



## THE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS 1976, AMENDMENT NO. 18

PAUL REEVES, Governor-General

### ORDER IN COUNCIL

At Wellington this 19th day of December 1988

Present:

THE HON. M. K. MOORE PRESIDING IN COUNCIL

PURSUANT to sections 77 and 199 of 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.

#### ANALYSIS

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#### REGULATIONS

**1. Title and commencement**—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Traffic Regulations 1976, Amendment No. 18, and shall be read

together with and deemed part of the Traffic Regulations 1976\* (hereinafter referred to as the principal regulations).

(2) These regulations shall come into force on the 1st day of February 1989.

**2. New regulations (relating to dimension restrictions) substituted**—(1) The principal regulations are hereby amended by revoking regulation 48, and substituting the following regulations:

“48 **Application of regulations 48B to 48F**—(1) Regulations 48B to 48D and regulation 48F of these regulations apply to vehicles first registered on or after the 1st day of February 1989.

“(2) Regulation 48E of these regulations applies to mopeds and motorcycles first registered on or after the 1st day of February 1989.

“(3) Regulation 48E of these regulations applies to cycles constructed on or after the 1st day of February 1989.

“48A. **Interpretation**—In regulations 48B to 48F of these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires,—

“ ‘A train’ means an articulated vehicle towing a full trailer:

“ ‘Axle set’ means a single axle set or a tandem axle set or a tri-axle set:

“ ‘B train’ means an articulated vehicle comprising 2 semi-trailers of similar length that are not load dividing dollies:

“ ‘Bus’ means a passenger service vehicle (not being a motorcar) over 3500 kg gross weight:

“ ‘Forward distance’,—

“(a) In relation to a rigid vehicle, means the distance from the rear axis to the front of the vehicle or its load, whichever is foremost:

“(b) In relation to a full trailer, means the distance from the rear axis to the front of the trailer (excluding the drawbar and front axle set) or its load, whichever is foremost:

“(c) In relation to a simple trailer or a semi-trailer, the distance from the rear axis to the point of attachment to the towing vehicle:

“ ‘Front axis’, in relation to a vehicle that has 2 axle sets and is steered by the front axle set, means the centre point of the front axle set:

“ ‘Full trailer’ means a trailer with 2 axle sets the foremost of which is steered by a drawbar:

“ ‘Load sharing axle set’ means an axle set fitted with a suspension system that utilises a hydraulic method or a pneumatic method

\*S.R. 1976/227

- Amendment No. 1: S.R. 1978/72
- Amendment No. 2: (Revoked by S.R. 1984/169)
- Amendment No. 3: (Revoked by S.R. 1980/115)
- Amendment No. 4: S.R. 1980/31
- Amendment No. 5: S.R. 1980/115
- Amendment No. 6: S.R. 1981/158
- Amendment No. 7: S.R. 1981/311
- Amendment No. 8: S.R. 1982/93
- Amendment No. 9: S.R. 1983/282
- Amendment No. 10: S.R. 1984/31
- Amendment No. 11: S.R. 1984/169
- Amendment No. 12: S.R. 1985/70
- Amendment No. 13: S.R. 1985/144
- Amendment No. 14: S.R. 1985/289
- Amendment No. 15: S.R. 1987/213
- Amendment No. 16: S.R. 1988/171
- Amendment No. 17: S.R. 1988/187

or a mechanical method, and only one of those methods, to effect substantially equal sharing of the set's total load by all of the ground contact surfaces of the set, in proportion to the number of tyres on each axle, and effective damping characteristics on all axles:

- “ ‘Overall length’ means the length of a vehicle or vehicle combination measured in a straight line; and includes the length of any load and of the drawbar in a horizontal straight ahead position:
- “ ‘Pole trailer’ means a trailer that is attached to the towing vehicle by a telescoping or sliding pole and is designed to support a common load of logs, or a similar load, spanning between the trailer and the towing vehicle:
- “ ‘Rear axis’,—
- “(a) In relation to a vehicle that has only 1 non-steering axle, means that axle:
- “(b) In relation to a vehicle that has a non-steering axle set of 2 axles, means—
- “(i) Midway between those axles, if each axle has an equal number of tyres on it:
- “(ii) Two-thirds of the distance from the lesser tyred axle towards the greater tyred axle, if 1 axle has twice as many tyres on it as the other axle:
- “(c) In relation to a vehicle that has a non-steering tri-axle set, means midway between the extreme axles of the set:
- “(d) In relation to a vehicle that has a retractable axle or does not have an axle arrangement that is specified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) or paragraph (c) of this definition, means a position determined by the Secretary:
- “ ‘Rear overhang’ means the distance from the rear axis to the rear of the vehicle or its load, whichever is rearmost:
- “ ‘Retractable axle’ means an axle that has a convenient adjustment to allow the axle load distribution of an axle set to be varied substantially:
- “ ‘Rigid vehicle’ means a vehicle by itself that does not have any pivot points to allow any part of the vehicle or its load to move or rotate in relation to any other part of the vehicle:
- “ ‘Simple trailer’ means a trailer that has only 1 axle set:
- “ ‘Single axle set’ means either 1 axle or 2 axles having their centres spaced less than 1 m apart:
- “ ‘Tandem axle set’ means 2 axles having their centres spaced not less than 1 m and not exceeding 2 m apart and are load sharing:
- “ ‘Tri-axle set’ means 3 axles, where—
- “(a) The centre of the first and third axles are spaced not less than 2 m and not exceeding 3 m apart; and
- “(b) All axles contain an equal number of tyres of the same size, and none of the axles is a single standard-tyred axle (as defined in regulation 2(1) of the Heavy Motor Vehicle Regulations 1974\*); and
- “(c) The axles are a load sharing axle set:

“ ‘Twin steer set’ means a tandem axle set with single tyres, where both axles are connected to the same mechanism in order to steer similarly:

“ ‘Vehicle’ includes a trailer and a bus:

“ ‘Wheelbase’ means the distance from a vehicle’s rear axis to its front axis.

“48B. **Restrictions affecting vehicles**—(1) No person shall operate any vehicle—

“(a) If the vehicle or its load or both exceed 2.5 m in width or extend more than 1.25 m from the longitudinal centre-line of the vehicle; or

“(b) If the vehicle is a rigid vehicle or a full trailer or a simple trailer or a semi-trailer and its forward distance exceeds 8.5 m; or

“(c) If the vehicle or its load extends forward from the front edge of the driver’s seat by more than 3 m; or

“(d) If the vehicle or its load extends backward from the vehicle’s rear axis by more than 4 m; or

“(e) If the vehicle is a rigid vehicle or a bus and exceeds 3500 kg gross weight, and its rear overhang exceeds 3.7 m or exceeds 60 percent of the wheelbase; or

“(f) If the vehicle is a rigid vehicle (other than a trailer) or a bus and exceeds 3500 kg gross weight and is of under 9.5 m overall length, and its rear overhang exceeds 3.2 m or exceeds 60 percent of the wheelbase; or

“(g) If the vehicle or its load or both rise to a height exceeding 4.25 m from the ground or are likely to damage any construction or wires lawfully over any roadway used by the vehicle; or

“(h) If the vehicle has a trailing unit attached to it or is part of a combination of vehicles, and the distance from the towing vehicle’s point of attachment to the first trailing unit to the rear of the trailing unit or the rear of the vehicle combination or the rear of the load exceeds 14.5 m; or

“(i) If the vehicle is an A train and the distance from the semi-trailer’s rear axis to its point of attachment to the full trailer’s drawbar exceeds 30 percent of the semi-trailer’s forward distance; or

“(j) If the vehicle by itself or in combination with other vehicles has an overall length exceeding,—

“ (i) In the case of a single, non-articulated vehicle (not being a bus or a semi-trailer), 11 m; or

“ (ii) In the case of an articulated vehicle, other than an A train or a B train, 17 m; or

“ (iii) In the case of a non-articulated vehicle that has a trailer attached to it (not being a semi-trailer), 19 m; or

“ (iv) In the case of an A train or a B train, 20 m; or

“(k) If the vehicle is being operated in combination with other vehicles and the space between any 2 vehicles in the combination exceeds 4 m; or

“(l) If the vehicle or any other vehicle used in combination with it was first registered on or after the 1st day of January 1971 and the vehicle or combination of vehicles is incapable of completing a 360° turn without projecting outside the circumference of a circle of 25 m diameter; or

