EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These Regulations amend the Public Service Vehicles (Equipment and Use) Regulations, 1941, by prohibiting the carrying of standing passengers on half-decked public service vehicles.

ROAD VEHICLES

The Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations, 1950

1950 No. 622

Made - - - -	14*th April*, 1950
Laid before Parliament	18*th April*, 1950
Coming into Operation	1*st May*, 1950

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

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The Minister of Transport, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by sections 1, 3, 4, 5 and 9 of the Road Transport Lighting Act, 1927(a), as amended by section 2 of the Road Transport Lighting (Cycles) Act, 1945(b), section 19 of the Road Traffic Act, 1934(c), and of all other powers him enabling hereby makes the following Regulations:—

Commencement and Citation

1. These Regulations shall come into operation on the first day of May, 1950, and may be cited as " The Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations, 1950 ".

(a) 17 & 18 Geo. 5. c. 37. (b) 8 & 9 Geo. 6. c. 8. (c) 24 & 25 Geo. 5. c. 50.

Revocation

2. The Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations, 1936(**a**), the Road Vehicles Lighting (Amendment) Provisional Regulations, 1936, and the Road Vehicles Lighting (Amendment) Regulations, 1948(**b**), are hereby revoked, without prejudice, however, to the validity of anything done thereunder or to any liability incurred in respect of any act or omission before the date of the coming into operation of these Regulations.

Interpretation

3.—(1) In these Regulations unless the context otherwise requires the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them:—

"the Acts" means the Road Transport Lighting Acts, 1927 and 1945;

"obligatory front lamp" means a lamp showing to the front a white light which is required to be carried under the Acts and these Regulations;

"public service vehicle" has the same meaning as in the Road Traffic Act, 1930(**c**);

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

Application to Motor Vehicles of temporary visitors to Great Britain

4. These Regulations shall not apply to any motor vehicle brought temporarily into Great Britain by a person resident abroad and intending to make only a temporary stay in Great Britain while the said vehicle is being used by such person during his stay, provided that such vehicle complies in every respect with the requirements of paragraphs IV, V, VI and VII of Article 3 of the International Convention relative to Motor Traffic(**e**) concluded at Paris on the 24th April, 1926.

Position of Obligatory Front Lamps

5. Subject to the provisions of Regulation 8 of these Regulations every obligatory front lamp shall

(*a*) except in the case of a public service vehicle be fixed so that the centre of the lamp is at a height not exceeding 5 feet from the ground, provided that in the case of a vehicle drawn by two or more horses or other animals the lamp may be fixed so that the centre of the lamp is at a height not exceeding 5 feet 9 inches from the ground;

(*b*) except in the case of a tower wagon or of a bicycle (whether mechanically propelled or otherwise), be so fixed that no part of the vehicle or its equipment (exclusive of the driving mirror and of any direction indicator when in operation) extends laterally on the same side as the lamp more than 12 inches beyond the centre of the lamp; and

(*c*) in the case of vehicles drawn by horses or other animals, be so fixed that the centre of the lamp is not in the case of such a vehicle having only one axle in rear of that axle, and in the case of such a vehicle (other than a brougham) having more than one axle more than 1 foot 6 inches behind the front axle when in its central position.

(a) S.R. & O. 1936 (No. 392) II, p. 2196. (b) S.I. 1948 (No. 2015) I, p. 3760.
& 21 Geo. 5. c. 43. (d) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63. (e) Treaty Series No. 11 (1930).

6. Where two obligatory front lamps are carried on any vehicle they shall be fixed on opposite sides of the vehicle and, except in the case of a bicycle having a sidecar attached thereto, shall be fixed at the same height from the ground.

7. Where only one obligatory front lamp is carried on any vehicle that lamp shall (except in the case of a bicycle whether mechanically propelled or otherwise) be fixed on the off-side of the vehicle.

Position of front lamps carried by motor vehicles first registered on or after 1st January, 1952

8. In the case of a motor vehicle first registered under the Vehicles (Excise) Act, 1949(**a**), on or after 1st January, 1952, every lamp showing a light to the front to which the provisions of Regulation 9 of these Regulations apply shall be so fixed that the centre of the lamp is

(*a*) not more than 3 feet 6 inches from the ground; and

(*b*) except in the case of a lamp which is used only in conditions of fog or whilst snow is falling, not less than 2 feet 2 inches from the ground.

Character of front lamps

9.—(1) Save as provided in paragraph (3) of this Regulation and except in the case of a pedal cycle the provisions of this Regulation shall apply to every lamp the light of which is derived from an acetylene burner or an electric bulb.

