STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1968 No. 1930

ROAD TRAFFIC

The Road Vehicles (Headlamps) Regulations 1968

Made - - - -	*4th December* 1968
Laid before Parliament	*12th December* 1968
Coming into Operation	*1st January* 1969

The Minister of Transport in exercise of his powers under section 15 of the Road Traffic Act 1962(**a**) 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(**b**), 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 January 1969 and may be cited as the Road Vehicles (Headlamps) Regulations 1968.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations, any expression defined for the purposes of the Road Vehicles (Headlamps) Regulations 1967(**d**) has the same meaning as in those Regulations.

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(**e**) shall apply for the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

Vehicles to which Regulations apply

3. These Regulations apply to every motor vehicle to which the Road Vehicles (Headlamps) Regulations 1967 apply.

Requirements as to use of headlamps

4.—(1) This Regulation applies to every length of road, except that it does not apply to a length of road—

(*a*) on which there is provided a system of street lighting furnished by means of lamps placed not more than two hundred yards apart, and

(*b*) while such lamps are lit.

(2) When any motor vehicle to which these Regulations apply is in motion during the hours of darkness on a length of road to which this Regulation applies a matched pair of obligatory headlamps carried by the vehicle shall be kept lit :

Provided that this paragraph shall not apply—

(i) in conditions of fog or whilst snow is falling—

(*a*) before 1st January 1970 to a vehicle which carries one fog lamp if such lamp is kept lit ; or

(*b*) on or after 1st January 1970 to a vehicle which carries two permitted lamps, if both such permitted lamps are kept lit ;

(a) 10 & 11 Eliz. 2. c. 59. (b) 5 & 6 Eliz. 2. c. 51. (c) 8 & 9 Eliz. 2. c. 16.
(d) S.I. 1967/1933 (1967 III, p. 5382). (e) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

(ii) to a public service vehicle first registered before 1st October 1969, or until 1st April 1970 to a road clearance vehicle (as defined in Regulation 3(1) of the 1964 Regulations) first registered before 1st January 1955, if one obligatory headlamp carried by the vehicle is kept lit;

(iii) to a vehicle being drawn by another vehicle; or

(iv) to a vehicle while being used to propel in front thereof a snow plough.

(3) In this Regulation "two permitted lamps" means two fog lamps or one fog lamp and one headlamp (not being an obligatory headlamp), being lamps which comply with the following conditions namely—

(*a*) the two lamps shall be fixed one on each side of the vertical plane passing through the longitudinal axis of the vehicle;

(*b*) the centres of both lamps shall be at the same height above the ground;

(*c*) the distances between the centre of each lamp and the vertical plane passing through the longitudinal axis of the vehicle shall be the same; and

(*d*) each lamp shall be so positioned that in the case of a vehicle first registered before 1st January 1971 no part of the illuminated area of one lamp is less than 350 millimetres from any part of the illuminated area of the other lamp, and in the case of a vehicle first registered on or after 1st January 1971 the outermost part of the illuminated area of either lamp is not more than 400 millimetres from the outermost part of the vehicle on the side on which the lamp is placed.

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Transport the 4th December 1968.

(L.S.)

Richard Marsh,
Minister of Transport.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These Regulations apply to motor vehicles which are required to carry two headlamps by the Road Vehicles (Headlamps) Regulations 1967, that is to say, most motor vehicles having four or more wheels.

The Regulations require that all such vehicles moving at night on roads (except roads lit by a system of street lighting where the lamps are not more than 200 yards apart) shall use a matched pair of headlamps. Certain public service and road clearance vehicles are permitted to use only one headlamp and a vehicle being towed and a snow plough are exempted from the obligation to use headlamps.

In fog or when snow is falling a foglamp may be used instead of headlamps until the 1st January 1970, and on or after that date two foglamps or a foglamp and a spotlamp may be used instead of headlamps if they satisfy certain conditions.