

# THE HIGHWAY CODE



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**Malawi**

2nd Edition



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# **THE HIGHWAYCODE**

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2nd Edition

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# MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSPORT

The Highway Code is an important source of information for all road users and it is a must that everyone should have a copy of it. The contents of this booklet, if read and properly understood and followed, will lead to a marked reduction in the number of road traffic accidents experienced every year in Malawi. The unnecessary accidents on our roads, which have led to death, injury and property damage, costing the country billions of kwacha annually, are a result of negligence and ignorance. The Highway Code, therefore, attempts to address most of the road safety problems faced by all road users.

Overspeeding, alcoholism, fatigue and violation of traffic rules and regulations are some of the major causes of death, injuries and property damages, these have devastating effects on GDP and economic losses.

In order to instill discipline and enhance safety on our roads, the general public is encouraged to have a copy of this new Highway Code and share the information in it.

***ARRIVE ALIVE !***

The Republic of Malawi Highway Code, is a set of rules and regulations from the Road Traffic Act Chapter 69:01 revised in 1997 complying with Southern African Development Community (SADC) standards. It is an easy to follow guide for all road users.

This booklet is divided in three parts, part I, part II and Part III.

Part I comprises general traffic rules and regulations for different categories of road users.

The second part contains traffic signs and signals, road markings.

The third part contains dangerous/hazardous goods and substances.

The booklet summarises the rules and regulations covered in the various Road Traffic law publications as well as actual requirements of all road user groups. It is essential for all road users to read this booklet to enhance safety and embrace it as the top priority on our roads.

**ROAD SAFETY IS OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY**

**DIRECTOR OF ROAD TRAFFIC**





# CONTENTS

## PART I GENERAL TRAFFIC RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR DIFFERENT ROAD USERS

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>1. RESPONSIBILITIES OF A PEDESTRIAN</b>        | <b>1</b>  |
| • Walking along the road                          |           |
| • Crossing the road                               |           |
| • Code for parents                                |           |
| <b>2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF A PASSENGER</b>         | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF ROAD USER ON WHEELS</b> | <b>11</b> |
| • General condition of the vehicle                |           |
| • Licence   |           |
| • Intersections                                   |           |
| • Reversing                                       |           |
| • Overtaking and being overtaken                  |           |
| • Parking   |           |
| • Breakdown and accidents                         |           |
| • Following distances                             |           |
| <b>4. RULES FOR PEDAL AND MOTOR CYCLISTS</b>      | <b>28</b> |
| • Protective clothing                             |           |
| • Cycling/riding along                            |           |
| <b>5. ANIMALS AND ANIMAL-DRAWN VEHICLES</b>       | <b>32</b> |
| <b>6. RAILROAD/ LEVEL CROSSING</b>                | <b>34</b> |
| • The right of way                                |           |
| <b>7. EMERGENCY MOTOR VEHICLES</b>                | <b>35</b> |
| • Types of emergency vehicles                     |           |

# CONTENTS

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>8. MOTORWAYS / FREEWAYS</b>                                 | <b>36</b> |
| • On the motorways / freeways                                  |           |
| <b>9. FIRST AID</b>  | <b>39</b> |
| <b>10. GENERAL ROAD SAFETY TIPS</b>                            | <b>40</b> |
| <b>PART II</b>   |           |
| <b>TRAFFIC SIGNS AND SIGNALS</b>                               |           |
| <b>1. DRIVER AND RIDERS SIGNALS</b>                            | <b>43</b> |
| <b>2. TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS</b>                              | <b>44</b> |
| • Traffic signals by authorised personnel                      |           |
| • Flag signals by authorised personnel                         |           |
| <b>3 CLASSIFICATION OF ROAD SIGNS</b>                          | <b>45</b> |
| • Regulatory signs   |           |
| - Mandatory signs  |           |
| - Prohibitive signs  |           |
| • Danger warning signs   |           |
| • Informative signs  |           |
| <b>4. CARRIAGE WAY MARKINGS</b>                                | <b>63</b> |
| <b>5. VEHICLE CLASSIFICATION/<br/>IDENTIFICATION</b>           | <b>67</b> |
| <b>PART III</b>  |           |
| <b>CLASSES OF DANGEROUS/HAZARDOUS<br/>GOODS AND SUBSTANCES</b> |           |
| <b>1. EXPLOSIVES (divided in six divisions)</b>                | <b>72</b> |
| • Mass explosion hazard  | 1.1       |
| • Projection hazard  | 1.2       |
| • Fire hazard  | 1.3       |

# CONTENTS

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>2. Gases</b>  | <b>73</b> |
| • Flammable  | 2.1       |
| • Non flammable and non-toxic (dangerous because compressed)       | 2.2       |
| • Toxic  | 2.3       |
| <b>3. Flammable liquid</b>   | <b>73</b> |
| <b>4. Flammable substances</b> (Other than liquid or gas)          | <b>73</b> |
| • Solids   | 4.1       |
| • Spontaneously combustible (self-igniting)                        | 4.2       |
| • Dangerous when wet (burns or emit toxic fumes)                   | 4.3       |
| <b>5. Oxidizers and organic peroxides</b>                          | <b>74</b> |
| • Oxidizers (release oxygen increasing in the Intensity of a fire) | 5.1       |
| • Organic peroxides (thermally unstable)                           |           |
| <b>6. Toxic and infectious substances</b>                          | <b>74</b> |
| • Toxic (poisonous)  | 6.1       |
| • Infectious   | 6.2       |
| <b>7. Radioactive materials</b>                                    | <b>75</b> |
| <b>8. Corrosive</b> (acids and caustic substances)                 | <b>75</b> |
| <b>9. Miscellaneous</b> (Mainly environmentally hazardous)         | <b>75</b> |
| <b>10. Mixed / Multiload - Load</b>                                | <b>75</b> |
| <b>11. Vehicle Marking and Labeling</b>                            | <b>75</b> |

# PART I

## GENERAL TRAFFIC RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR DIFFERENT ROAD USERS

# RESPONSIBILITIES OF A PEDESTRIAN

## Walking along the road

- Pedestrians should wear reflective material or carry white material or something bright at night to ensure that they are visible from a distance.
- Pedestrians should always walk facing on-coming traffic. They should walk on the extreme righthand side of the road. Where there is pavement use it, except when crossing the road.
- Children should always be under the control of a responsible person when crossing/walking along a road.
- If walking in a group, make sure to walk in single file.
- Where there is no pedestrian walkway, pedestrians must walk as close to the edge of the road as practicable (unless there is a road sign prohibiting).
- Do not wait or play on the roadway.



*Playing on the road is dangerous*

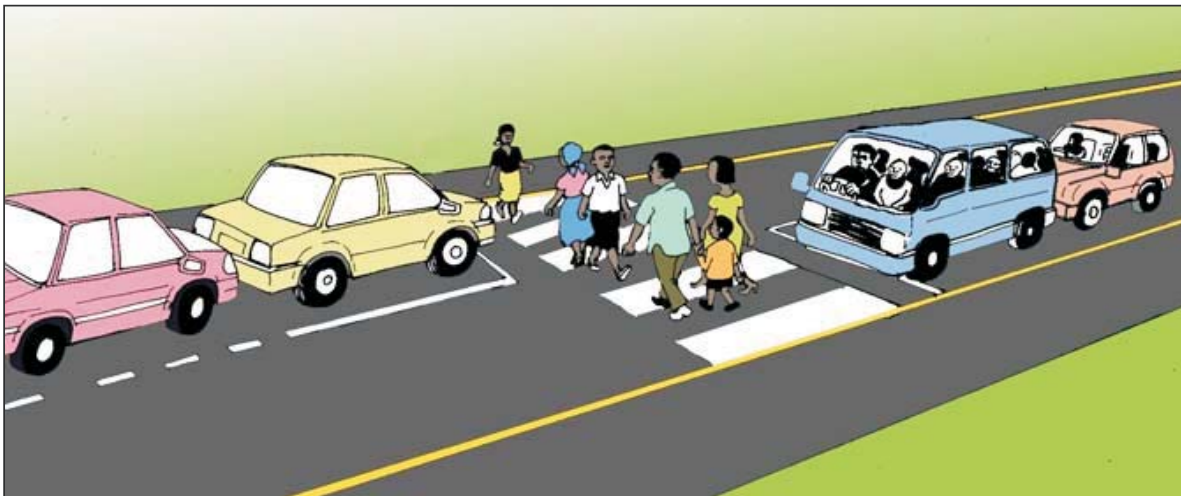
- Do not sell products while walking to and from or crossing the road (vending).