(2) No lamp showing a light to the front shall be used on any vehicle unless such lamp is so constructed, fitted and maintained that the beam of light emitted therefrom

(i) is permanently deflected downwards to such an extent that it is at all times incapable of dazzling any person standing 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; or

(ii) can be deflected downwards or both downwards and to the left at the will of the driver in such manner as to render it incapable of dazzling any such person in the circumstances aforesaid; or

(iii) can be extinguished by the operation of a device which at the same time causes a beam of light to be emitted from the lamp which complies with sub-paragraph (i) of this paragraph; or

(iv) can be extinguished by the operation of a device which at the same time either deflects the beam of light from another lamp downwards or both downwards and to the left in such manner as to render it incapable of dazzling any such person in the circumstances aforesaid, or brings into or leaves in operation a lamp or lamps (other than the obligatory front lamps) which complies or comply with sub-paragraph (i) of this paragraph.

Provided that a lamp (unless it is used only in conditions of fog or whilst snow is falling) shall not be held to comply with sub-paragraph (i) of this paragraph unless it is also so fixed that its centre is not less than 2 feet 2 inches from the ground in the case of a vehicle to which Regulation 8 of these Regulations applies, or 2 feet from the ground in any other case.

(3) This Regulation shall not apply to any lamp fitted with an electric bulb or bulbs if the power of any bulb or the total power of all the bulbs

(a) 12, 13 & 14 Geo. 6. c. 89.

which are capable of being illuminated at the same time does not exceed 7 watts and the lamp is fitted with frosted glass or other material which has the effect of diffusing the light.

Side deflection

10. The beam of light emitted from not more than two lamps showing a light to the front (other than the obligatory front lamps) fitted to any vehicle may be deflected to either side by the movement of, although not necessarily through the same angle as, the front wheels of the vehicle when turned for the purpose of steering the vehicle, provided that the centre of any such lamp is not more than 3 feet 6 inches from the ground.

Markings of electric bulbs

11. Every electric bulb used in a lamp showing a light to the front fitted to any motor vehicle shall have the wattage thereof indelibly marked upon the glass or the metal cap thereof in a readily legible manner.

Extinguishment of front lamps on stationary vehicles

12. No electric bulb or bulbs of a power or a combined power as the case may be exceeding 7 watts in any lamp showing a light to the front fitted to any vehicle shall be kept illuminated while such vehicle is stationary on a road;

Provided that this Regulation shall not apply:—

(*a*) to lamps used—

(i) on any vehicle during an enforced stoppage of the vehicle;

(ii) on any public service vehicle when stopping to pick up or set down passengers;

(iii) for the interior illumination of any vehicle;

(iv) on breakdown vehicles or tower wagons when in use for the special purpose for which they are intended:

(*b*) to searchlights or other special lamps fitted to any vehicle used for naval, military, air force, police or fire brigade purposes;

(*c*) to searchlights or other special lamps fitted to any vehicles used for the purpose of carrying out emergency repairs to any sewer or to any main, pipe, cable or other apparatus for the supply of gas, water or electricity whilst such repairs are actually being carried out.

Position of rear lamp

13. Save where in accordance with the provisions of the Acts and these Regulations, a separate lamp showing a red light to the rear is not carried on any vehicle, the lamp showing to the rear a red light required to be carried on any vehicle under the Acts and these Regulations shall be so fixed that it is either on the centre line or on the off-side of the vehicle, and that no part of the vehicle projects at any time to the rear more than 6 feet measured horizontally beyond such lamp.

Provision of additional reflector and white surface in certain cases

14. No lamp showing to the rear a red light in pursuance of the requirements of the Acts shall be fixed to any vehicle other than a public service vehicle so that its centre is at a height exceeding 3 feet 6 inches from the ground unless, in addition to such lamp, there are also fixed to the vehicle so that their centres are at a height not exceeding 3 feet 6 inches from the ground a red reflector and a white surface which comply in all respects with the requirements of Regulations 15 and 16 of these Regulations respectively.

Rear reflectors

15. Every red reflector carried on any vehicle in pursuance of the provisions of the Acts or these Regulations shall comply in all respects with the following conditions:

(*a*) The reflector shall be so constructed that, if placed 100 feet away from and squarely facing a source of light throwing a beam of white light of 2,000 candle power in the direction of the reflector, the reflector when turned in any direction through an angle not exceeding 22½ degrees shall reflect a beam of red light of not less than one-thousandth of a candle power in any direction making an angle not greater than three degrees with an imaginary line connecting the centres of the reflector and the source of light aforesaid, and shall not reflect any letter, number or other mark.

