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2010

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IT is hereby notified that the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Infrastructural Development, in terms of section 81 of the Road Traffic Act [*Chapter 13:11*], has made the following regulations:—

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Title and date of commencement

1. (1) These regulations may be cited as the Road Traffic (Construction, Equipment and Use) Regulations, 2010.

(2) These regulations shall come into operation on the 1st of December, 2010.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations—

“at night” means the period between half past five o’clock in the afternoon and half past six o’clock the following morning;

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- “auto-cycle” means a pedal-cycle powered by a motor;
- “axle arm” means that part of the axle on which the wheel revolves;
- “beacon light” means a flashing light fitted to a vehicle in such a manner that the light emitted from it is visible from any direction in a horizontal plane;
- “brake decelerometer” means any equipment designed and normally used to measure the deceleration of a motor vehicle for the purpose of determining the efficiency of its brakes;
- “brake roller tester” means equipment which makes use of rollers and a display dial or digital meter which is used to measure the braking force applied on each wheel of a motor vehicle or trailer;
- “bus train” means an articulated vehicle which is an omnibus with the drawing vehicle and trailer so interconnected that it allows free movement of persons between units;
- “cane transportation unit” means a combination of vehicles used exclusively for the transportation of sugar cane;
- “commercial motor vehicle” means a motor lorry, tractor, van, including vehicles commonly known as “pick up” double cabs, breakdown van or any similar motor vehicle not exceeding two thousand three hundred kilograms in net mass, but does not include vehicles commonly known as “station wagons” and goods vehicle adapted for the carriage of passengers;
- “construction vehicle” means a vehicle—
- (a) specifically designed to perform a specific function in the construction business which otherwise can not be performed by an ordinary vehicle; and
 - (b) is not capable of attaining a speed in excess of 40 km/h; and
 - (c) is solely used at construction sites or environment for which it is designed to operate; and
 - (d) listed in the Seventh Schedule as a construction vehicle.

“direction indicator”, in relation to any vehicle means—

- (a) a blinking or flashing white or amber light fitted to the front of the vehicle and a blinking or flashing red or amber light fitted to the rear of a vehicle; or
- (b) a blinking or flashing light fitted to the side of the vehicle and showing a white or amber light to the front and a red or amber light to the rear of such vehicle;

“fog lamp” means a lamp designed to improve road surface illumination in fog, snow, heavy rain or dusty conditions, usually characterized by wide side spread and enables the driver to see clearly through fog, snow, heavy rain or dusty conditions;

“footbrake” refers to the braking system which is designed for and ordinarily used for slowing down or bringing the vehicle to a halt when in motion and commonly referred to as “in motion or service brake”;

“handbrake” refers to the braking system that is designed for and ordinarily used for keeping a vehicle in a stationary position or parked and commonly referred to as the “parking brake” and may be used in an emergency;

“hazard warning lamps” means,

- (a) two or more blinking or flashing white or amber lights fitted to the front of a vehicle which emit white or amber light to the front of the vehicle; or
- (b) two or more blinking or flashing red or amber lights fitted to the rear of a vehicle which emit red or amber light to the rear of the vehicle; or
- (c) two or more lamps fitted to the sides of a vehicle and designed so as to emit white or amber light to the front and red or amber light to the rear of the vehicle;

all of which being designed to blink or flash simultaneously when a special switch is operated;

“height lamps” means identification lamps also referred to as

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“clearance lamps” indicating the highest point at the front or rear of a vehicle;

“horn” means an electrical or mechanical instrument capable of emitting a continuous sound immediately when operated and clearly audible, under normal conditions at a distance of not less than one hundred metres and includes a device commonly referred to as a “hooter” but does not include a siren or any other device capable of emitting a sound similar to or which can be confused with that of a siren.