- “(m) If the vehicle is not a bus and is not stationary, and is a vehicle exceeding 3500 kg gross weight, and the ground clearance at any point along the vehicle does not exceed 10 percent of the distance from that point to the nearest axle, and does not exceed 100 mm; or
- “(n) If the vehicle by itself or in combination with other vehicles has a gross weight exceeding 3500 kg, unless, in the case of a rigid vehicle, it is supported by either a single axle or a twin steer set towards the front of the vehicle connecting all wheels for that part of the vehicle to the steering system, and 1 axle set towards the rear of the vehicle; or
- “(o) If the vehicle has any steering axles, unless that axle is, or those axles are, in the front axle set; or
- “(p) If the vehicle is used in combination with other vehicles and the combination exceeds 39 000 kg gross weight, and—
- “(i) Any of the axles (excluding those in the foremost set in the combination or those in the front set of a full trailer) can steer; or
- “(ii) The combination (not being a B Train) contains 2 or more trailers or is an A train or is an articulated vehicle; or
- “(iii) The towing vehicle is a rigid vehicle (other than a rigid vehicle that has a twin steer set) towing a full trailer and has a wheelbase under 4.25 m; or
- “(iv) The gross weight of all the axles of the trailer or trailers does not exceed twice the gross weight of all the axles of the towing vehicle; or
- “(v) The towing vehicle does not contain 2 motor driven axles in a tandem set; or
- “(q) If the vehicle exceeds 3500 kg gross weight and its axle sets (excluding any twin steer sets) are not load sharing; or
- “(r) If the vehicle is an A train, unless the towing vehicle contains 2 motor driven axles in a tandem set; or
- “(s) If the vehicle is an articulated vehicle exceeding 37 000 kg gross weight and the semi-trailer has a steering axle; or
- “(t) If the vehicle is an articulated vehicle, and the point of attachment of the semi-trailer is located more than 300 mm behind the rearmost axle of the towing vehicle; or
- “(u) If the vehicle has a retractable axle; or
- “(v) If the vehicle is towing a full trailer and the gross of both exceeds 42 000 kg, unless the vehicle has a twin steer set.
- “(2) Paragraph (a) of subclause (1) of this regulation shall not apply to any agricultural trailer or agricultural machine that—
- “(a) Does not exceed 3.7 m in width; and
- “(b) Does not carry a load exceeding 3.7 m in width; and
- “(c) Is not operated during the hours of darkness; and
- “(d) Is not driven at a speed exceeding 30 kilometres an hour; and
- “(e) Carries a flag of the type specified in regulation 50 of these regulations, at the extreme right-hand edge of the vehicle, to indicate excess dimensions.
- “(3) For the purposes of paragraph (a) of subclause (1) of this regulation, the following shall be deemed not to form part of the vehicle or its load:
- “(a) Side marker lights and direction indicators:

“(b) Collapsible mirrors that project not more than 240 mm more than the width of the vehicle or its trailer:

“(c) Ropes, lashings, straps, chains, and related connectors or tensioning devices that extend not more than 25 mm out either side of the vehicle and are neither permanently fixed nor rigidly fixed.

“(4) Paragraph (b) of subclause (1) of this regulation shall not apply to buses.

“(5) Paragraph (k) of subclause (1) of this regulation shall not apply to any set of 2 vehicles that are designed or being used to support a common load.

“(6) For the purposes of paragraph (m) of subclause (1) of this regulation, the vehicle shall be deemed not to include the wheels, tyres, flexible mudflaps, or devices designed to discharge static electricity.

“48c. **Restrictions affecting buses**—(1) No person shall operate any bus—

“(a) If the forward distance exceeds 8.3 m plus any distance by which the overall length exceeds 11.4 m; or

“(b) If the bus is a non-articulated bus and has an overall length exceeding 12.6 m; or

“(c) If the bus is an articulated bus; or

“(d) If the ground clearance at any point along the bus does not exceed 6 percent of the distance from that point to the nearest axle, and does not exceed 100 mm.

“(2) For the purposes of paragraph (d) of subclause (1) of this regulation, the bus shall be deemed not to include the wheels, tyres, flexible mudflaps, or devices designed to discharge static electricity.

