1983 No. 162

ROAD TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

Road Vehicles Lighting (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983

Made	*29th June 1983*
Coming into operation . . .	*22nd August 1983*

The Department of the Environment, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Articles 28(1), 38(1) and (2), 42, 49(1), (2) and (4) and 218(1) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981(**a**) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Road Vehicles Lighting (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983 and shall come into operation on 22nd August 1983.

Regulations amended

2. The Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1969(**b**) shall be amended as follows:

(1) In regulation 3(1)—

(*a*) for the definition of ''goods vehicle'' there shall be substituted—

''''goods vehicle'' means a mechanically propelled vehicle the unladen weight of which exceeds 1525 kilograms and which is constructed or adapted for use for the carriage of goods'', and

(*b*) in the definition of ''heavy tractor'' (defined under ''tractor'') for ''fifty hundred weight'' there shall be substituted ''2540 kilograms''.

(2) In regulation 56(1) in line 4 for ''two tons'' there shall be substituted ''2040 kilograms''.

(3) For regulation 52 there shall be substituted—

''*Distinctive lamps on certain vehicles*

52.—(1) The provisions of Article 40(1) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (in this regulation referred to as ''the Order'') shall be varied so as to permit—

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

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

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

(a) S.I. 1981/154 (N.I. 1)
(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1969 No. 214. The amending instrument is not relevant for the purpose

(2)(*a*) The vehicles referred to in paragraph (1)(*a*) 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 Department of Agriculture 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 used primarily for the purposes of the Blood Transfusion Service under Article 10(1)(*d*) of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972(**a**);

(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 Royal National Lifeboat Institution and used for the purposes of launching lifeboats; and

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

(*b*) The vehicles referred to in paragraph (1)(*b*) 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, gritting, salting, cleansing or watering roads, or for purposes incidental thereto;

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

(v) vehicles used for or in connection with purposes for which they are authorised to be used on roads by an order or a permit under Article 29(3) of the Order; and

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

(*c*) The vehicles referred to in paragraph (1)(*c*) 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*) 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;

(a) S.I. 1972/1265 (N.I. 14)

(*b*) where only one lamp is carried the light shown by it shall be visible to other road users 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 to other road users 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*);

(*b*) except when it is 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), shall carry a lamp (whether or not it is capable of showing a light) similar to any lamp permitted by paragraph (1).''.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland on 29th June 1983.

(L.S.) *J. M. Irvine*
Assistant Secretary

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations further amend the Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1969 by substituting for regulation 52 (which deals with distinctive lamps on certain vehicles) a new regulation which contains the provisions of the existing regulation but also—

(*a*) adds provision permitting the use in certain circumstances of—

(i) green lamps carried by vehicles being used by medical practitioners,

(ii) blue lamps carried by vehicles—

(A) owned by the Secretary of State for Defence for bomb disposal and certain other emergency operations,

(B) owned by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution for launching lifeboats, and

(C) being used for the conveyance of any human tissue for transplanting or similar purposes, and

(iii) amber lamps carried by vehicles—

(A) authorised to be used on roads by an order or permit under Article 29(3) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981, and

(B) owned by Her Majesty's Customs and Excise and used for the purpose of testing fuels,

(*b*) omits the requirements that—

(i) lamps carried in pursuance of the regulation shall be on, or as near as practicable to, the longitudinal axis of the vehicle, and

(ii) 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 place,

(*c*) reduces the maximum height at which the lamps may be mounted on a vehicle and omits the requirement concerning the size and shape of the lamps, and

(*d*) increases the maximum frequency permitted in the flash rate of the lamps and deletes the requirement that they shall not exceed a certain total rated wattage.

The opportunity has also been taken to metricate certain imperial units of measurement to comply with Council Directive 80/181/EEC of 20th December 1979 (O.J.L39, page 40) on the approximation of laws of Member States relating to units of measurement.