(*b*) The surface of the reflector by which light is reflected in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (*a*) of this Regulation shall, if circular, be not less than 1¼ inches in diameter, and if not circular shall be of such a size that a circle of 1¼ inches in diameter may be inscribed therein.

(*c*) The reflector shall be fixed to the vehicle:—

(i) in a vertical position and facing squarely to the rear;

(ii) not less than 15 inches above the ground and either on the centre line or on the offside of the vehicle; and

(iii) so that no part of the vehicle projects more than 30 inches, or in the case of bicycles (whether mechanically propelled or otherwise) more than 20 inches to the rear of the reflector.

(*d*) The reflector shall be kept clean and unobscured so as to be plainly visible from the rear.

White surfaces

16.—(1) Every white surface required to be exhibited by virtue of the Acts or of these Regulations shall have an image of not less than 12 square inches, shall be maintained in a clean condition and unobscured and shall be so exhibited that—

(*a*) no part of the vehicle shall project more than 30 inches, or in the case of bicycles (whether mechanically propelled or otherwise) more than 20 inches, to the rear of any part of such white surface;

(*b*) not less than 6 square inches of the image shall be on the offside of the centre line of the vehicle; and

(*c*) not less than 6 square inches of the image shall be over 10 inches above the ground.

(2) For the purpose of this Regulation "image" means the area orthogonally projected upon a plane at right angles to the ground when the vehicle is standing upon level ground and "white" includes the colour of polished aluminium or chromium plating.

Hand-drawn vehicles

17.—(1) If a vehicle drawn or propelled by hand is, together with its load, not more than 2½ feet in greatest width, not more than 6 feet in greatest length and not more than 4 feet 6 inches in greatest height, it shall not be necessary for such vehicle to show any lights, provided that it is kept when in use on a road during the hours of darkness as near as possible to the edge of the carriageway.

(2) If a vehicle drawn or propelled by hand, together with its load, exceeds any or all of the dimensions set out in paragraph (1) of this Regulation, but does not exceed 4 feet in greatest width it shall not be necessary for such vehicle to carry more than one obligatory front lamp.

(3) A separate lamp showing a red light to the rear shall not be required to be carried by a vehicle drawn or propelled by hand if a red reflector is carried, or if the obligatory front lamp or each of the obligatory front lamps, as the case may be, shows also a red light to the rear visible from a reasonable distance, and no part of the vehicle nor of any load carried thereby projects at any time to the rear more than 6 feet measured horizontally beyond such lamp or lamps.

Exemption for certain standing vehicles

18.—(1) The Chief Officer of Police of any police area if satisfied that any part of any road within such area specially set aside for the parking of vehicles or as a stand for hackney carriages is adequately lighted, may give his consent to the use of such parking place or stand by vehicles without lights, and it shall not be necessary for vehicles standing in any parking place or stand in respect of which such consent has been given to show any light.

(2) For the purpose of this Regulation the expressions " Chief Officer of Police " and " Police area " have the meanings respectively assigned to them by the Police Pensions Act, 1921(a).

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Transport this fourteenth day of April, 1950.

(L.S.) *Alfred Barnes,*
The Minister of Transport.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These Regulations re-enact with amendment the Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations, 1936, as subsequently amended. The principal amendments are :—

(1) The requirement that obligatory front lamps shall be as nearly as possible of the same power is abolished.

(2) New requirements are introduced in Regulation 8 as to the position of front lamps on vehicles to be first registered under the Vehicles (Excise) Act, 1949, on or after 1st January, 1952.

(3) Regulation 10 which permits the use of swivelling front lamps under certain conditions, is amended to raise the maximum height at which such lamps may be fixed from 3 feet 3 inches to 3 feet 6 inches.

(4) Provision is made in Regulation 12 to permit the use of searchlights and other special lamps on stationary vehicles being used for emergency repairs to sewers and to gas, water or electricity apparatus.

(5) It is provided in Regulation 15 (*a*) that red reflectors shall not reflect any letter, number or other mark.

(6) The provision in the 1936 Regulations that pedal cycles shall not be exempt from the obligation to carry a red rear lamp unless, in addition to a red reflector, there is also carried a white surface, has been omitted. By virtue of section 1 of the Road Transport Lighting (Cycles) Act, 1945, the carrying of a red rear light by pedal bicycles and pedal tricycles is now compulsory, and section 2 of that Act, which will come into force on such day as the Minister shall by order appoint, provides that all pedal bicycles and pedal tricycles shall, as from that date, exhibit to the rear a red reflector and a white surface in addition to a red light.

(a) 11 & 12 Geo. 5. c. 31.