*Do not sell products on the road*

## Crossing the road

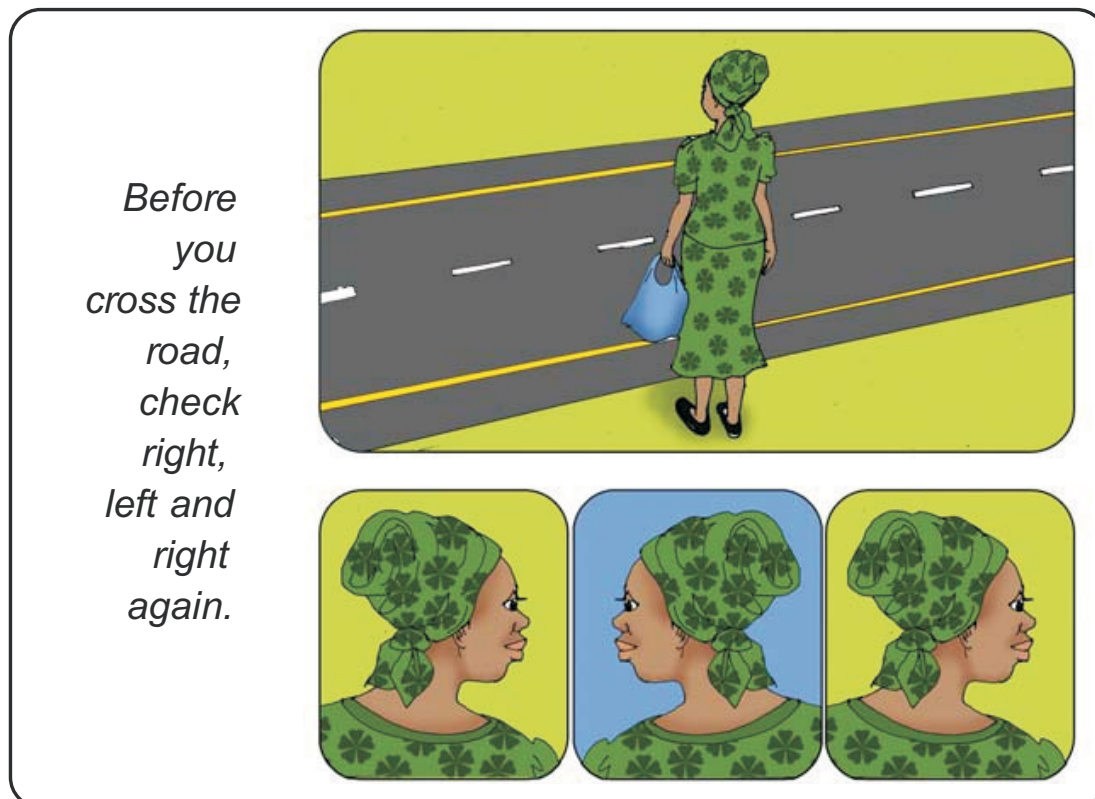
- Always cross the road on an approved crossing point such as a Pedestrian Crossing marked on the road, fly-over (foot-bridge) and an under-path if provided on any road section.



*Cross the road at a pedestrian crossing*

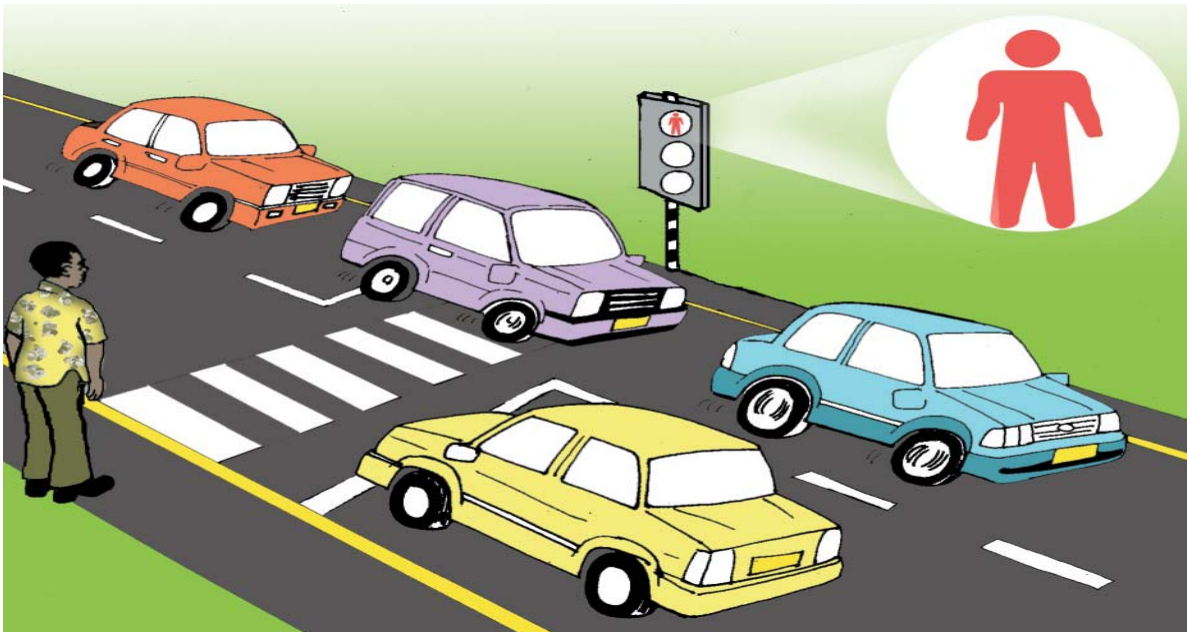
- If no Pedestrian Crossing is available, choose to cross the road at a point on a straight stretch where you are able to see clearly any approaching traffic from both directions of the road.
- As a pedestrian, give drivers plenty of time to see you before crossing. Avoid crossing at a bend in the road where you may not be seen and where you may not be able to see oncoming vehicles.

- When crossing a road at an intersection, always be alert to vehicles approaching from behind or turning a corner.
- When crossing the road, do the following:
  - (i). Stand by the edge of the road
  - (ii). Look to the right, then to the left and look to the right again for any on-coming traffic. If both sides of the road are clear, cross the road.



- (iii). Do not cross if there is a vehicle approaching from either side.
  - (iv). Children should be held by the hand when crossing the road in the company of an older person.
- Where a Pedestrian Crossing is provided, stop at the edge of the road, look right, left and right again. Cross only when there are no vehicles on either side or when the vehicles approaching have come to a complete standstill.





*Wait for a green man to appear before crossing*

- Where a Pedestrian Crossing is controlled by traffic lights, stop by the edge of the road and cross only when a green light or green man appears. Cross only when approaching traffic has come to a complete standstill.
- At some Pedestrian Crossing points controlled by traffic lights, a switch needs to be pressed in order for the green man or green light to be activated. Cross only when vehicles have stopped in compliance with the instruction issued.
- If a Traffic Officer or Scholar Patrol Team is on duty, cross only when signalled to do so and when traffic has stopped.
- Should Emergency Vehicles such as an ambulance approach, never attempt to cross the road until such vehicles have passed.
- Drinking alcohol and taking narcotic drugs is risky for pedestrians since these affect co-ordination, slows-down reaction time and impairs judgement of speed and distances.

## Code for parents

- Always remember that your child's safety is your responsibility. Schools and teachers do all they can but they cannot succeed without your constant help and support.



- 
- Start to train a child in road sense and road safety as soon as he or she is old enough to understand. Keep on training the child. A small child must be protected against road accidents.
  - Never let the child to be on the streets without the care of some older person who can be relied upon to guard it carefully.
  - When young child is in the street with you, ensure that you hold the child's hand as you walk. Make sure that the child stays close beside you. Do not let the child escape from you and run into danger.
  - Do not send a child on an errand unless you are sure that he or she is able to cope with any road danger.
  - Never send a child on an errand in such a way or at such a time that he or she has to hurry unduly for example, just before school time.
  - Insist that your child plays only in a park, a recreation ground, an open space or some other safe place. Impress on your child the wisdom of staying on the pavement or footpath unless he/she has to cross a road.
  - Also impress on him/her the wisdom of crossing a road only at the safest points such as where there is police control, controlled by traffic lights, a Pedestrian Crossing or an island refuge. Forbid the use of roller skates, bicycles, scooters and hoops wherever there is road traffic.
  - Try to make the child realise the great danger of dashing into the roadway for any purpose. Children are naturally impulsive and this is one of the chief causes of road accidents to them.
  - Practice 'Kerb Drill' with your child and stress its importance and value. Whenever you are out with him, use it every time you have to cross a road
  - Study this booklet and teach your child clearly and progressively the rules contained in it for the guidance of all road users.

- 
- Explain why rules for wise road conduct are necessary or intelligently when they know the reasons for what they are told to do.
  - If your child cycles, make sure that the machine is of a suitable size and keep it in good condition so that he or she can control it properly, knows how to give signals in the right way and that he/she is familiar with all the advice given in The Highway Code to guide cyclists.
  - **ABOVE ALL, SET A GOOD EXAMPLE IN ROAD BEHAVIOUR TO YOUR CHILD. YOUR INFLUENCE IS GREATER THAN ANY OTHER AND CONSTANT GOOD ROAD BEHAVIOUR ON YOUR PART MAY MEAN SAVING YOUR CHILD'S LIFE.**

# RESPONSIBILITIES OF A PASSENGER

A passenger is any person who is travelling in/on a vehicle but is not driving.

A private vehicle shall mean light passenger vehicle carrying not more than 12 people and not registered for hire or reward i.e. used solely for private use.

A Public Service Vehicle (PSV) is used for carrying passengers for hire or reward. There are also other vehicles defined as Private Passenger Vehicles (PPV) which are solely for private use or carrying passengers (member of staff) belonging to a particular institution.

In all the above cases, passengers have a responsibility to follow;

- Passengers should not get hold or interfere with steering or mechanisms that would deter the driver from driving safely or executing signals.
- Passengers should not throw any object outside a vehicle.
- No passenger in a vehicle shall let any part of his/her body to protrude from the vehicle.



*Avoid throwing any object from a moving vehicle*

- No passenger in any Vehicle shall alight from such a vehicle at any other point apart from a designated stage.