Provided that a horn shall emit a sound of at least 101 dB (A) and not more than 118 dB (A) according to ECE regulation 28;

“noise metre” means any equipment designed for and normally used to determine the level of noise pollution produced by vehicle systems including exhaust systems;

“overhang” in relation to any vehicle, means the distance measured horizontally, and parallel to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle, between two vertical planes at right angles to that axis passing through—

- (a) rearmost point of the vehicle, exclusive of—
 - (i) any ladder permanently fixed to the vehicle and used for gaining access to the roof; and
 - (ii) luggage-carrier fixed to the vehicle, where the vehicle is a motor vehicle constructed solely for the carriage of not more than seven passengers and their effects; and
- (b) any of the following points—
 - (i) in the case of a motor vehicle with two axles, one of which is not a steering axle, the centre point of that axle; or
 - (ii) in the case of a motor vehicle having three axles where the front axle is the only steering axle, the point one hundred millimetres behind the

centre of a straight line joining the centre-points of the rear and middle axles; or

- (iii) in the case of a motor vehicle with three axles, the front two of which are the steering axles, the point hundred millimetres behind the centre of a straight line joining the centre-point of the third and fourth axles; or
- (iv) in any other case, the point situated on the longitudinal axis of the vehicle and such that a line drawn from it at right angles to the axis will pass through the centre of the minimum turning-circle of the vehicle;

Provided that in determining the overhang of a semi trailer, the centre of the kingpin shall be deemed to be the centre of the steering axle.

[Note:— Illustrations, designed to assist in calculating the overhang of a vehicle appear in the First Schedule.]

- “pedal cycle” includes any auto-cycle, bicycle or tricycle;
- “definitions of diamond grade, honeycomb and engineering grade reflective material” means any material designed to reflect light back to its source;
- “retro reflector” means a reflector of glass or other reflective material designed to reflect light back to its source;
- “registration plate” means a plate bearing the registration mark and number assigned to a motor vehicle or a trailer in terms of the Vehicle Registration and Licensing Act [*Chapter 13:14*] and conforming to any regulations made in terms of that Act;
- “ride” includes cause or permit to be ridden;
- “safety belt” means a harness or safety belt assembly, including both a lap and a diagonal strap, as defined in the Central African Standard 223:1982;
- “safety glass” means glass manufactured or treated that, if fractured, it does not readily shatter into fragments capable of causing severe cuts;

“safety helmet” means a helmet which covers the head and is designed for use by riders of motor-cycles;

“smoke meter/analyzer” means any equipment designed and normally used to determine the density and additionally, or alternatively, the constituents of the exhaust smoke or gases from the engine of a motor vehicle;

“strip track” means that part of a road constructed with strips of cement, concrete, tar macadam or any other material, and includes that portion of the road lying between such strips;

“trailer bus” means a semi-trailer designed to carry passengers;

“wheel-base” means a distance between the plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of a vehicle which passes through the centre or centres of the front wheel or wheels and the foremost vertical plane from which the overhang is measured.

References to standard publications

3. (1) Any reference in these regulations to any standards published by the Standards Association of Zimbabwe or any other International Standards Authority, shall imply that such standard is the minimum requirement in the relevant section and that the onus shall be on whoever is concerned to prove to the Standard Association of Zimbabwe that any other standard he is tendering meets the minimum requirement as provided for herein.

(2) Any standards referred to in these regulations shall be available for inspection, hire or sell at the Standards Association of Zimbabwe’s offices at Northwood Close, Northridge, Borrowdale, Harare.

PART II

CONSTRUCTION OF VEHICLES

Overall length of motor vehicle or trailer

4. (1) No person shall drive an articulated vehicle on any road if the vehicle’s overall length exceeds eighteen comma five metres.

(2) No person shall drive a bus train on any road if the overall length of the bus train exceeds twenty metres.

(3) No person shall drive on any road any motor vehicle and trailer, or any other combination of vehicles, if the overall length of the combination exceeds twenty-two metres.

(4) No person shall drive on any road a motor vehicle other than—

- (a) a construction vehicle or construction trailer; or
- (b) a semi trailer; or
- (c) a vehicle referred to in subsections (1), (2) or (3);

if the overall length of the vehicle exceeds twelve comma five metres.

