STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1969 No. 1647

ROAD TRAFFIC

The Road Vehicles (Headlamps) Regulations 1969

Made - - -	18*th November* 1969
Laid before Parliament	4*th December* 1969
Coming into Operation	1*st January* 1970

The Minister of Transport in exercise of his 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 1st January 1970 and may be cited as the Road Vehicles (Headlamps) Regulations 1969.

Revocation

2. The Road Vehicles (Headlamps) Regulations 1967(**d**) and the Road Vehicles (Headlamps) Regulations 1968(**e**) are hereby revoked.

Interpretation

3.—(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(**f**) as amended (**g**) ;

"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 ;

(**a**) 1957 c. 51.
(**b**) 1962 c. 59.
(**c**) 1960 c. 16.
(**d**) S.I. 1967/1933 (1967 III, p. 5382).
(**e**) S.I. 1968/1930 (1968 III, p. 5239).
(**f**) S.I. 1964/205 (1964 I, p. 345).
(**g**) There is no relevant amending instrument.

"fog lamp" means a lamp on a vehicle which is designed, when lit, to illuminate 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 is designed, when lit, to illuminate the road in front of the vehicle, and which is not a fog lamp;

"industrial tractor" means a tractor, not being a land tractor, which—

(*a*) has an unladen weight not exceeding 7¼ tons,

(*b*) is designed and used primarily for work off roads, or for work on roads in connection only with road construction or maintenance (including any such tractor when fitted with an implement or implements designed primarily for use in connection with such work, whether or not any such implement is of itself designed to carry a load), and

(*c*) which is so constructed as to be incapable of exceeding a speed of 20 miles per hour on the level under its own power;

"matched pair of headlamps", in relation to a vehicle, means a pair of headlamps, one on each side of the vertical plane passing through the longitudinal axis of the vehicle (disregarding, for the purpose of ascertaining such axis, any side-car attached thereto) in respect of which the following conditions are satisfied, namely:—

(*a*) each lamp in the pair is at the same height above the ground; and

(*b*) the distances between the centre of each lamp in the pair and the said vertical plane passing through the longitudinal axis of the vehicle does not vary by more than 25 millimetres;

"matched pair of obligatory headlamps", in relation to a vehicle, means a matched pair of headlamps required to be carried by the vehicle by virtue of Regulation 5 or 6 of these Regulations;

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

"moped" means a motor bicycle whereof the cylinder capacity of the engine does not exceed 50 cubic centimetres, being a bicycle equipped with pedals by means whereof it is capable of being propelled;

"motor bicycle" means a bicycle propelled by mechanical power;

"motor vehicle" has the meaning assigned to it in section 253 of the Road Traffic Act 1960;

"obligatory headlamp" means any headlamp required to be carried by a vehicle by Regulation 5 or 6 of these Regulations;

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

"outermost part" has the meaning assigned to it 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 an obligatory headlamp which can also emit a dipped beam and which can only be used in conjunction with a main beam from another obligatory headlamp on the same side of the vertical plane passing through the longitudinal axis of the vehicle;

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

"land locomotive", "land tractor" and "overall width" have the meanings respectively assigned to them in Regulation 3(1) of the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1969(a).

(2) For the purposes of these Regulations, in determining when a motor vehicle is first used, the date of such first use shall be taken to be the date which is prescribed as the date of first use by Regulation 3(2) of the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1969 for the purposes of those Regulations.

(3) Any reference in these Regulations to a vehicle having any number of wheels is a reference to a vehicle having that number of wheels the tyres or rims of which are in contact with the ground when the vehicle is in motion on a road, and any two such wheels shall be treated as one wheel if the distance between the centres of the area of contact between them and the road surface is less than 18 inches.

(4) For the purposes of these Regulations 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.

(5) For the purposes of these Regulations the unladen weight of a motor vehicle shall be calculated in accordance with section 255 of the Road Traffic Act 1960.

(6) 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 by any subsequent enactment or instrument.

(7) The Interpretation Act 1889(b) 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 2 of these Regulations were Acts of Parliament thereby repealed.

Application and exemptions

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

(*a*) the whole of the weight of which is transmitted to the road surface by means of wheels;

(*b*) the obligatory side lamp or lamps of which are electrically operated; and

(*c*) which is on a road.

(a) S.I. 1969/321 (1969 I, p. 829). (b) 1889 c. 63.

(2) These Regulations do not apply—

(*a*) to a vehicle first used 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

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

(*d*) to a vehicle which is so constructed as to be incapable of exceeding a speed of 6 miles per hour on the level ; or

(*e*) 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

(*f*) 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

(*g*) 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**) ; or

(*h*) (i) to an electrically propelled goods vehicle which is so constructed as to be incapable of exceeding a speed of 15 miles per hour on the level ; or

(ii) until 1st January 1974 to an electrically propelled goods vehicle which has two or three wheels, which is first used before 1st January 1972 and which is so constructed as to be capable of exceeding a speed of 15 miles per hour on the level ; and

(iii) until 1st October 1971 to an electrically propelled goods vehicle which has four or more wheels, which is first used before 1st October 1969 and which is so constructed as to be capable of exceeding a speed of 15 miles per hour on the level.

