light.

Colour of headlamp beams

7. Every main or dipped beam emitted by any headlamp carried on any vehicle to which these Regulations apply shall be a beam of white or yellow light.

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Transport the 21st December 1967.

T. Padmore,
Secretary to the
Ministry of Transport.

(L.S.)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These Regulations require most motor vehicles having four or more wheels to carry two headlamps which can emit main and dipped beams, or two groups of headlamps so arranged that the outside lamps can emit dipped beams and all the other lamps can emit main beams.

The Regulations impose requirements for these headlamps, including requirements as to their wiring, their position on the vehicle and the wattage of their bulbs or filaments, and a requirement that every matched pair of these lamps shall emit beams of the same colour light.

The Regulations also require that the beams of light emitted by these headlamps, and by any other lamps on the front of the vehicle (except side lamps and fog lamps), shall be beams of white or yellow light.