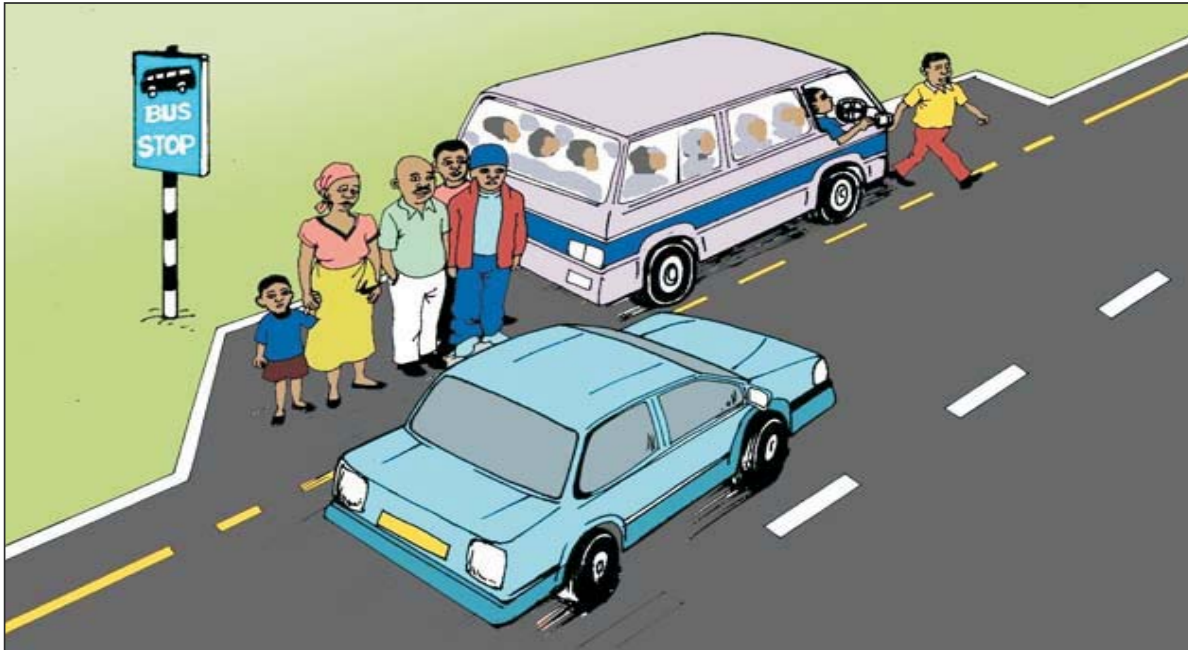
*Do not let any part of your body protrude from a vehicle*

- No passenger shall embark or disembark from a moving vehicle.
- All passengers should fasten seat belts in vehicles that have such belts fitted. The driver must make sure that children under the age of 14 are properly fastened.



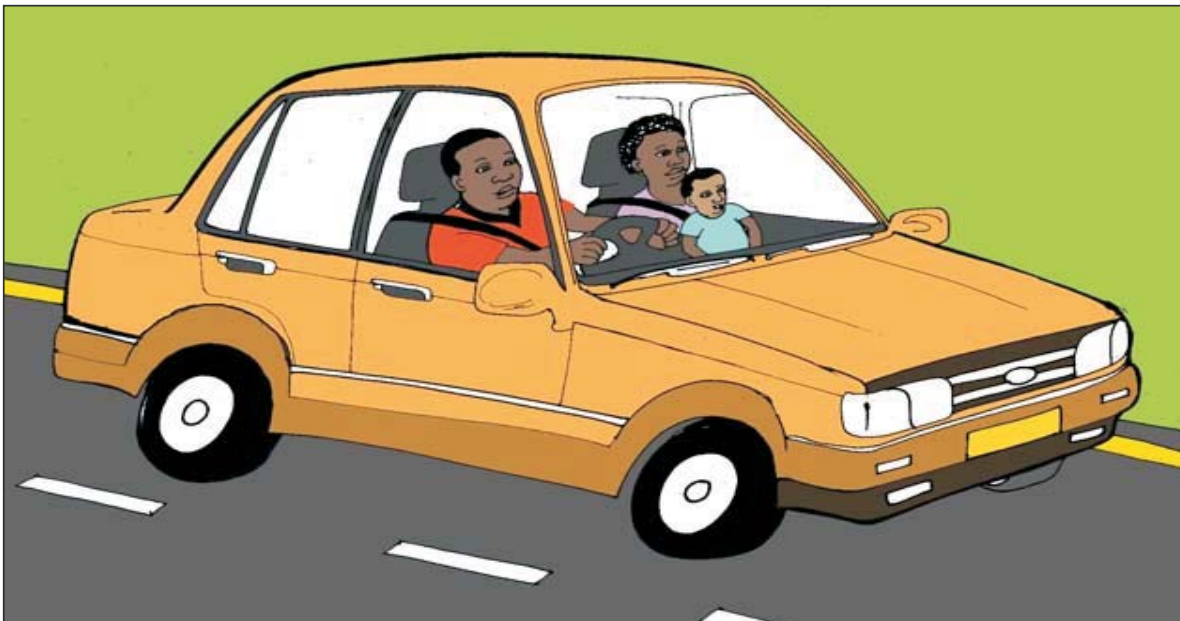
*Jumping off a moving vehicle is dangerous*

- Any passenger, having alighted from a vehicle, must not cross the road directly in front of the vehicle or at the rear until the vehicle has moved out and there is a clear view of the road.
- Specifically designed child restraints and harnesses should be fitted in a vehicle to ensure the safety of the baby. Motorists are encouraged to use them.



*Do not cross until the bus has moved*

- Do not put children on your lap when seated on the front passenger seat of a car.



*Children must be harnessed in the vehicle*



- 
- Children under the age of 12 should not occupy front passenger seat on the vehicle.
  - No passenger should spit in or outside a moving Vehicle.
  - No passenger should use obscene, indecent, offensive or quarrelsome language or gestures.
  - No passenger should wilfully behave in an obscene, indecent offensive or quarrelsome manner.
  - No passenger in a state of intoxication should enter or remain in a Public Service Vehicle.
  - No passenger should carry any inflammable or explosive substance.
  - No passenger should smoke in a Public Service Vehicle.
  - No person should ride or tamper with a vehicle without consent of the owner, driver, operator or person in lawful charge of the vehicle.

## General condition of the vehicle

Ensure that the vehicle is roadworthy at all times.

### Lights

- All lights fitted on the vehicle must be working at all times. These shall include: headlamps, tail lights, stop lights, direction indicating lights, side lamps etc.
- Headlights, tail lights and number plate lights must be illuminated at light up times (between sunset and sunrise or at any other time when visibility is poor such as when it is raining).
- At night, drive well within the illumination limits of the vehicle's lights
- Ensure that headlights are dipped when there is traffic in front.
- Headlights may be flashed to advise a road user ahead that you wish to overtake.
- Use dipped beam in all urban areas, given the high traffic volume, speed limitation and availability of street lights.
- Use parking lights only when parking a vehicle in a dark place or outside a demarcated parking bay at night.
- Fog lights should only be used during thick mist or fog and must be switched off immediately visibility has improved. If the vehicle does not have fog lights, you should use the headlights in a dipped position. This will reduce the amount of reflected light and will help on-coming traffic to see you.

- 
- Do not stop in the middle of the road in thick fog, smoke or dust. If you feel you cannot drive any further, drive off the road and stop.
  - Flashing, emergency/hazard warning lights must be used when a vehicle is stationary to warn other road users of the hazard.
  - Ensure that the vehicle is fitted with approved white reflectors in front and red reflectors at the rear to cover not less than 75 percent of the width of the vehicle.
  - Do not drive too close to the vehicle ahead of you as it may stop suddenly and you may collide.



# Tyres

- Vehicle tyres must have visible tyre tread of minimum of 2mm depth.



*Check the condition of your tyres before setting off*

- A vehicle shall not be operated with worn out tyres whose fabric or cord is showing.
- Do not use retreaded tyres in the front axle of all Public Service Vehicles.
- Motorcycles must not be fitted with retreaded tyres.
- Do not use tyres with lumps or bulges caused by partial breakage in the structure.
- Fit tyres of the same size and tread pattern and depth.



*Avoid using tyres with lumps or bulges*

# Mirrors

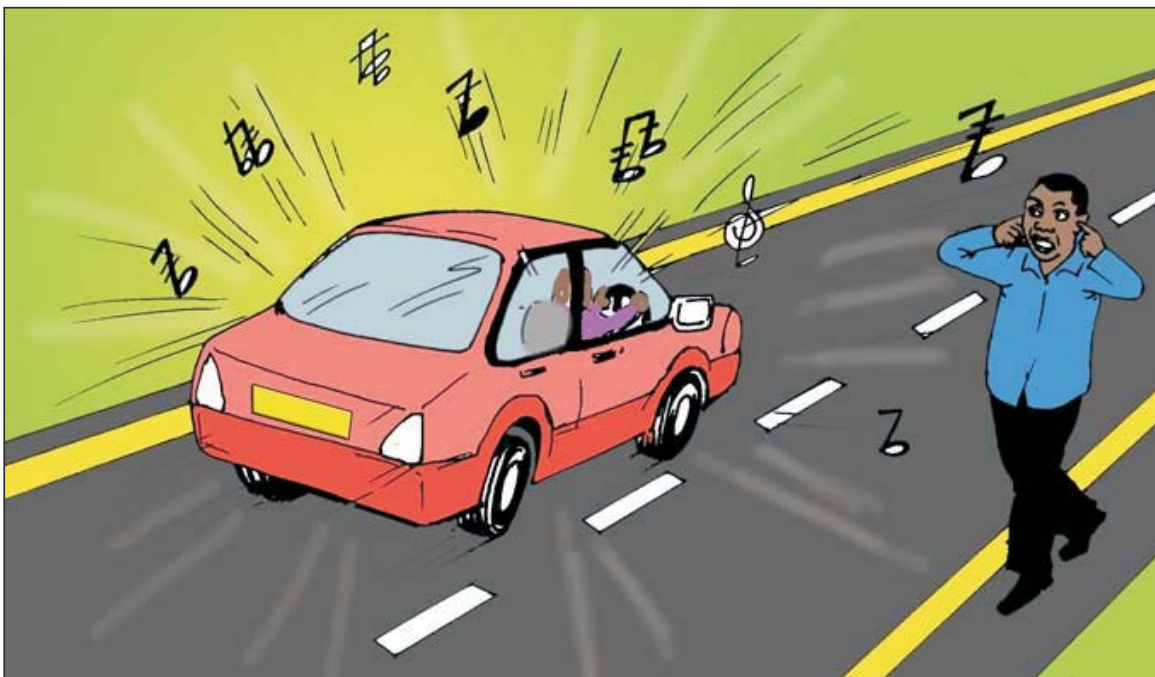
- A vehicle must have a minimum of three rear view mirrors for light passenger vehicles and a minimum of two rear view mirrors for all other vehicles.

*Use  
specified  
rear  
view  
mirrors*



# Excessive noise

- Do not operate a vehicle which makes any form of excessive noise.
- Do not operate a vehicle which is emitting excessive exhaust fumes.
- A horn or any sounding device must be used for safety reasons only.