Headlamps to be carried by vehicles with two wheels and some vehicles with three wheels

5.—(1) This Regulation applies to a motor vehicle to which these Regulations apply and which—

(*a*) has two wheels ; or

(*b*) has three wheels and is first used before 1st January 1972 ; or

(*c*) has three wheels, is first used on or after 1st January 1972 and except in the case of a motor bicycle with a side-car attached thereto has an unladen weight of not more than 400 kilogrammes and an overall width of not more than 1.30 metres.

(**a**) Cmnd. 7997 and also Treaty Series No. 49 (1958).
(**b**) 1952 c. 67. (**c**) 1964 c. 5.

(2) Every vehicle to which this Regulation applies shall carry—

(*a*) one headlamp in the vertical plane passing through the longitudinal axis of the vehicle (disregarding, for the purpose of ascertaining such axis, any side-car attached thereto) which either—

(i) in the case of a moped with or without a side-car attached thereto and first used before 1st January 1972 or in the case of any vehicle which is so constructed as to be incapable of exceeding a speed of 25 miles per hour on the level, can only emit a dipped beam ; or

(ii) in the case of any vehicle, is wired to a device the operation of which at the will of the driver can cause to be emitted from it either a main beam or a dipped beam ; or

(*b*) a matched pair of headlamps, both headlamps in the pair being 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—

(i) in the case of any vehicle which is so constructed as to be incapable of exceeding a speed of 25 miles per hour on the level, only dipped beams ; or

(ii) in the case of any vehicle, either main beams or dipped beams.

(3) Every beam emitted by any lamp required to be carried by this Regulation shall be derived from the filament or filaments of an electric bulb or bulbs, or from the filament or filaments of a sealed beam lamp, the rating of such filament or at least one of such filaments not being less than—

(*a*) 10 watts in the case of a main or dipped beam emitted by a lamp carried by a moped with or without a side-car attached thereto which was first used before 1st January 1970 and which is so constructed as to be incapable of exceeding a speed of 25 miles per hour on the level ;

(*b*) 15 watts in the case of a main or dipped beam emitted by a lamp carried by—

(i) a moped with or without a side-car attached thereto which is first used on or after 1st January 1970 and which is so constructed as to be incapable of exceeding a speed of 25 miles per hour on the level ; or

(ii) a moped with or without a side-car attached thereto which is first used before 1st January 1972 and which is so constructed as to be capable of exceeding a speed of 25 miles per hour on the level ; or

(iii) a motor bicycle (not being a moped) with or without a side-car attached thereto, which was first used before 1st January 1970 and whereof the cylinder capacity of the engine is not more than 250 cubic centimetres ;

(*c*) 18 watts in the case of a main or dipped beam emitted by a lamp carried by—

(i) a moped with or without a side-car attached thereto which is first used on or after 1st January 1972 and which is so constructed as to be capable of exceeding a speed of 25 miles per hour on the level ; or

(ii) a motor bicycle (not being a moped) with or without a side-car attached thereto, which is first used on or after 1st January 1970, and whereof the cylinder capacity of the engine is not more than 250 cubic centimetres ;

(*d*) 24 watts in the case of a dipped beam emitted by a lamp carried by any other vehicle; and

(*e*) 30 watts in the case of a main beam emitted by a lamp carried by any other vehicle.

(4) Where any vehicle carries a matched pair of headlamps in accordance with the requirements of this Regulation, each of the lamps in the pair shall, except in the case of lamps carried by a vehicle which is engineering plant, an industrial tractor or a motor bicycle with or without a side-car attached thereto, be so positioned on one side of the vehicle that no part of its illuminated area is less than 300 millimetres from any part of the illuminated area of the other lamp in the pair.

Headlamps to be carried by some vehicles with three wheels and by vehicles with four or more wheels

6.—(1) This Regulation applies to a motor vehicle to which these Regulations apply and which—

(*a*) has three wheels, is not a motor bicycle with a side-car attached thereto, is first used on or after 1st January 1972 and has an unladen weight of more than 400 kilogrammes or an overall width of more than 1.30 metres; or

(*b*) has four or more wheels.

