STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1980 No. 116

ROAD TRAFFIC

The Road Vehicles Lighting (Amendment) Regulations 1980

Made - - -	*31st January 1980*
Laid before Parliament	*7th February 1980*
Coming into Operation	*28th February 1980*

The Minister of Transport, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 40(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1972(**a**) as amended by section 9 of the Road Traffic Act 1974(**b**), sections 40(3), 71, 73(1), (2) and (3) and 78(2) and (5) of the said Act of 1972, and now vested in him(**c**), and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with representative organisations in accordance with the provisions of section 199(2) of the said Act of 1972, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

1. These Regulations shall come into operation on 28th February 1980 and may be cited as the Road Vehicles Lighting (Amendment) Regulations 1980.

2. The Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1971(**d**) shall be further amended so as to have effect in accordance with the following provisions of these Regulations.

3. For Regulation 64 (Distinctive lamps on certain vehicles) there shall be substituted the following Regulation:—

"**64.**—(1) The provisions of section 70(1)(*b*) of the Road Traffic Act 1972 shall be varied so as to permit:—

(*a*) one or more lamps showing a blue light to be carried by the vehicles specified in paragraph (2)(*a*) below subject to the conditions specified in paragraph (3) below;

(*b*) one or more lamps showing an amber light to be carried by the vehicles specified in paragraph (2)(*b*) below subject to the conditions specified in paragraph (3) below; and

(*c*) one or more lamps showing a green light to be carried by the vehicles specified in paragraph (2)(*c*) below subject to the conditions specified in paragraph (3) below.

(**a**) 1972 c. 20. (**b**) 1974 c. 50. (**c**) S.I. 1979/571.
(**d**) S.I. 1971/694; as amended by S.I. 1973/1006, 1975/239, 1977/1560, 1978/1261 and 1979/803.

(2)(*a*) The vehicles referred to in paragraph (1)(*a*) above are:—

(i) motor vehicles used for ambulance, fire brigade or police purposes;

(ii) motor vehicles owned by a body formed primarily for the purposes of fire salvage and used for those or similar purposes;

(iii) motor vehicles owned by the Forestry Commission or by local authorities and used from time to time for the purposes of fighting fires;

(iv) motor vehicles owned by the Secretary of State for Defence and used—

(*a*) for the purposes of the disposal of bombs or explosives,

(*b*) by the Naval Emergency Monitoring Organisation for the purposes of a nuclear accident or an incident involving radio-activity, or

(*c*) by the Royal Air Force Mountain Rescue Service for the purposes of rescue operations in connection with crashed aircraft or any other emergencies;

(v) motor vehicles primarily used for the purposes of the Blood Transfusion Service provided under the National Health Service Act 1977(**a**) or under the National Health (Scotland) Act 1947(**b**);

(vi) motor vehicles used by Her Majesty's Coastguard or Coastguard Auxiliary Service for the purposes of giving aid to persons in danger or vessels in distress on or near the coast;

(vii) motor vehicles owned by the National Coal Board and used for the purposes of rescue operations at mines;

(viii) motor vehicles owned by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and used for the purposes of launching lifeboats; and

(ix) motor vehicles primarily used for the purposes of the conveyance of any human tissue for transplanting or similar purposes.

(*b*) The vehicles referred to in paragraph (1)(*b*) above are:—

(i) road clearance vehicles used for the purposes for which they are constructed or adapted;

(ii) break-down vehicles used for the purposes for which they are constructed or adapted;

(iii) vehicles used for the purposes of testing, maintaining, improving, cleansing or watering roads, or for any purposes incidental thereto;

(iv) vehicles used for the purposes of inspecting, cleansing, maintaining, adjusting, renewing or installing any apparatus which is in, on, under or over a road, or for any purposes incidental thereto;

(v) vehicles used for or in connection with any purpose for which they are authorised to be used on roads by an Order under section 42 of the Road Traffic Act 1972; and

(vi) vehicles owned by Her Majesty's Customs and Excise and used for the purpose of testing fuels.

(**a**) 1977 c. 49. (**b**) 1947 c. 27.

(*c*) The vehicles referred to in paragraph (1)(*c*) above are vehicles used for the purpose of an emergency by a medical practitioner registered by the General Medical Council (whether with full, provisional or limited registration).

(3) The conditions referred to in paragraph (1)(*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) above are that:—

(*a*) each lamp shall be so mounted on the vehicle that the centre of the lamp is at a height not less than 1.2 metres from the ground;

(*b*) where only one lamp is carried the light shown by it shall be visible from any point at a reasonable distance from the vehicle;

(*c*) where more than one lamp is carried the light shown by at least one (but not necessarily the same one) of those lamps shall be visible from any point at a reasonable distance from the vehicle; and

(*d*) the light shown by any one lamp shall be displayed not less than 60 nor more than 240 equal times per minute, and the intervals between each display of light shall be constant.

(4) No light shall be shown from a lamp which is carried by a vehicle by virtue of this Regulation—

(*a*) except when the vehicle by which it is carried is being used for the relevant purposes specified in relation to the vehicle in paragraph (2)(*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) above;

(*b*) except when it it necessary or desirable either to indicate to other road users the urgency of the purposes for which the vehicle is being used, or to warn other road users of the presence of the vehicle on the road; and

(*c*) in the case of a break-down vehicle except while it is being used in connection with, and is in the immediate vicinity of, an accident or break-down, or while it is being used to draw a broken-down vehicle.

(5) No vehicle other than a vehicle specified in paragraph (2)(*a*) above shall carry a lamp similar to a lamp which, by virtue of this Regulation, when it is showing a blue light may be carried by a vehicle specified in paragraph (2)(*a*) above; no vehicle other than a vehicle specified in paragraph (2)(*b*) above shall carry a lamp which, by virtue of this Regulation, when it is showing an amber light may be carried by a vehicle specified in paragraph (2)(*b*) above; and no vehicle other than a vehicle specified in paragraph (2)(*c*) above shall carry a lamp which, by virtue of this Regulation, when it is showing a green light may be carried by a vehicle specified in paragraph (2)(*c*) above.".

Norman Fowler,
Minister of Transport.

31st January 1980.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

1. These Regulations further amend the Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1971 by replacing Regulation 64 (which deals with distinctive lamps on certain vehicles) with a new Regulation.

2. The new Regulation contains, in a revised form, the provisions of the existing Regulation but—

(1) adding provisions permitting the use in certain circumstances of green lamps carried by vehicles being used by medical practitioners, blue lamps carried by vehicles being used for the conveyance of any human tissue for transplanting or similar purposes, and amber lamps carried by vehicles owned by Her Majesty's Customs and Excise and used for the purpose of testing fuels,

(2) omitting the requirement that lamps carried in pursuance of the Regulation shall be on, or as near as practicable to, the longitudinal axis of the vehicle, and omitting (so as to permit the use of flashing lights) the requirement that the light shown by a lamp carried in pursuance of the Regulation shall be in the form of a concentrated beam rotating in a substantially horizontal plane,

(3) reducing the maximum height at which the lamps may be mounted on a vehicle and omitting the requirement concerning the size and shape of the lamps, and

(4) increasing the maximum frequency permitted in the flash rate of the lamps and deleting the requirement that they shall not exceed a certain total rated wattage.