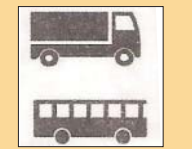



*Vehicle causing excessive noise should not be driven on a public road*

# Licence

For anyone to drive a vehicle, one must have a valid Driving Licence appropriate to that particular class of vehicle.

## Classification of Licence Codes

| Licence Category         | Description                      | Definition   | Pictograph  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>A1</b><br>(18 years)  | Light motorcycles                | Light motorcycle without a sidecar with a cubic capacity not exceeding 125cm <sup>3</sup> or propelled by electrical power, or vehicle having pedals and engine or electrical motor.   |    |
| <b>A</b><br>(18 years)   | Motorcycles                      | Motorcycle without a sidecar with a cubic capacity exceeding 125cm <sup>3</sup>  |    |
| <b>B</b><br>(18 years)   | Light motor vehicles             | Motor vehicles with a maximum authorised mass not exceeding 3500kg and having not more than 16 seats in addition to the driver's seat; motor vehicles in this category may be combined with a trailer having a maximum authorised mass which does not exceed 750kg.              |    |
| <b>EB</b><br>(18 years)  | Light articulated motor vehicle  | Combination of motor vehicles consisting of the tractor vehicle in category B above and its trailer(s) a maximum authorised mass exceeding 750kg.  |   |
| <b>C1</b><br>(18 years)  | Medium goods/passenger vehicle   | Motor vehicles with a maximum authorised mass over 3500kg but not more than 16000kg and having not more than 26 seats addition to the driver's seat; motor vehicle in this category may be combined with a trailer having a maximum authorised mass which does not exceed 750kg. |  |
| <b>EC1</b><br>(18 years) | Medium articulated motor vehicle | Combination of motor vehicles consisting of the tractor vehicle in category C1 above combined with a trailer having maximum authorised mass exceeding 750kg.   |  |
| <b>C</b><br>(21 years)   | Heavy goods/passenger vehicle    | Motor vehicles other than those in C1 whose maximum authorised mass is over 16000kg; motor vehicles in this category may be combined with a trailer having a maximum authorised mass which does not exceed 750kg.  |  |
| <b>EC</b><br>(21 years)  | Heavy motor vehicle              | Combination of motor vehicles consisting of the tractor vehicle in category C above and its trailer(s) having a maximum authorised mass exceeding 750kg.   |  |

- All driving Licence Codes are eligible to any Professional Driving Permit (PrdP)

| CATEGORY                                    | MIN-AGE |
|---|---------|
| Goods                                       | 21      |
| Passengers                                  | 21      |
| Goods and passengers                        | 21      |
| Dangerous goods                             | 25      |
| Passengers, goods and dangerous goods (PGD) | 25      |

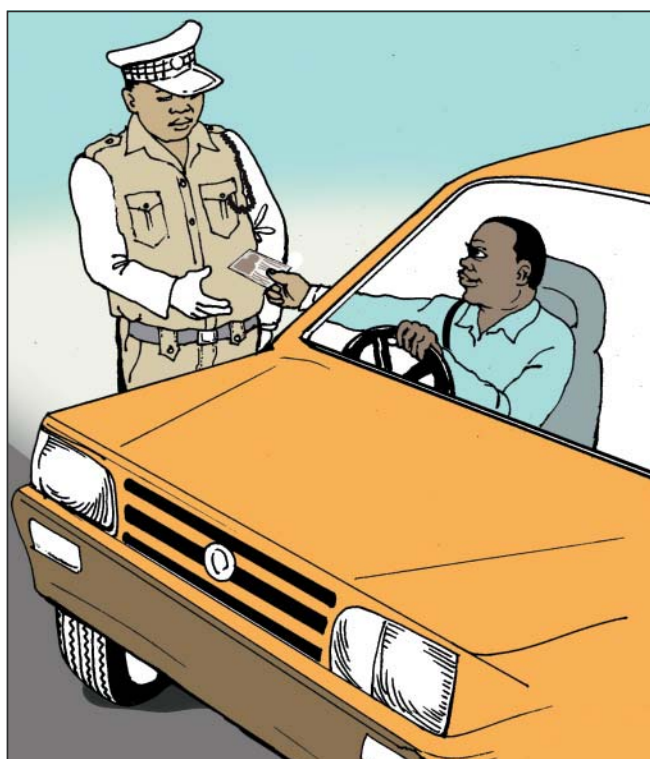
- No Professional Driving Permit may be issued to a person above the age of 61.

### Learner Driver

- Learner drivers must have a valid Learner's Licence and must be accompanied by a licensed and registered instructor when driving on any public road.
- Motorcycle/Moped Learner Riders must always have a valid Learner's Licence and may ride alone.

### Drivers

- Drivers must always carry their Driving Licence with them when driving on a public road.
- A Traffic Officer may ask the driver to present the licence.
- In the event of a road traffic accident, a driver must produce the Driving Licence.

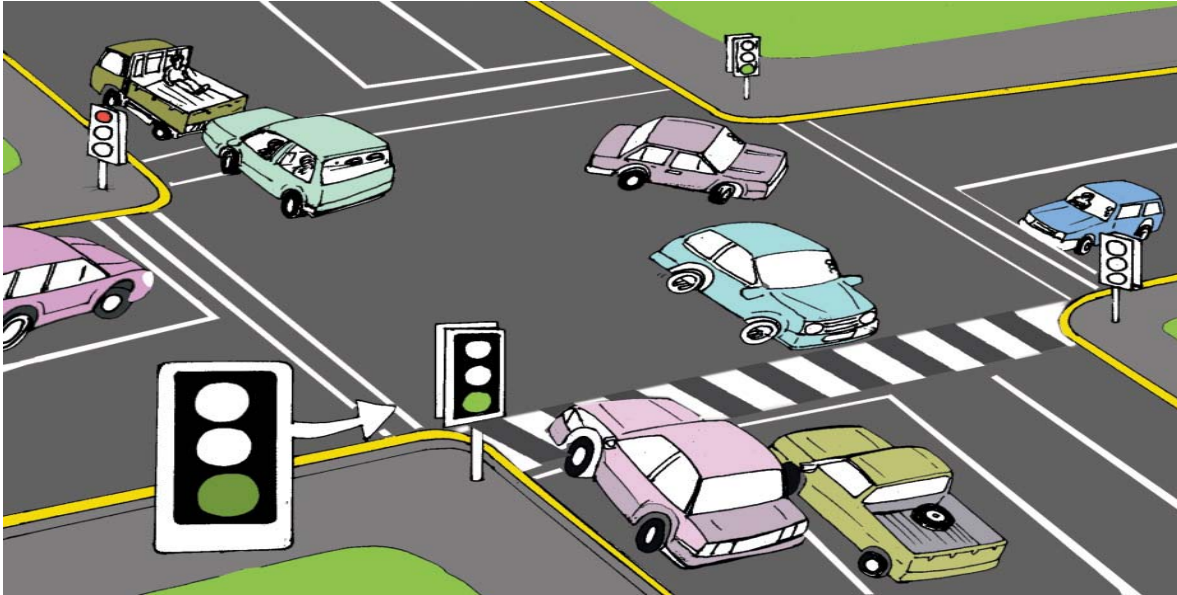


*Always carry your Driving Licence with you*



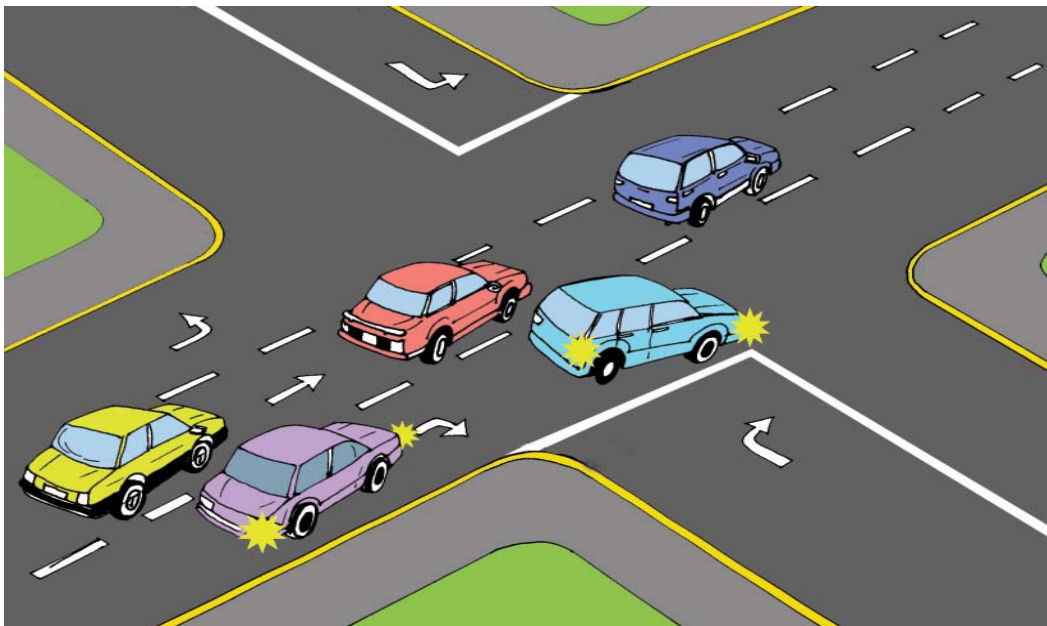
# Intersections

- Do not drive across an intersection unless it is clear of moving traffic or there is sufficient distance to allow safe crossing without obstructing or endangering other road users.



