

Regulations no. 747 of 21 March 1986:

Regulations relating to pedestrian and vehicle traffic (traffic rules)

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Regulations relating to pedestrian and vehicle traffic (traffic rules).

Laid down by Royal Decree of 21 March 1986 pursuant to the Road Traffic Act of 18 June 1965 no. 4 sections 2, 4, 6 and 11. Proposed by the Ministry of Transport and Communications. Amended 22 Jan. 1988 no. 109, 29 Nov. 1991 no. 762, 6 Sept. 1996 no. 853, 6 March 1998 no. 181, 26 June 1998 no. 611, 2 Feb. 2001 no. 101, 14 Dec. 2001 no. 1413, 28 Feb. 2003 no. 238, 22 April 2005 no. 348.

Section 1. Definitions

1. In these traffic rules, the following terms shall mean:

- a) *Road*: Any public or private road, street or open square (including lay-bys, car parks, stopping places, bridges, winter roads except marked tracks for snow scooters, ferry quays or other quays immediately adjoining a road) that is open to general traffic.
- b) *Junction*: Any point at which a road crosses or merges with another road.
- c) *Carriageway*: The part of a road intended for ordinary driving.
- d) *Driving lane*: Each of the longitudinal parallel lanes into which the carriageway is divided by road markings, or which is wide enough for a stream of traffic.
- e) *Shoulder*: The part of a road that lies outside its marked edge.
- f) *Footpath and cycle track*: Any path or track designated by an official traffic sign for the use of pedestrians or cyclists or a combination of pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Such path or track is separated from other roads by a strip of grass, a ditch, fence, kerbstones or by other means.
- g) *Bicycle lane*: A lane designated for the use of cyclists by an official traffic sign and road markings.
- h) *Pavement*: Any paved strip designated for the use of pedestrians and separated from the carriageway by kerbstones.
- i) *Convoy of military vehicles and convoy of civil defence vehicles*: Four or more vehicles belonging to the Armed forces or the Civil Defence which are being driven in a convoy with a blue flag or light on the first vehicle and a green flag or light on the last vehicle.
- j) *Level crossing*: Junction on the same level between a road and a railway or tramway on a separate track.
- k) *Parking*: Any stationing of a vehicle, even if the driver does not leave the vehicle. Exceptions are shortest possible stops for the purpose of embarking or disembarking or loading and unloading.
- l) *Wheelchair*: A device with three or more wheels and/or tracks which is specially designed for moving a person with a walking impairment. The device must not have an unladen mass in excess of 250 kg (including any batteries), not be longer than 180 cm and not be broader than 80 cm. If the device is propelled by an engine, it must be designed for a maximum speed not exceeding 10 kph. Such devices are not deemed to be vehicles pursuant to the road traffic Act section 2.
- m) *Toy vehicle*: A motorised device designed for children is not deemed to be a vehicle pursuant to the Road Traffic Act when its maximum speed is physically prevented from exceeding 6 kph and its unladen mass does not exceed 50 kg.

2. In other respects, the definitions in the Road Traffic Act and in regulations issued pursuant to the Act apply.

Section 2. Scope of the rules, deviation from road traffic rules etc.

1. The traffic rules apply to all traffic on roads.
2. Insofar as they are applicable, the rules for vehicle traffic shall also apply to horse riders and persons leading saddle, pack or draught animals and to persons leading or herding farm animals.
3. Pedestrians also include persons who
 - a) are on skis or roller skis,
 - b) are propelling wheelchairs or a kicksled or a sled,
 - c) are pushing a bicycle or a moped, pushing a pram or using toy vehicles.
4. When it is necessary or of considerable help when on duty, or for training for such duty, the provisions laid down in or issued pursuant to the Road Traffic Act sections 4-9, may be deviated from by
 - a) drivers of emergency vehicles,
 - b) drivers of other vehicles in police service,
 - c) drivers of vehicles used for roadworks or similar work on or near a road, in the service of the Regional Roads Office inspectorate or public parking authorities. Such drivers shall, however, comply at all times with the provisions of the Road Traffic Act section 6 (speed limits) and of the traffic rules section 13 (driving speeds). The same applies to the rules relating to traffic lights.

