

1972/83



## THE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS 1956, AMENDMENT NO. 22

ARTHUR PORRITT, Governor-General

### ORDER IN COUNCIL

At the Government House at Wellington this 17th day of April 1972

Present:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL

PURSUANT to the Transport Act 1962, His Excellency the Governor-General, acting by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, hereby makes the following regulations.

### REGULATIONS

**1. Title**—These regulations may be cited as the Traffic Regulations 1956, Amendment No. 22, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Traffic Regulations 1956\* (hereinafter referred to as the principal regulations).

**2. Interpretation**—Regulation 3 of the principal regulations is hereby amended by inserting, after the definition of the expression “safety zone”, the following definition:

“‘Seat belt’ or ‘approved seat belt’ means a seat belt of a type approved by the Secretary for Transport by notice in the *Gazette*:”.

**3. Seat belts**—The principal regulations are hereby further amended by revoking regulation 51B (as inserted by regulation 7 of the Traffic Regulations 1956 Amendment No. 12), and substituting the following new regulation:

#### *“Seat Belts*

“51B. (1) No person shall on or after the 1st day of June 1972 operate on a road any motorcar or any goods-service vehicle with a tare weight of less than 4,500 lb, being a motorcar or goods-service vehicle first registered on or after the 1st day of January 1965, unless it is fitted with an approved seat belt for the use of the driver and, in the case of a vehicle providing seating accommodation for 1 or more passengers alongside the driver, at least 1 other seat belt of an approved type for the use of a passenger occupying a front seat in that vehicle:

\*S.R. 1956/217 (Reprinted with Amendments Nos. 1 to 16: S.R. 1968/32)  
 Amendment No. 17: S.R. 1969/54  
 Amendment No. 18: S.R. 1969/115  
 Amendment No. 19: S.R. 1970/157  
 Amendment No. 20: S.R. 1970/272  
 Amendment No. 21: S.R. 1971/117

“Provided that, in the case of a motor vehicle to which this subclause applies which is first registered on or after the 1st day of July 1972, every such seat belt shall be a three-point lap and diagonal belt of an approved type or a harness of an approved type:

“Provided also that where the fitting of three-point lap and diagonal belts or harnesses is not practicable the Secretary for Transport may approve alternative types of seat belts for particular vehicles or classes of vehicles.

“(2) No person of or over the age of 15 years shall on or after the 1st day of June 1972 occupy a seat in a motor vehicle fitted with a seat belt pursuant to this regulation while the motor vehicle is in forward motion on a road, unless the seat belt is worn and securely fastened.

“(3) The Secretary for Transport may from time to time—

“(a) Exempt specified vehicles or classes of vehicles from the requirements of subclause (1) of this regulation:

“(b) Exempt specified persons or classes of persons from the requirements of subclause (2) of this regulation.”

P. J. BROOKS,  
Clerk of the Executive Council.

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

*This note is not part of the regulations, but is intended to indicate their general effect.*

These regulations make provision for the fitting of seat belts in motor vehicles and require seat belts to be worn, as follows:

- (a) Seat belts for the driver and for at least 1 passenger in the front seat must be fitted to all motorcars and to all goods-service vehicles with a tare weight of less than 4,500 lb, being vehicles first registered on or after 1 January 1965.
- (b) In the case of vehicles first registered on or after 1 July 1972, the seat belts must be of a three-point lap and diagonal belt or a harness. The Secretary for Transport may approve other types where the fitting of three-point lap and diagonal types is impracticable.
- (c) Every person occupying a seat fitted with a seat belt is required to wear it securely fastened.
- (d) These requirements are to operate from 1 June 1972.
- (e) The Secretary for Transport is authorised to exempt specified vehicles or classes of vehicles and specified persons or classes of persons from compliance with these provisions.

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Issued under the authority of the Regulations Act 1936.

Date of notification in *Gazette*: 20 April 1972.

These regulations are administered in the Ministry of Transport.