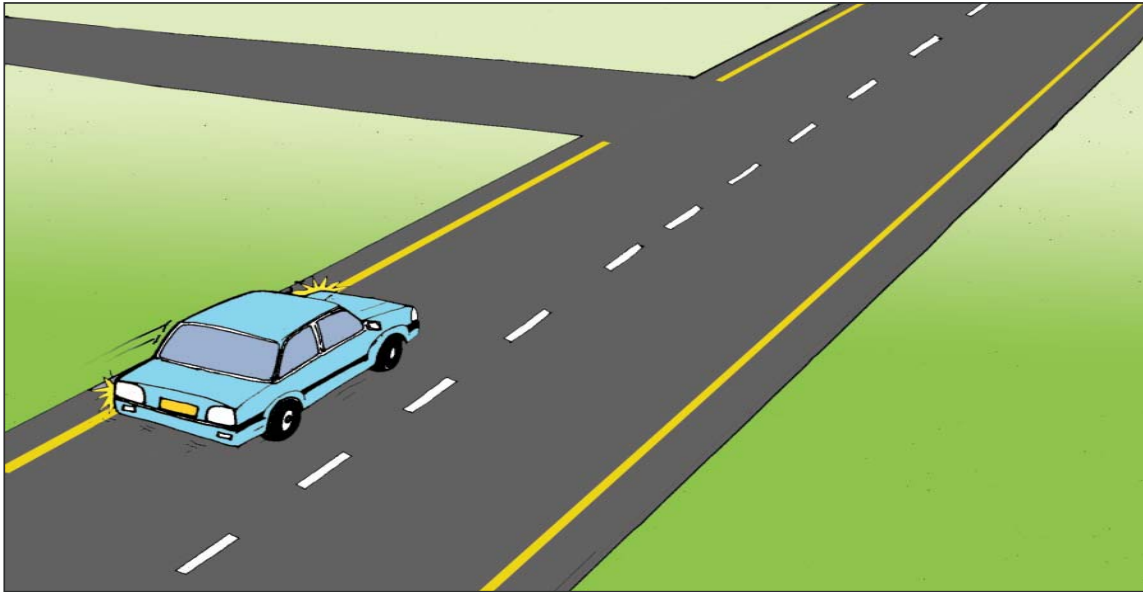
*Cross an intersection without obstructing others*

- When approaching an intersection or a roundabout, the driver must slow down and ensure that he/she is in the correct lane for proceeding straight on or turning either left or right.
- When turning to the left, the driver must indicate intent well in



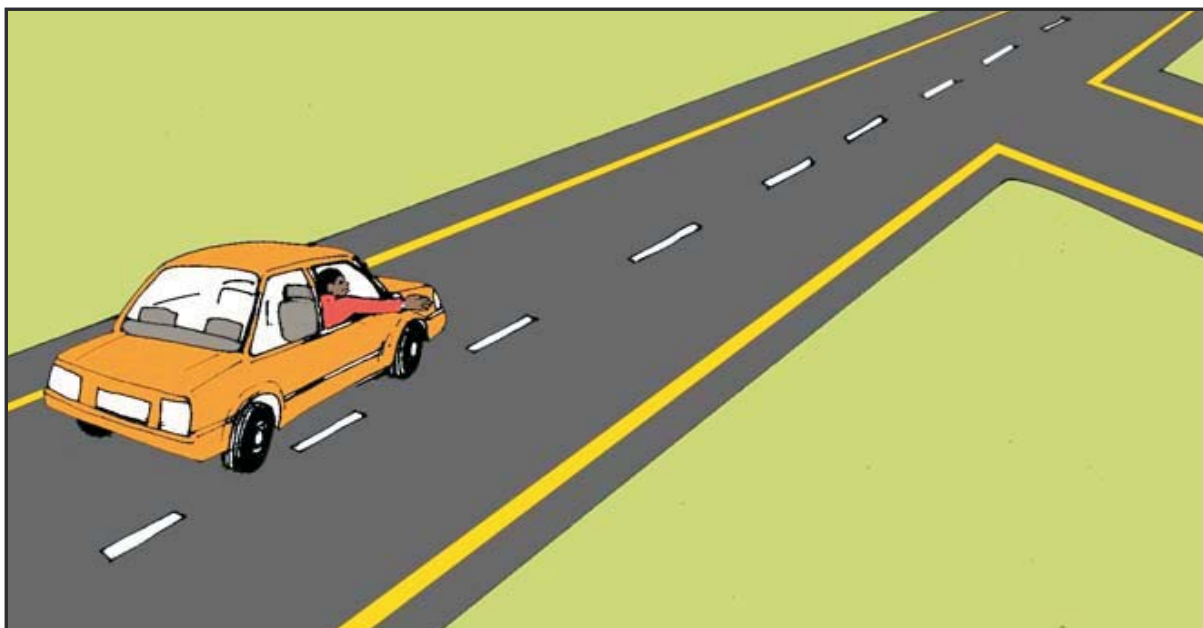
*Choose the correct lane in advance before turning or proceeding*

advance and position the vehicle closer to the left edge to allow vehicles coming from the rear to pass on the right.



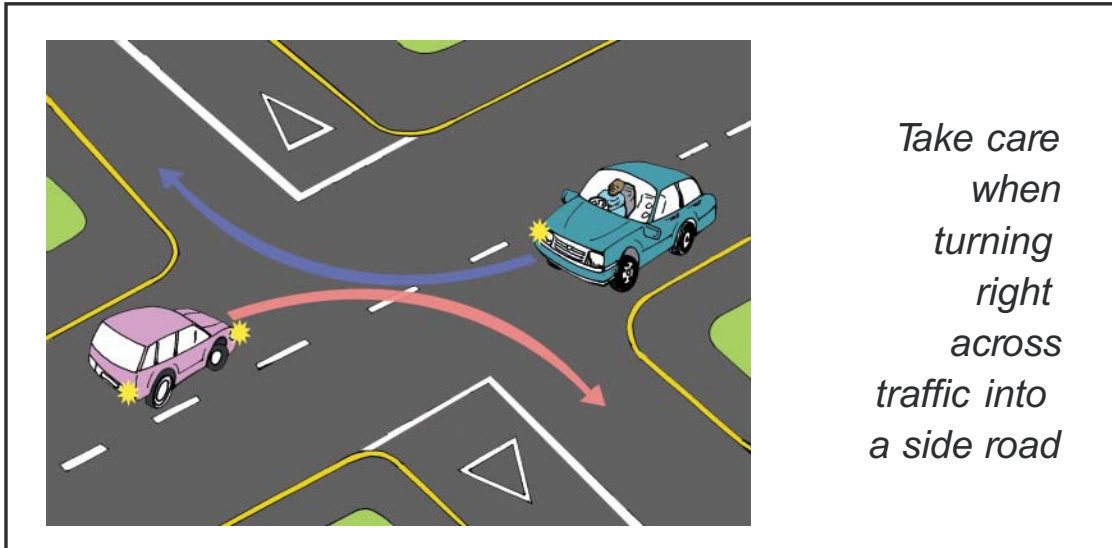
*Correctly position your vehicle before the turn*

- When proceeding straight at an intersection, the driver must not use any indicators but must position the vehicle in such a manner as to show other road users the intent to proceed.
- When turning right, indicate the intention in good time and keep to the right of the left hand lane of the road before making the turn to allow vehicles from the rear to pass on the left.

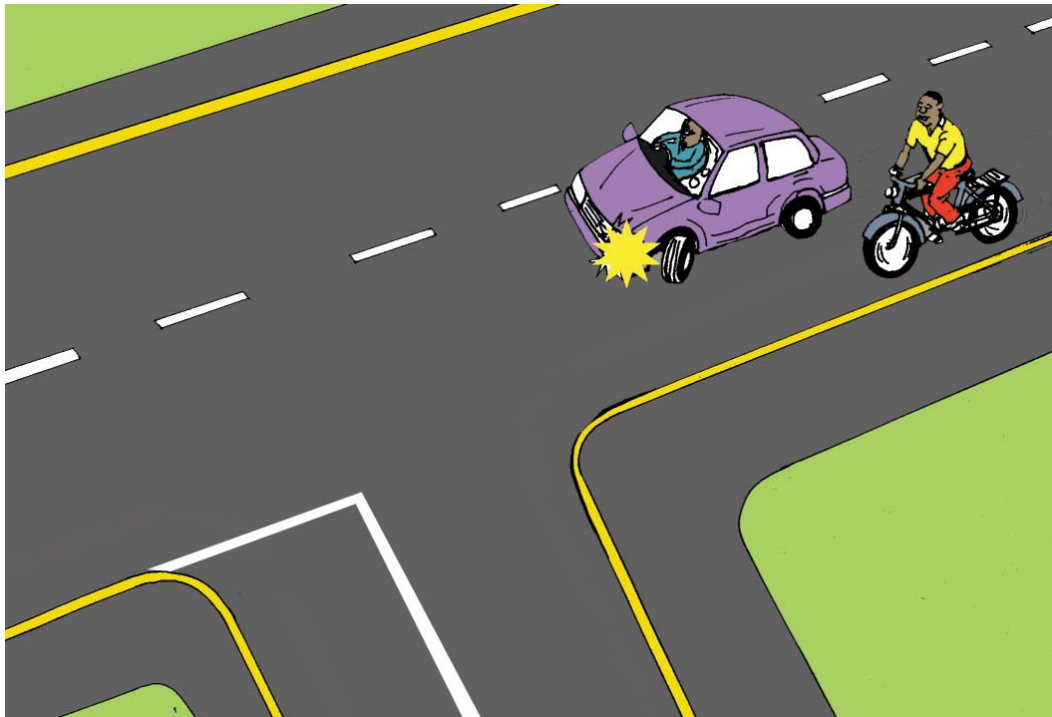


*Position vehicle near to the centre line for right turning*

- When turning right into a side road, make sure your vehicle is directly opposite the center line of the side road you are entering before you begin to turn. Do not cut the corner. Leave enough room for other vehicles to pass on the left.