“48d. **Restrictions affecting trailers**—No person shall operate any trailer—

“(a) If the trailer is a pole trailer and the distance from the trailer’s front axis (in the case of a trailer having 2 axle groups) or rear axis (in the case of a trailer having only 1 axle group) to the point of attachment on the towing vehicle exceeds 7.4 m; or

“(b) If the trailer is a full trailer or a semi-trailer, and any part of the trailer or its load (excluding, in the case of a full trailer, the drawbar, axles, wheels, suspension, and all componentry steered with the drawbar) extends forward beyond the arc of a circle of 1.5 m radius, with its centre on the trailer’s centre-line 500 mm ahead of the centre of the turntable or kingpin on which the trailer is hinged; or

“(c) If the trailer is a pole trailer having only 1 axle group or a simple trailer that, together with the towing vehicle, exceeds 3500 kg gross weight, and the trailer’s rear overhang exceeds 3.7 m or exceeds 60 percent of the distance from its axis to the point of attachment to the towing vehicle; or

“(d) If the trailer is a simple trailer that, together with the towing vehicle, does not exceed 3500 kg gross weight and the trailer’s rear overhang exceeds 4 m; or

“(e) If the trailer is a full trailer and exceeds 3500 kg gross weight and its rear overhang exceeds 3.2 m or exceeds 60 percent of the wheelbase; or

- “(f) If the trailer is a semi-trailer and its rear overhang exceeds 3.2 m or exceeds 50 percent of the distance from its rear axis to the point of attachment on the towing vehicle; or
- “(g) If the trailer by itself or in combination with other trailers has a gross weight exceeding 3500 kg, unless,—
- “(i) In the case of a semi-trailer, it is supported by 1 axle set only and that set is towards the rear of the vehicle; or
- “(ii) In the case of a full trailer, it is supported by a single axle set or a tandem axle set towards the front of the trailer (where all the wheels in the front axle set are connected to the steering mechanism for that part of the vehicle) and 1 axle set towards the rear of the trailer; or
- “(iii) In the case of a simple trailer, it is supported by a single axle set or a tandem axle set, or, in the case of a pole trailer, it is supported by one of those sets or by a tri-axle set; or
- “(h) If the trailer is a pole trailer and is being operated for any purpose (except for the purpose of carrying poles or similar long loads that do not form part of the trailer).

“48E. **Restrictions affecting cycles, mopeds, and motorcycles**—No person shall operate any cycle, moped, or motorcycle—

- “(a) That has only 2 wheels, if the vehicle or its load or both exceed 1 m in width or extend more than 500 mm from the vehicle’s centre-line, or if any part of the load extends more than 1 m ahead of the front wheel or more than 1 m behind the rear wheel; or
- “(b) That has more than 2 wheels (including any motorcycle that has a sidecar attached) or any trailer towed by any such vehicle, if the vehicle or trailer or load or both exceed 2 m in width, or if any part of the load extends more than 1 m ahead of the front wheel or more than 1 m behind the rear wheel or more than 200 mm beyond either side of the vehicle.

“48F. **Exemption in respect of road construction zones**—Nothing in regulations 48A to 48D of these regulations shall apply to any vehicle authorised to operate in a road construction zone by a notice under regulation 12 of the Heavy Motor Vehicle Regulations 1974\* while the vehicle is operating within the zone and provided the vehicle or its load or both do not exceed 4.25 m in width or 19 m in length.”

(2) Regulation 2 (3) of the Traffic Regulations 1976, Amendment No. 10 is hereby amended by omitting the reference to subclauses (8) and (9) of regulation 48 of the principal regulations.

(3) Regulation 9 of the Traffic Regulations 1976, Amendment No. 4 is hereby revoked.

**3. Special exemptions**—Regulation 49 of the principal regulations is hereby amended by omitting from subclause (1) and also from subclause (3) (as added by regulation 10 of the Traffic Regulations 1976, Amendment No. 4) the expression “regulation 48”, and substituting in each case the words “regulations 48B to 48D”.

\*S.R. 1974/218

Amendment No. 1: S.R. 1974/309

Amendment No. 2: S.R. 1983/283

Amendment No. 3: S.R. 1985/145

Amendment No. 4: S.R. 1987/206

**4. High mounted stop lamps**—The principal regulations are hereby amended by inserting, after regulation 61, the following regulation:

“61A. (1) Every motorcar first registered on or after the 1st day of January 1990 shall be fitted with at least 1 stop lamp that—

“(a) Is placed in a central high mounted position at the rear of the vehicle; and

“(b) Is—

“(i) In the case of a vehicle that is a convertible, not lower than 152 mm below the bottom edge of the rear window; or

“(ii) In any other case, not lower than 77 mm below the bottom edge of the rear window; and

“(c) Conforms to such standard for high mounted stop lamps as the Secretary from time to time determines by notice in the *Gazette*.