Drivers mentioned in the preceding paragraph shall always obey instructions given by the police.

When driving through a red traffic light, the driver of an emergency vehicle shall reduce the speed of the vehicle sufficiently to be able to stop for any crossing or oncoming traffic.

5. For drivers of trams, the traffic rules only apply when this is expressly stated in the relevant provision.

The provisions of the Road Traffic Act sections 3, 5, 6, 9, 12, 21, 23 and 31 also apply to drivers of trams.

Section 3. Instructions

1. Instructions given by traffic lights, official traffic signs or road markings take precedence over the traffic rules.

Instructions given by traffic lights take precedence over instructions concerning the obligation to give way indicated by official traffic signs.

Special traffic light signals for traffic in lanes reserved for buses and/or taxis, cyclists or pedestrians only apply to traffic in the lane in question and they take precedence over other traffic light signals.

2. Instructions given by the police, the Public Roads Administration, the Customs and Excise authorities or military police take precedence over instructions given in any other manner. The same applies to instructions given by any other person authorised to control traffic or to check motor vehicles, loads or drivers.
3. This section also applies to drivers of trams.

Section 4. Use of the carriageway

1. Drivers shall use the carriageway. It is forbidden to drive on the pavement or on a footpath.

Drivers other than cyclists must not use cycle tracks or bicycle lanes. Cyclists may only use the bicycle lane on the right-hand side of the road.

2. Only motor vehicles or combinations of motor vehicles that can lawfully be driven at speeds of at least 40 kph on a horizontal road are permitted to drive on motorways and “roads for motor vehicles” or on motorway and “road for motor vehicles” acceleration or deceleration lanes. The Directorate of Public Roads or person authorised by the Directorate may grant exemptions from this provision in individual cases.

Mopeds must not be driven on motorways or “roads for motor vehicles”.

road for motor vehicles = motorway without central reserve

Section 5. Position of vehicles on the road

1. Insofar as circumstances permit, vehicles shall be driven on the right-hand side of the road. On carriageways with two or more lanes in the same direction, the right-hand lane shall be used when the traffic rules do not require or permit use of the left-hand lane(s).

Vehicles must keep well within the boundaries of the lane.

Bicycles or other vehicles that are not motor vehicles may be ridden or driven on the right hand shoulder of the road.

2. Driving in bus and taxi lanes and in high-occupancy vehicle lanes is only permitted as indicated by official traffic signs. However, electric motor vehicles or hydrogen-powered motor vehicles (zero emission motor vehicles), motorcycles, mopeds, bicycles or marked emergency vehicles may also use such lanes.

3. The distance to the vehicle in front shall be sufficient to prevent any danger of collision arising if the vehicle in front slows down or comes to a halt. The distance shall be sufficient for overtaking cars to move into the space between the overtaken vehicle and the vehicle in front.

4. Drivers approaching or entering a road junction shall drive in a manner that avoids having to stop and thus unnecessarily obstructing or inconveniencing road users on the intersecting road.

This subsection also applies to drivers of trams.

Section 6. Turning

1. On carriageways with two or more lanes in the direction of traffic a driver intending to make a right turn shall in good time move into the lane furthest to the right. If intending to make a left turn, the driver shall in good time move into the lane furthest to the left.

2. When turning right, the driver shall keep the vehicle as close to the right-hand edge of the carriageway as possible.

When turning left on a two-way carriageway drivers shall drive as close to the middle of the carriageway as possible.

3. When turning into a carriageway with two or more lanes in the direction of traffic, drivers can enter the lane which is most suitable.

4. Vehicles entering a carriageway from opposite directions may drive to the left of each other.

Section 7. Obligation to give way

1. Road users for whom one has an obligation to give way must not be obstructed or distracted. A road user who has an obligation to give way shall demonstrate this clearly in good time by reducing his speed or stopping.

2. Drivers have an obligation to give way to vehicles approaching from the right. The same applies when drivers intending to turn left meet vehicles approaching from their right.