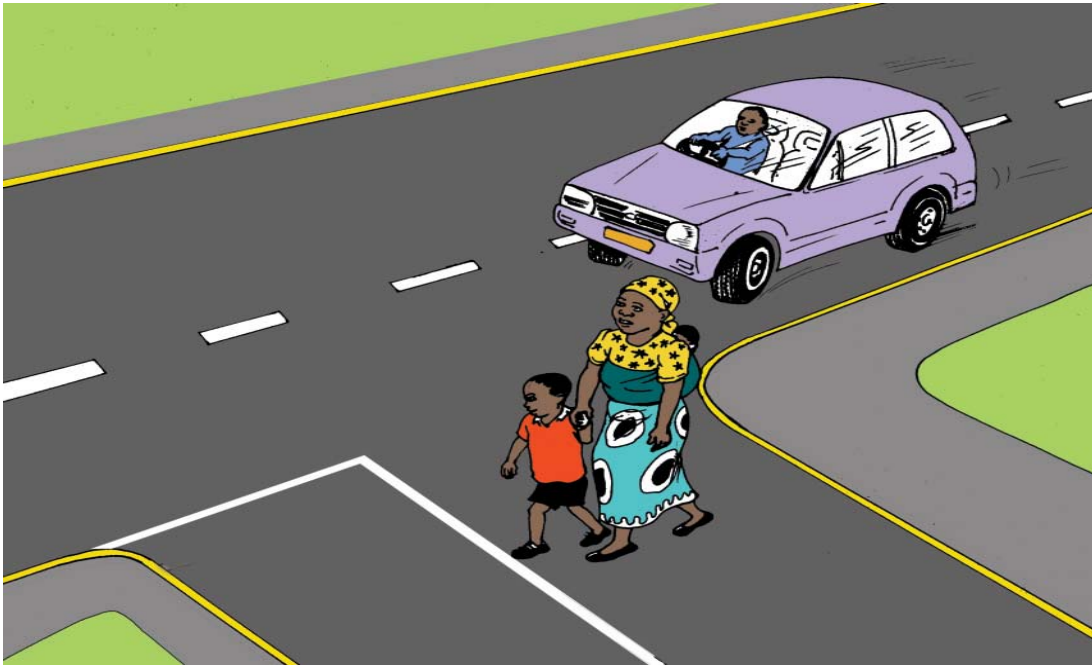
- Do not overtake other vehicles just before turning left.



- You must signal long enough to warn other road users of one's intention.
- If the vehicle indicators malfunction, effort must be made to make

appropriate hand signals for a right turn or left turn; and/or slow down or stop.

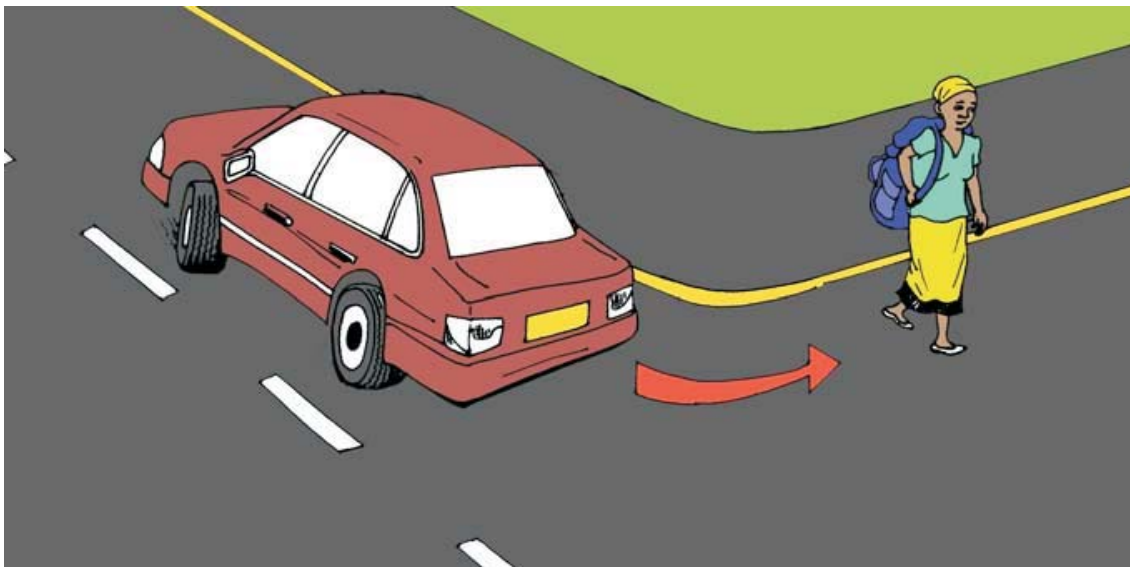
- When turning into a road junction or an intersection, give way to pedestrians.



*Remember to give way to pedestrians*

## Reversing

- Make sure there are no obstructions or people behind you before reversing. Hoot if you are not sure.
- Use all mirrors and check the 'blind spot' by physically turning your



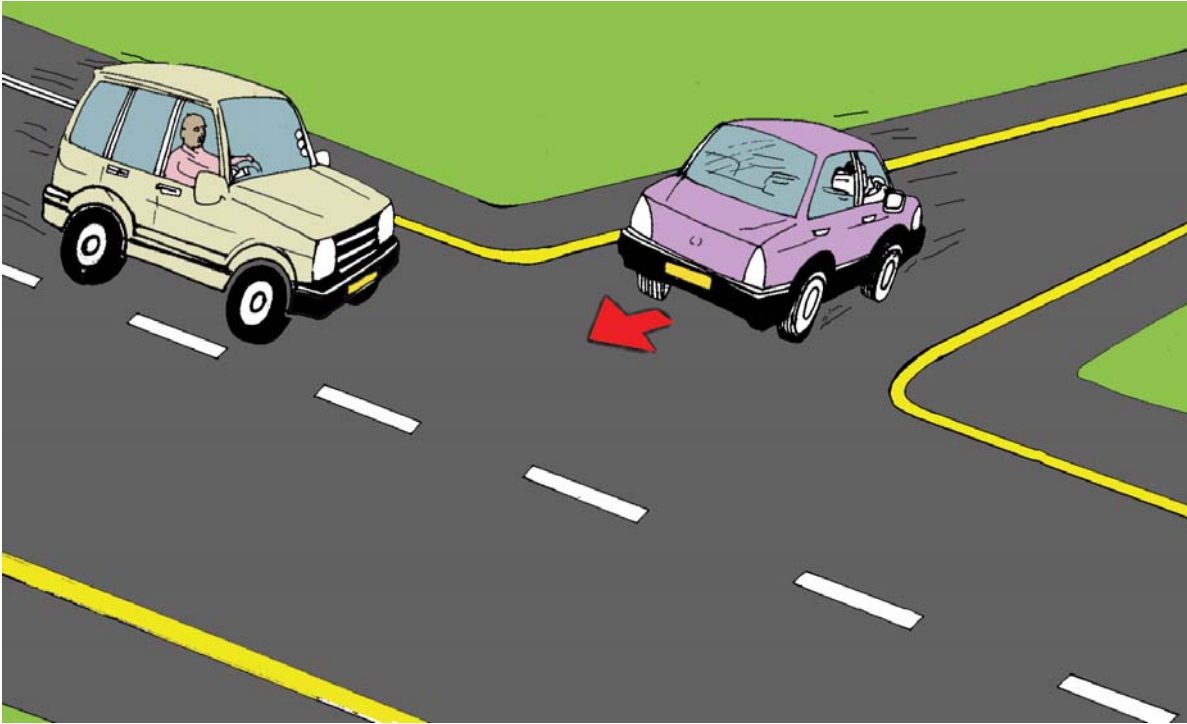
*Be careful when reversing*



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head.

- Use a mature person to guide you if you are not sure.
- Do not reverse into a main road from a side road.



*Avoid reversing into a major road*

- Do not reverse too fast, control speed while reversing.
- Do not reverse for a distance or time longer than is necessary for the safety or reasonable convenience of any passenger or other vehicles on the road.

# Overtaking another vehicle

- You may overtake another vehicle only if it is safe to do so.

*Only  
overtake  
when your  
view of the  
road is  
clear*



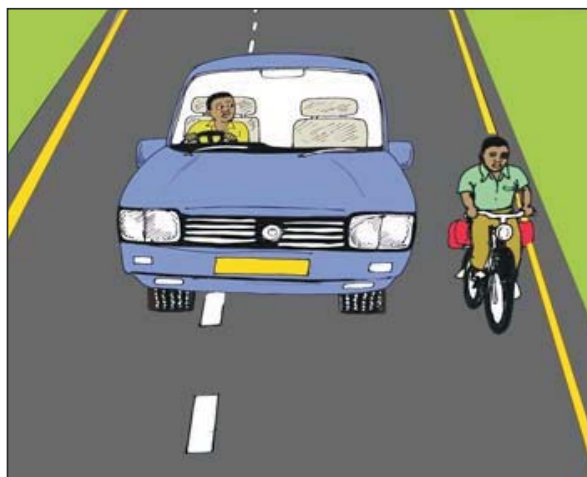
- Vehicles must be overtaken to the right. They may also be overtaken on the left if:
  - (i) Vehicle to be overtaken is turning right.
  - (ii) The road is one way and divided into two or more lanes.
  - (iii) Instructed by Police Traffic Officer or other highway authority.
- When overtaking, make sure:
  - (i) The road is sufficiently clear ahead.
  - (ii) To check behind for other vehicles that may be overtaking you.
  - (iii) You should not get too close to the vehicle you are overtaking. Maintain a safe space between the vehicles.



*Leave enough space when overtaking*

- Be alert for pedestrians when passing a stationary bus or big vehicles.
- Hoot when you get to the 'blind spot' of the vehicle you are overtaking.
- Indicate your intention before changing lanes.
- Do not overtake:

- (i) Uphill as you may not see oncoming traffic
- (ii) When your vehicle may be slowed down and not be fast enough to complete the manoeuvre.



*Avoid passing too close to cyclists when overtaking*

- (iii) When it is prohibited by traffic signs.
- (iv) At an intersection, barrier line, level crossing, bridge and other hazardous sites.
- (v) At busy places such as markets and trading centres.

## Being Overtaken

When being overtaken help the other driver to overtake you smoothly by:

- (i) maintaining your speed (neither speed up nor slow down unless otherwise)
- (ii) shifting slightly to the left
- (iii) Not racing with a driver who is trying to overtake you

## Parking

- Parking is defined as 'stopping' a vehicle with or without occupants, for a long period.
  - (i) Loading and off-loading goods or passengers must be done in designated areas only and in such a way as not to create a hazard to others.