(2) Every vehicle to which this Regulation applies shall carry—

(*a*) a matched pair of headlamps, both headlamps in the pair being 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—

(i) in the case of any vehicle which is so constructed as to be incapable of exceeding a speed of 25 miles per hour on the level, only dipped beams; or

(ii) in the case of any vehicle, either main beams or dipped beams; or

(*b*) two or more matched pairs of headlamps, the headlamps being arranged so that—

(i) they form two groups of headlamps, one on each side of the vertical plane passing through the longitudinal axis of the vehicle;

(ii) the headlamps in one of the matched pairs, which are at least as far away from the vertical plane passing through the longitudinal axis of the vehicle as any other headlamps in another matched pair of headlamps, can each 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

(iii) all the headlamps in both groups are 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 in the matched pair which are at least as far away from the vertical plane passing through the longitudinal axis of the vehicle as any other headlamps in another matched pair of headlamps:

Provided that in the case of a public service vehicle first used before 1st October 1969 or, until 1st April 1970, in the case of a road clearance vehicle

first used before 1st January 1955 it shall be a sufficient compliance with the requirements of this paragraph if the vehicle carries a matched pair of headlamps one of which can emit a dipped beam without either lamp at the same time emitting a main beam.

(3) Every main or dipped beam emitted by any lamp required to be carried by this Regulation shall be derived from the filament or filaments of an electric bulb or bulbs or from the filament or filaments of a sealed beam lamp the rating of such filament or at least one of such filaments not being less than 30 watts.

(4) Every headlamp which emits a dipped beam carried by a vehicle in accordance with the requirements of this Regulation shall, except in the case of a lamp carried by a vehicle which is engineering plant or an industrial tractor, be so positioned on one side of the vehicle that--

(*a*) no part of its illuminated area is, in the case of a vehicle first used before 1st October 1969, less than 350 millimetres, or, in the case of a vehicle first used on or after that date, less than 600 millimetres, from any part of the illuminated area of any such lamp on the other side; and

(*b*) in the case of a vehicle first used on or after 1st January 1972 the outermost part of the illuminated area of the lamp is not more than 400 millimetres from the outermost part of the vehicle on the side on which the lamp is placed.

Single units for side and head lamps

7.—(1) In the case of a vehicle which carries one obligatory side lamp and one obligatory headlamp, such lamps may be combined so as to form a single unit.

(2) In the case of a motor bicycle with a side-car attached thereto, being a vehicle which carries two obligatory side lamps and one obligatory headlamp, one of the obligatory side lamps may be combined with the obligatory headlamp so as to form a single unit.

(3) In the case of a vehicle which carries two obligatory side lamps they may be combined—

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

(*b*) with the two obligatory headlamps in the matched pair which are at least as far away from the vertical plane passing through the longitudinal axis of the vehicle as any other obligatory headlamps in another matched pair of obligatory headlamps,

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

Requirements for every obligatory headlamp

8. Every obligatory headlamp carried by any vehicle shall comply with the following conditions, namely :—

(1) it shall be securely fixed to the vehicle ;

(2) 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 ; and

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

Requirements for every matched pair of obligatory headlamps

9. Every matched pair of obligatory headlamps carried on any vehicle to which these Regulations apply shall comply with the following conditions, namely :—

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

(2) both lamps in the pair shall, except in the case of lamps carried by a public service vehicle first used before 1st October 1969 or, until 1st April 1970, by a road clearance vehicle first used before 1st January 1955, have their wiring arranged so that—

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

(*b*) 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;

(*c*) 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 ; and

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

Colour of headlamp beams

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

Requirements as to use of headlamps

11.—(1) This Regulation applies to every motor vehicle to which Regulation 6 of these Regulations applies and which has four or more wheels.

(2) 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.

(3) 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 to a vehicle which carries two permitted lamps, if both such permitted lamps are kept lit ;

(ii) to a public service vehicle first used before 1st October 1969, or until 1st April 1970 to a road clearance vehicle first used before 1st January 1955, if one obligatory headlamp carried by the vehicle is kept lit, or, in conditions of fog or whilst snow is falling, and if the vehicle carries a fog lamp, if that lamp 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.

(4) 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—

(i) in the case of a vehicle first used 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

(ii) in the case of a vehicle first used 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 18th November 1969.

(L.S.)

Fred Mulley,
Minister of Transport.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations consolidate with modifications the Road Vehicles (Headlamps) Regulations 1967 and 1968 which required most vehicles with four or more wheels to carry headlamps and contained requirements as to the use of such lamps by such vehicles moving at night.

The principal changes are:—

(1) The previous requirement that most motor vehicles having four or more wheels must carry headlamps is extended to most motor vehicles having two or more wheels. These Regulations impose requirements for the headlamps now required to be carried by most motor vehicles with two or three wheels, 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. (Regulations 5, 6 and 9).

(2) Motor vehicles not capable of exceeding a speed of 25 miles per hour need only carry headlamps which can only emit dipped beams. (Regulations 5(2)(*b*)(i) and 6(2)(*a*)(i)).

(3) The previous requirement that the beam of light emitted by any headlamp must be a beam of white or yellow light is extended to fog lamps. (Regulation 10).