3. Drivers intending to turn shall give way to pedestrians and cyclists on the road being entered.

4. Drivers emerging from a parking space or car park, stopping place, square, property, petrol station, pedestrian street, pedestrianised residential street or similar area shall give way to other

traffic. The same applies to drivers emerging from a farm road or other road not open to public traffic and to drivers moving into a carriageway from the shoulder of the road.

Drivers who intend to enter or cross a road from a cycle track, footpath or pavement shall give way to other traffic on the road.

5. On roads with a speed limit of 60 kph or lower, drivers shall give way to buses when the bus driver indicates that the bus intends to leave the bus stop. The bus driver is obliged to avoid danger.

6. If necessary, drivers approaching each other from opposite directions shall in good time move sufficiently to the right, drive slowly or stop. If part of the road is blocked, the driver with the obstacle on his side of the road shall give way.

Section 8. Changing lanes

1. A driver intending to change lanes shall give way to drivers in the lane to be entered or which must first be crossed.

The same applies to drivers intending to move out from the edge of the road or otherwise change the lateral position of the vehicle by moving sideways.

The provision in the first paragraph does not apply if the number of ordinary lanes in the same direction is reduced. Drivers shall mutually adjust the driving speed of their vehicles to allow vehicles to proceed alternately without unnecessary obstruction or distraction.

2. Drivers in acceleration lanes shall adjust their driving speed to the speed of the traffic in the lane to be entered. Drivers in the latter lane shall facilitate the merging of traffic from the acceleration lane.

Drivers intending to exit a road shall move into the deceleration lane as soon as possible, if such lane exists.

Section 9. Special obligations towards pedestrians

1. Drivers shall allow pedestrians sufficient space on the road.

2. Drivers crossing a footpath, or pavement shall give way to pedestrians. The same applies to driving in pedestrian streets or pedestrianised residential streets.

At pedestrian crossings where traffic is not controlled by the police or by traffic lights, drivers shall give way to pedestrians who are already on the pedestrian crossing or who are about to enter it.

3. Drivers intending to overtake a tram on the right at a stop without a traffic island shall stop and give free passage to passengers disembarking from or embarking on the tram.

The same applies to cyclists who intend to overtake a bus on the right at a bus stop.

4. Drivers shall avoid stopping on pedestrian crossings.

This subsection also applies to drivers of trams.

Section 10. Free passage

1. Road users shall give free passage to emergency vehicles when the driver indicates this with a flashing blue light. If necessary, the road user shall stop.

2. Road users shall give free passage to and if necessary stop for trams and for trains.

Before crossing a level crossing, road users shall ascertain whether or not a train or tram is approaching. This applies even if the level crossing is specially safeguarded. Drivers shall drive at a sufficiently low speed for it to be possible, if necessary, to stop at a safe distance from the crossing.

3. Road users must not obstruct or distract pedestrians in groups under the supervision of a leader, processions, funeral processions, convoys of military vehicles or convoys of civil defence vehicles.

4. Subsections 1 and 3 in this section also apply to drivers of trams.

Section 11. Reversing and turning around

1. Drivers intending to reverse or turn around shall give way to other road users. If the driver's view is inadequate, he must not reverse or turn around except under the guidance of another person or unless the driver has himself made sure that danger or injury cannot arise as a result.
2. It is prohibited to reverse or turn around on a motorway and on a "road for motor vehicles" or in motorway and "road for motor vehicles" acceleration or deceleration lanes.