- (ii) Before getting out or into a vehicle, always check that it is safe to do so. Passengers should always alight on the kerb side of the vehicle.

---

*Park in a well lit area at night*

---



- (iii) If you park by the side of a public road at night; leave parking lights on to warn others of your presence.
- Ensure that your vehicle is always locked when parked. Park in a well-lit area at night. Avoid isolated areas.
  - Ensure that the parking brake is on and the engine is switched off.
  - Do not park a vehicle on a public road;
    - (i) Where a road sign or road marking prohibits you to do so.
    - (ii) On a highway, bridge, level crossing, on a construction area or pedestrian crossing.
    - (iii) On the right hand side of the road facing on-coming traffic.
    - (iv) On a pavement, alongside or side by side any other parked vehicle.
    - (v) In a place where the vehicle will obscure any road sign or obstructs any private or public vehicle entrance.
    - (vi) On a traffic island or intersection.
  - If a vehicle is parked illegally, it may be removed and impounded on the instructions of a Traffic Officer. The owner will have to bear the costs involved.

---

# Accidents

- In the event of a road traffic accident, safeguard the scene by:
  - (i) Warning other road users by using hazard lights, flash lights or reflective materials such as triangle plates.
  - (ii) Assisting the injured by calling for ambulance services.
  - (iii) Assisting victim(s) with First Aid only if one is knowledgeable of appropriate First Aid techniques.
  - (v) Marking the position of the front and rear wheels if vehicles can be moved. Removing the vehicles will prevent further accidents that may be caused due to congestion and/or obstructing traffic.
  - (vi) Calling for breakdown/tow facilities as soon as possible if vehicles cannot be removed.
  - (vii) Evacuating uninjured victim(s) from vehicle(s) to safety.
  - (viii) Encouraging drivers passing an accident spot to ferry accident victims to the nearest hospital or health centre.
- If a collision involves a vehicle carrying a hazardous substance, do not smoke. Keep everyone away from the scene in case of dangerous fumes, fire or explosion.
- You must report the collision to the nearest Police Station within 24 hours.

## Breakdowns

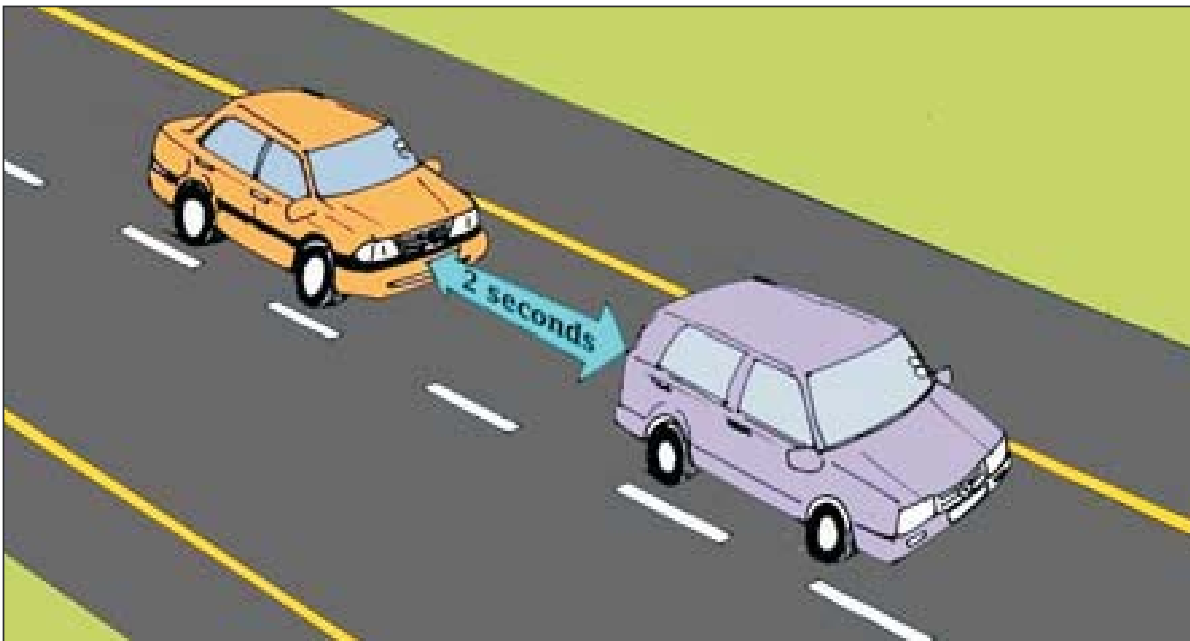
- In the event of a breakdown:
  - (i) Park the vehicle in such a way that it does not obstruct traffic.
  - (ii) Use hazard warning lights or place triangle plates at a minimum point of 25 metres from the vehicle.
  - (iii) Do not repair vehicles within the road carriageway. It is very dangerous.
  - (iv) Tow a breakdown vehicle using a towing bar.
  - (v) Remember to clear all working materials after repairing the vehicle and before driving off.

# Emergency Requirements

- Vehicles must have the following:
  - (i) Approved reflective triangle plates.
  - (ii) Approved and serviced Fire Extinguisher(s)
  - (iii) Basic First Aid Kit

## Following Distance

Safe following distance is the distance maintained between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead.



*Keep a two-seconds gap between your vehicle and a vehicle ahead*

Drive at a speed that will allow you to stop safely, given the prevailing conditions. At least a two-second gap should be maintained between vehicles travelling in the same direction. This will enable your vehicle to stop safely if the front vehicle stopped suddenly.

- For a vehicle to stop, it requires reaction (thinking) distance (RD) and braking distance (BD).

Therefore  $RD + BD = \text{Total Stopping Distance}$ .

| STOPPING DISTANCE CHART |                   |                  |                |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Speed (km/h)            | Thinking distance | Braking distance | Total distance |
| 30                      | 6 m               | 6 m              | 12 m           |
| 45                      | 9 m               | 14 m             | 23 m           |
| 60                      | 12 m              | 24 m             | 36 m           |
| 80                      | 15 m              | 38 m             | 53 m           |
| 95                      | 18 m              | 55 m             | 73 m           |
| 110                     | 21 m              | 75 m             | 96 m           |

*Thinking Distance + Braking Distance Table*

- The distance and illustration above will only apply where conditions are ideal.
- Stopping distances increase with wet and slippery roads, poor brakes, worn out tyres, load on the vehicle and the driver condition.
- Heavy vehicles and motor cycles need more time to stop than light vehicles.



# **RULES FOR MOTOR AND PEDAL CYCLES**

## **Protective Clothing**

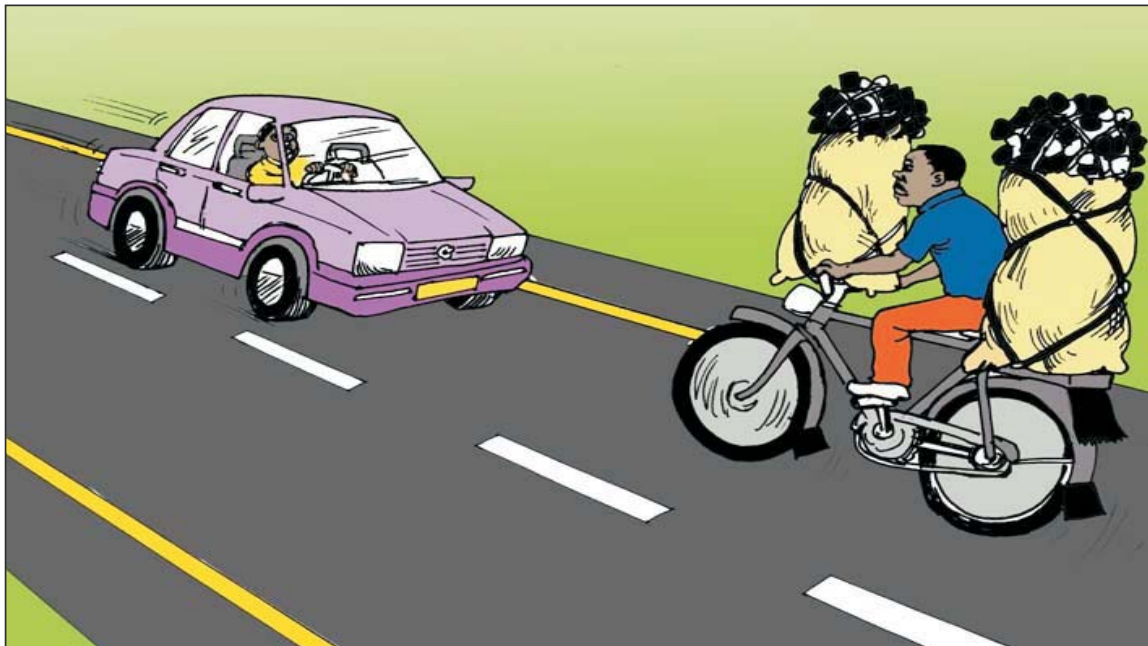
- All motorcyclists, pillion riders and side-car passengers must wear crash helmets.
- It is advisable to put on eye protectors, riding boots, gauntlets (gloves) and clothes that will protect one in case of adverse weather conditions and/or an accident.
- It is advisable for pedal cyclists to put on a helmet and ensure that the pedal cycle is equipped with reflectors and working lights.
- Tyres must be properly inflated and ensure that brakes and gears are in good working order.
- Cyclists must wear bright clothing during the day and reflective clothing at night to improve visibility to other road users.

## **Riding Along**

- All road signs, surface markings and rules of the road apply to cyclists as well as other road users.
- The rider must be seated astride with his/her feet rested on the front foot rests. The passenger must also be seated astride with both feet resting on the footrests or alternatively seated inside a side-car.
- A passenger or pillion rider must be carried only on a motorcycle with an engine capacity greater than 50CC.