(5) For the purposes of this section, the overall length of a vehicle includes any draw bar and any tail board, but does not include any ladder fixed to the rear of any vehicle or trailer for gaining access to the roof or such protective equipment such as bull bars and “D” rubbers.

(6) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (3), a cane transportation unit, whether loaded or empty may be used within the boundaries of the farm or for the purposes of crossing any major or public road that passes through such farm provided that:—

- (a) it shall not be driven at a speed in excess of twenty kilometres per hour; and
- (b) the rearmost trailer thereof shall be fitted with a warning sign complying with the requirements of section 38 of these regulations and shall be affixed to the front and rear of the unit, a special warning sign which shall—
 - (i) be not less than two thousand millimeters in length and three hundred millimeters in height; and
 - (ii) bear the word “ABNORMAL” in red reflective lettering on a white reflective background; and
 - (iii) consist of lettering of uniform size which shall be not less than two hundred millimetres in height and the stroke thereof shall be not less than fifty millimetres; and

- (c) the warning sign and special warning sign referred to in paragraphs (b) and (c) shall be kept clean at all times.

Width of motor vehicle or trailer

5. (1) No person shall drive on any road a motor vehicle or trailer registered on or after the 1st of December, 2010, other than a construction vehicle or construction trailer, if the width of the motor vehicle or trailer exceeds two comma six five metres.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the width of a motor vehicle or trailer includes all fittings and fixtures, other than a rear view mirror:

Provided that any motor vehicle other than a construction vehicle or construction trailer registered prior to 1st December, 2010, shall not exceed two comma six five metres in width.

Height of motor vehicle or trailer

6. (1) No person shall drive any motor vehicle or trailer on any road if the height of the motor vehicle or trailer exceeds four comma six metres.

(2) No person shall drive an omnibus on any road if the overall height of the omnibus exceeds three comma two metres unless—

- (a) such omnibus is not fitted with a roof rack; and
- (b) such omnibus has a tilting certificate issued by the manufacturer of the omnibus or an authority recognized by the Standards Association of Zimbabwe which shall be displayed and sufficiently protected in the omnibus for checking by any authorized person at any time when such omnibus is being used on any road.

(3) No person shall drive a trailer bus on any road if the overall height of the trailer bus exceeds three comma seven metres.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (2) “omnibus” means any bus designed for and capable of carrying passengers or both passengers and goods whether for hire or reward or otherwise and includes any commuter omnibus or long distance bus but excludes a trailer bus.

Overhang of motor vehicle or trailer

7. (1) No person shall drive a motor vehicle on any road if the motor vehicle's overhang—

- (a) exceeds seventy *per centum* of its wheel-base, in the case of a motor vehicle which is—
 - (i) constructed primarily for the carriage of passengers and whose overall width does not exceed two comma one metres; or
 - (ii) constructed primarily for the carriage of passengers and whose overall width exceeds two comma one metres, and which is fitted with more than one rear axle; or
 - (iii) designed or adapted for use and used solely in connection with street cleaning or the disposal of refuse;

or

- (b) exceeds sixty *per centum* of its wheel-base, in the case of any motor vehicle.

(2) No person shall use a trailer on any road if the trailer's overhang—

- (a) exceeds seventy *per centum* of its wheel-base, in the case of a trailer designed or adapted for use and used solely in connection with street cleaning or the disposal of refuse; or
- (b) exceeds sixty *per centum* of its wheel-base, in the case of any other trailer.

(3) This section shall not apply to construction vehicles or construction trailers.

[Note—Illustrations designed to assist in calculating the overhang of a vehicle appear in the First Schedule.]

Distribution of mass

8. (1) No person shall drive a motor vehicle on any road if—

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- (a) less than twenty *per centum* of a motor vehicle's total mass is carried on—
 - (i) any one axle, where the motor vehicle has two axles;
 - (ii) any one axle or any one pair of axles, where the motor vehicle has three axles;or
- (c) less than thirty *per centum* of its total mass is carried on any one pair of axles, where the motor vehicles has four or more axles.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), two or more axles in line across a motor vehicle shall be deemed to be one axle.