road for motor vehicles = motorway without central reserve

Section 12. Overtaking

1. Overtaking shall take place on the left. The following nevertheless applies:
 - a) When the vehicle in front is turning left or is clearly preparing to turn left, overtaking shall take place on the right.
 - b) Overtaking of a tram that is in motion or standing still may take place on the right.
 - c) If the traffic is so heavy that vehicles occupy all the lanes in the direction of traffic and are driving at a speed dictated by the vehicle in front, a vehicle in one lane may overtake on the right a vehicle in another lane.
 - d) Drivers in lanes reserved for certain road users may overtake on the right vehicles in another lane.
2. Before overtaking, a driver shall make sure that
 - a) the road is free of obstructions sufficiently far ahead,
 - b) the vehicle in front has not indicated that it wishes to overtake,
 - c) no vehicles behind have begun to overtake,
 - d) it is clearly possible to re-enter the stream of traffic without disturbing it.
3. A driver who has overtaken on the left shall move to the right again when the overtaking has been completed without causing danger or obstruction to or unnecessarily distracting the overtaken driver.
4. When a driver intends to overtake on the left, the driver in front shall stay as far to the right as possible and not increase his speed. If the vehicle being overtaken is moving slowly or occupies a great deal of space and the road does not offer an unobstructed view or there is oncoming traffic, its driver shall if necessary pull in to the right and slow down or stop.
5. Overtaking is prohibited immediately before or at a junction. This does not apply
 - a) on a carriageway with two or more lanes in the direction of traffic,
 - b) to overtaking on the right because the vehicle in front is turning left or is clearly preparing to turn left,
 - c) when the traffic in the junction is controlled by traffic lights or by the police,
 - d) when the traffic on the intersecting road is obliged to give way indicated by a traffic sign.

Overtaking is prohibited when visibility is obscured by the crest of a hill, bend or in some other manner. Overtaking in a lane in which oncoming traffic is not permitted is excepted from this rule.

Insofar as they are applicable, the provisions of this subsection apply to the overtaking of trams. They do not apply to the overtaking of two-wheeled vehicles that are on the right-hand side of the lane.

6. Drivers approaching pedestrian crossings must not overtake vehicles or trams which obscure any part of the view of the pedestrian crossing.

Section 13. Special provisions relating to driving speed

1. A driver must be able to stop within the distance which he can see to be clear and before reaching any foreseeable obstruction.
2. Drivers are obliged in particular to maintain sufficiently low speed so that they can, if necessary, stop when passing
 - a) children on or near the road,
 - b) school crossing patrols,
 - c) persons using a white stick or guide dog for the blind,
 - d) other persons who can be assumed to suffer from a disability or illness which hinders them in traffic,
 - e) trams or buses that have stopped or are in the process of stopping at a stop.
3. Drivers must not driver faster than walking pace in pedestrian streets or pedestrianised residential streets.
4. On stretches of road with a specified speed limit higher than 80 kph, motor vehicles with a maximum authorised mass in excess of 3,500 kg or motor vehicles with a trailer must not be driven at speeds greater than 80 kph.
5. Motor vehicles with a trailer without brakes must not drive at speeds greater than 60 kph if the actual total weight of the trailer is 300 kg or more.
6. In so far as it is applicable, this section also applies to drivers of trams.

Section 14. Signals and signs

1. The unnecessary or inconsiderate use of sound or light signals is prohibited.
2. When turning or in some other manner significantly changing the lateral position of the vehicle, the driver shall give a sign for the guidance of other road users.
3. Drivers of emergency vehicles who demand free passage shall alert other road users by flashing blue lights. A special sound signal may also be used, but only when this is necessary.

When necessary in order to avoid danger the driver of a vehicle used for roadworks or similar and who deviates from the traffic rules shall alert other road users by means of flashing yellow lights.

4. Insofar as it is applicable, this section shall also apply to drivers of trams.

Section 15. The use of lights

1. When light or visibility conditions make it necessary, lights which are mandatory for vehicles shall be switched on during driving in order to provide the driver with sufficient visibility or in order to make the vehicle visible to other road users.

During the driving of motor vehicles, prescribed headlights, dipped headlights or approved driving lights shall always be switched on.

2. Headlights must not be used in a manner that dazzles other road users. The same applies when meeting trains, trams or vessels being towed alongside the road.
3. Dipped headlights shall be used when the use of full headlights is not required or not permitted.
4. Parking lights shall be switched on while a vehicle is standing still or parked on a road when the light or visibility conditions make it necessary in order to make the vehicle visible to other road users.