“(2) The provisions of this regulation are in addition to the provisions of regulation 61 of these regulations.”

**5. Steering**—Regulation 70 of the principal regulations is hereby amended by revoking subclauses (1) to (3), and substituting the following subclauses:

“(1) No person shall operate any motor vehicle having the steering column to the left of the longitudinal centre-line of the body of the vehicle.

“(2) Notwithstanding subclause (1) of this regulation, any person may operate any motor vehicle having the steering column to the left of the longitudinal centre-line of the body of the vehicle if the vehicle—

“(a) Was purchased from the Crown by the owner or any former owner; or

“(b) Is for the time being exempt from subclause (1) of this regulation by virtue of an exemption granted under regulation 90 of these regulations.”

**6. Television in motor vehicles**—The principal regulations are hereby amended by revoking regulation 79, and substituting the following regulation:

“79. (1) A television set may be operated in any motor vehicle if the screen—

“(a) Is visible to the driver and is installed or placed in the vehicle only to enable the driver to reverse safely by showing a clear picture of the area directly behind the vehicle; or

“(b) Is not directly or indirectly visible to the driver.

“(2) Except as provided in subclause (1) of this regulation, no person shall operate a television set in any motor vehicle.”

**7. Exemptions from equipment requirements**—Regulation 90 (1) of the principal regulations is hereby amended by inserting, after the words “in respect of any”, the words “specified motor vehicle or any”.

**8. Transitional**—(1) Notwithstanding the revocation of regulation 48 of the principal regulations (in this regulation called the old regulation) and the provisions substituted by regulation 2 (1) of these regulations (in this regulation called the new regulations), but subject to subclause (2) of this regulation,—



- (a) The old regulation shall continue to have effect in relation to the operation of every vehicle, moped, and motorcycle first registered in New Zealand before the 1st day of February 1989:
  - (b) The old regulation shall continue to have effect in relation to the operation of every cycle constructed before the 1st day of February 1989:
  - (c) Nothing in the principal regulations or in these regulations shall prohibit the operation of any such vehicle, moped, motorcycle, or cycle, if it complies with the new regulations.
- (2) No heavy motor vehicle exceeding 39 000 kg gross weight, that was first registered before the 1st day of February 1989, shall be operated unless it complies with the new regulations.
- (3) Notwithstanding subclause (2) of this regulation, regulation 49 of the principal regulations shall apply to vehicles to which that subclause applies as if the references in that regulation to regulations 48B to 48D of the principal regulations were references to that subclause.

MARIE SHROFF,  
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, which come into force on 1 February 1989, amend the Traffic Regulations 1976 as follows.

First, new dimension limits for motor vehicles and their loads are prescribed. Vehicles first registered before the commencement of the new limits will continue to be subject to the old limits but may operate under the new limits.

Secondly, to require all motorcars first registered on or after 1 January 1990 to be fitted with at least 1 high mounted stop lamp in a central position at the rear of each vehicle.

Thirdly, to change the exemptions to the prohibition against the operation of left-hand drive vehicles. The only exemptions will be for vehicles formerly owned by the Crown and vehicles exempt by virtue of an exemption granted under regulation 90 of the principal regulations. Formerly, vehicles first registered before 1 April 1928 and vehicles imported for personal use were also exempt.

Fourthly, to permit television screens to be operated in any motor vehicle if the screen is installed or placed in the vehicle for the purpose of showing the driver the area directly behind the vehicle and thereby enabling the driver to safely reverse the vehicle or if the screen is outside of the driver's vision.

Fifthly, to enable the Secretary for Transport to exempt specified vehicles from the requirements of the regulations relating to equipment (regulation 90(1)). Formerly, exemptions could be granted only in respect of any specified class of vehicle.

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Issued under the authority of the Regulations Act 1936.

Date of notification in *Gazette*: 21 December 1988.

These regulations are administered in the Ministry of Transport.