Axle configurations

9. (1) No person shall drive on any road any heavy vehicle or heavy trailer unless its axle configurations comply with the specifications of the Second Schedule.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), an abnormal heavy vehicle or heavy trailer may be driven on a road only between 06:00 and 18:00hrs if such heavy vehicle or heavy trailer—

- (a) is registered as such with the Ministry of Transport and Communications and is displaying the abnormal vehicle registration number and carrying the registration certificate in respect of such vehicle or trailer;
- (b) is a combination of vehicles commonly known as a road train of maximum length 42 metres, a width of 2.6 metres and has a maximum weight of 152 tonnes when loaded maybe used on designated roads to convey specific goods;
- (c) is accompanied by escort vehicles when in operation.

(3) The road train referred to in subsection 2(b) shall only make use of designated routes and or roads as specified in the Abnormal vehicle permit.

(4) A road train being used on a road as defined in this section shall in addition meet the following requirements—

- (a) it shall not exceed a speed in excess of 60 km/h; and
- (b) it shall be equipped with bright red flags at least 600 mm by 600 mm, attached by vertical poles mounted on the extremities of the vehicle; and
- (c) warning boards at least 2 000 mm by 300 mm high bearing the word "ABNORMAL" in red reflective letters, 200 mm high on a white background mounted at the front and rear; and
- (d) a flashing amber beacon light shall be fitted to the vehicle and illuminated whenever the vehicle is on the road.

(5) Designated route and or road used by a road train shall have signs placed on the road after every ten kilometres and at every junction which shall be written in reflective white 150 mm high lettering on a sea-green background.

(6) The provisions for road trains specified in this section shall not exempt the said road train from complying with the provisions of any law or regulations not specifically referred herein.

(7) Failure to comply with the provisions of this section shall result in the withdrawal of the abnormal vehicle permit or any other authority granted for the operation of a road train.

Steering system

10. (1) No person shall drive on a road a motor vehicle—

- (a) unless all components of the steering system are secured, retained and maintained in a condition which enables the vehicle to be steered safely and efficiently;
- (b) unless in addition to the requirements of paragraph (a), all parts of the steering mechanism are so adjusted that, unless otherwise designed by the manufacturer, the amount of movement which the steering wheel makes before the steering gear becomes effective in changing the direction of the steerable wheels from a position where such wheels are parallel to the longitudinal centre line of the vehicle to the right or left is not more than 45°

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or 12.5% of the outside circumference of the steering wheel;

- (c) which is fitted with an anti-theft device which enables the steering wheel to be disengaged or disconnected from the steering mechanism of the vehicle;
- (d) which is equipped with a purely hydraulic steering mechanism unless it also has some means of mechanical steering for use in an emergency;

(2) No person shall drive on a road any motor vehicle registered in terms of the Vehicle Registration and Licensing Act [Chapter 13:14] for the first time in Zimbabwe on or after the 31st of March, 2011, if the steering wheel of the vehicle is on the left hand side;

Provided that no heavy vehicle fitted with a steering wheel on the left-hand side shall be driven on a road after the 31st December, 2015.

(3) No person shall drive on a road a motor cycle—

- (a) unless the handlebars thereof are symmetrically placed in relation to the longitudinal centre-line of the cycle;
- (b) unless the distance between the outside edges of the handlebars is at least 600 mm in respect of a motor cycle with an engine cylinder capacity of 200 cm³ or more and at least 500 mm in respect of all other motor cycle; or
- (c) of which the outer ends of the handgrips on the handle bars are—
 - (i) higher than 500 mm above the seat height; or
 - (ii) lower than the seat height and more than 800 mm apart.

View to the front and side

11. No person shall drive a motor vehicle on any road if the motor vehicle is so designed, adapted or constructed or its windows or windscreen, are so tinted or shaded that its driver, while controlling the vehicle, does not have a full view of the road and traffic on either side abreast of him as well as ahead of the vehicle.