Headlights or dipped headlights must not be switched on while a vehicle is stationary or parked as mentioned in the first paragraph.

5. Permitted auxiliary lights must not be used for other purposes than those for which they are intended.

Fog lights may not be used together with dipped headlights.

6. Insofar as it is applicable, this section also applies to drivers of trams.

Section 16. Inconsiderate driving and unnecessary noise etc.

1. No unnecessary and inconsiderate driving of motor vehicles is permitted in or near residential areas. Nor is it permitted to allow the engine of a motor vehicle to idle or to use the motor vehicle in some other manner that causes unnecessary noise or unnecessary emissions of smoke or gas.
2. In or near residential areas, drivers must adjust their route, speed and manner of driving so as not to disturb others unnecessarily.

Section 17. Stopping and parking

1. It is prohibited to stop
 - a) on a bend with restricted visibility, in tunnels, on the crest of a hill or at any other place where visibility is restricted,
 - b) in a junction or less than 5 metres from a junction. The distance is measured from the point at which the edge of the pavement, the edge marking or edge of the road starts to curve,
 - c) partly or wholly on pavements, foot paths or cycle tracks,
 - d) on pedestrian crossings or bicycle crossings or less than five metres before such crossings,
 - e) on motorways and “roads for motor vehicles” or on motorway and “road for motor vehicles” acceleration or deceleration lanes,
 - f) less than 5 metres from a level crossing,
 - g) in lanes reserved for public transport, in high-occupancy vehicle lanes or in bicycle lanes, except for buses or trams at stops,
 - h) at a widening of the road for a bus, taxi or tram stop or less than 20 metres from an official traffic sign for such stop. Stopping for disembarkation or embarkation purposes is excepted if it does not obstruct buses, taxis or trams.
2. It is prohibited to park
 - a) in front of entrances and exits for vehicles,
 - b) in passing places, in the full breadth of the road and for the whole length of the widened section of the carriageway,
 - c) in pedestrian streets,
 - d) in pedestrianised residential streets other than in specially marked spaces.
3. Parking is prohibited on the carriageway on priority roads with a speed limit greater than 50 kph.

road for motor vehicles = motorway without central reserve

Section 18. Special rules relating to cyclists

1. Cyclists may overtake vehicles other than bicycles on the right.
2. Cyclists intending to turn left may continue to keep to the right of the road and turn where it is convenient. In such case, cyclists shall give way to other road users. Such turns can be carried out without consideration to what is indicated on official traffic signs or by road markings with respect to the choice of lane unless they are specifically intended for cyclists.
3. Cycling on footpaths, pavements or on pedestrian crossings is permitted if there is little pedestrian traffic and the cycling does not endanger or obstruct pedestrians. When passing pedestrians, cyclists must keep a reasonable distance from pedestrians and cycle at close to walking pace.

4. Bicycles may be stopped or parked on cycle tracks, footpaths, pavements, pedestrian streets or pedestrianised residential streets if this does not constitute an unnecessary obstruction or inconvenience.

Section 19. Special rules relating to pedestrians

1. Pedestrians shall use footpaths, the pavement or the shoulder of the road. If this is not reasonable due to the speed of traffic or this is not possible, pedestrians may use cycle tracks, bicycle lanes or the carriageway.

Pedestrians using the carriageway shall keep as far to the left as possible in the direction in which they are walking, but as far right as possible if he wheels a bicycle. The opposite side of the carriageway may be used if the pedestrian would otherwise be endangered or if special circumstances make it necessary.

2. Pedestrians shall cross the carriageway using a pedestrian crossing, footbridge or underpass if there is one in the vicinity. Otherwise, pedestrians shall walk straight across the road, preferably at a junction.

Before crossing the carriageway outside a pedestrian crossing, pedestrians must make sure that they will not thereby endanger or unnecessarily obstruct other road users.

The provisions of this subsection apply correspondingly to cycle tracks.

Section 20. Entry into force

These Regulations enter into force on 1 October 1986.

The traffic rules issued in the Crown Prince Regent's Decree of 26 April 1957 shall be revoked from the same date.