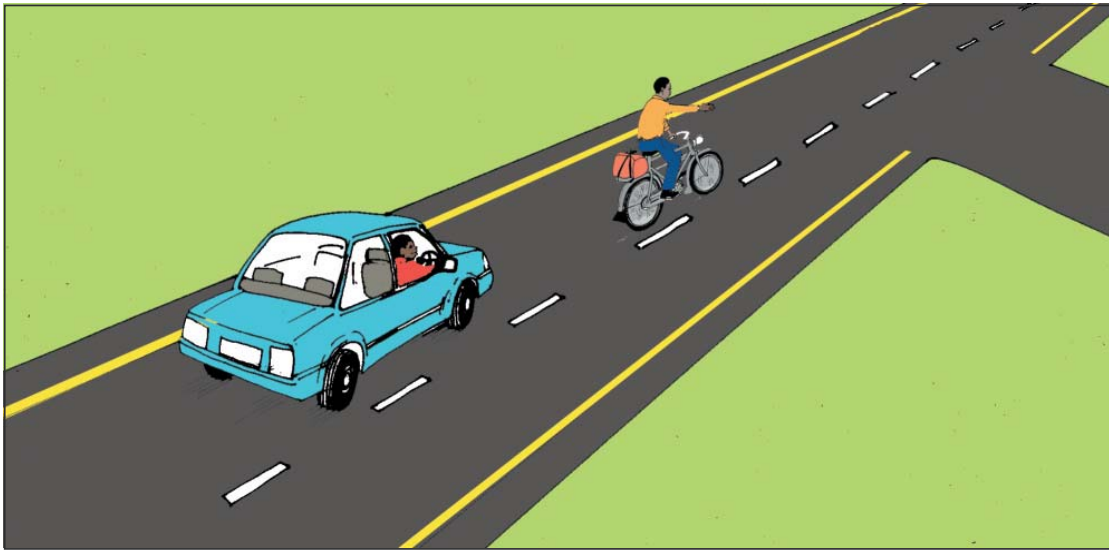


- A maximum of two people shall ride on one motorcycle at any given time and no person or animal must be carried in front of the rider.
- Motorcyclist or pedal cyclist must not hold on to another moving vehicle and must not ride side by side or abreast another vehicle unless overtaking.
- A maximum of two adults must be carried in a side-car.
- Motorcycle riders must ensure that all the wheels are in constant contact with the ground.
- The rider must not carry anything in front of the cycle if it obstructs the riders' view or interferes with proper handling and control of the cycle.



*Do not carry anything in front of you on a bicycle*

- Pedal cyclists must not swerve from side to side whilst riding.
- Make necessary hand signals when executing manoeuvres.



*Signal and position your bicycle in advance*

- On a busy intersection, it is advisable for pedalcyclists to dismount and cross the intersection as pedestrians.



*It is safer to cross intersections on foot*

- Always use a cycle path where one is provided and pedal cyclists are not allowed in a freeway/highway or pavements.
- When turning left or right, pedal cyclists must always be aware of other road users particularly drivers who may not be aware of their presence.
- Cyclists should look out for hazards such as potholes, drain covers, wet surfaces etc.

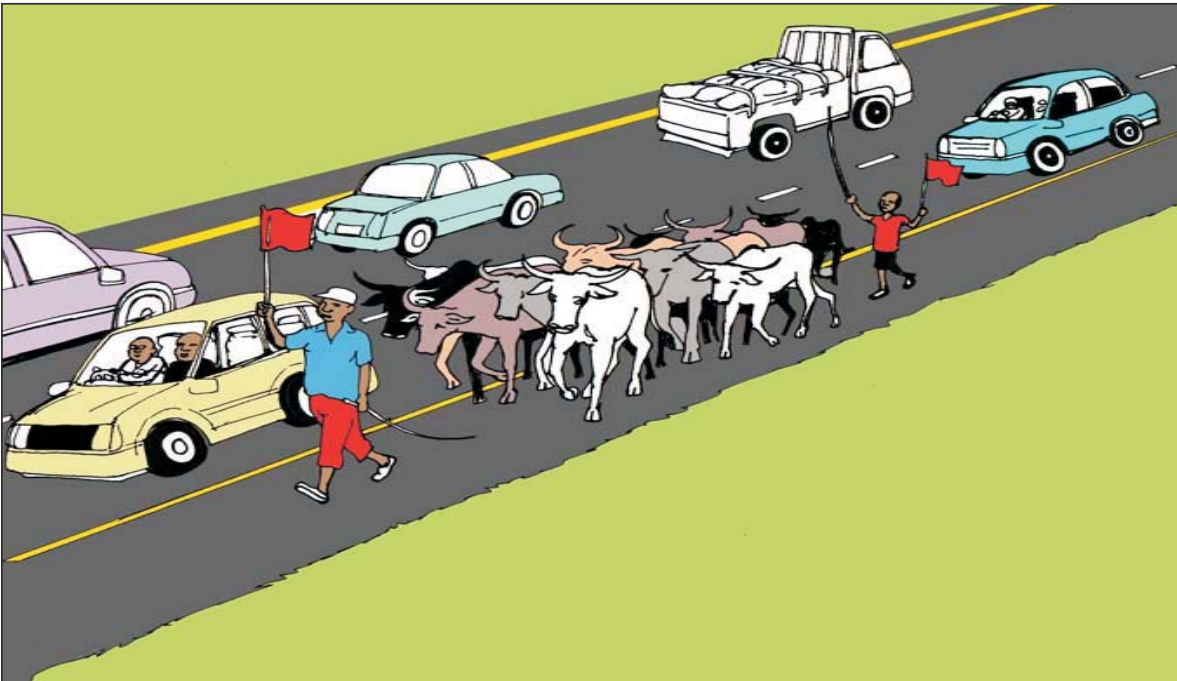


*Watch out for adverse road conditions*

- Motor cycles and bicycles should not tow another vehicle.

# ANIMALS AND ANIMAL DRAWN VEHICLES

- Do not drive animals on a public road between sunset and sunrise without the use of red flashing lights in the front and rear of the herd.
- When driving animals, always walk on the left side of the road just like vehicles.
- When driving animals at night, wear reflective clothing to improve visibility to other road users.



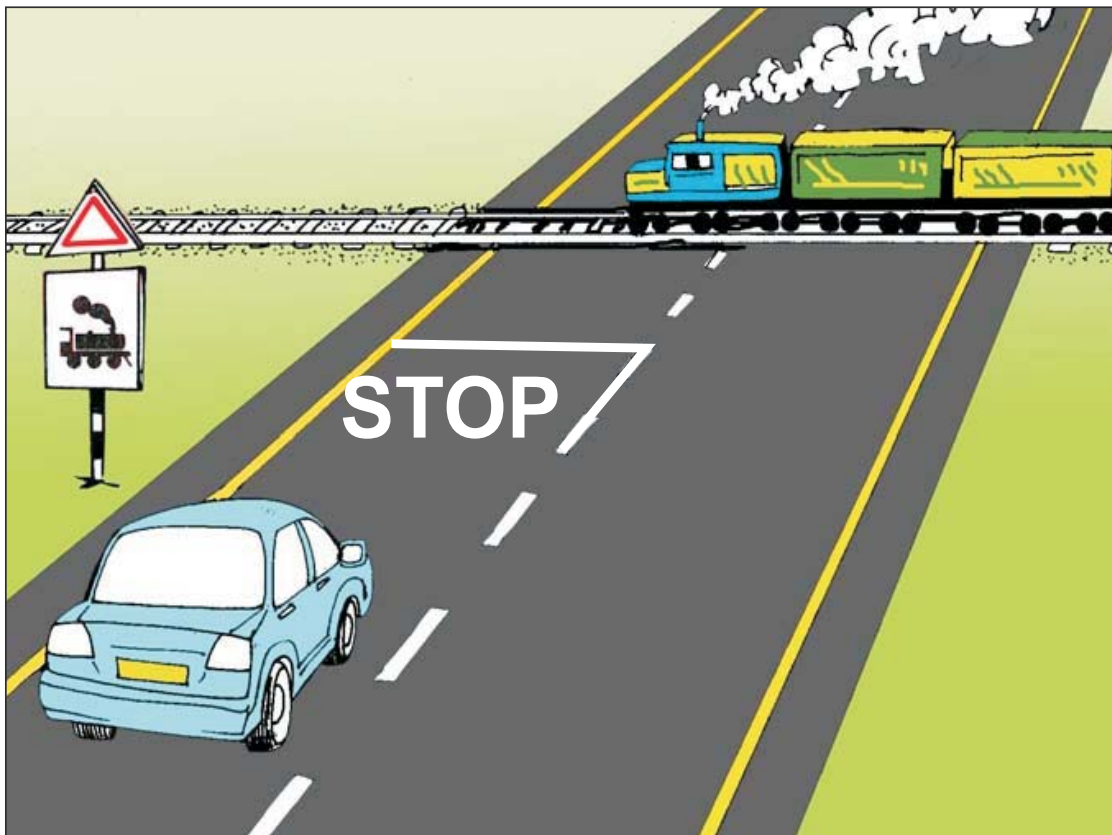
## *Ensure the safety of animals on the road*

- When driving a large herd of animals along the road, ensure that not less than two people supervise the animals whilst carrying red flags to warn other road users.
- Do not operate animal-drawn vehicles without rear red retro-reflective material or chevron board and a white retro-reflective material in front.
- Animal-drawn vehicles must be operated by mature and competent persons.
- Animal-drawn vehicles must not be drawn too closely except when overtaking.
- Do not leave an animal unattended on a public road.



# RAILROAD/LEVEL CROSSING

- A level crossing (St. Andrew's Cross) is a point or an intersection on the road where trains have a right of way.
- Stop before the stop line or gate and wait when red lights are flashing. Proceed only when red lights stop flashing just in case there could be another train approaching.
- Never stop close to or on the actual lines. It's very dangerous.
- At a level-crossing with no signs or signal lights, be on the look out for approaching or passing trains. Listen out for approaching trains.

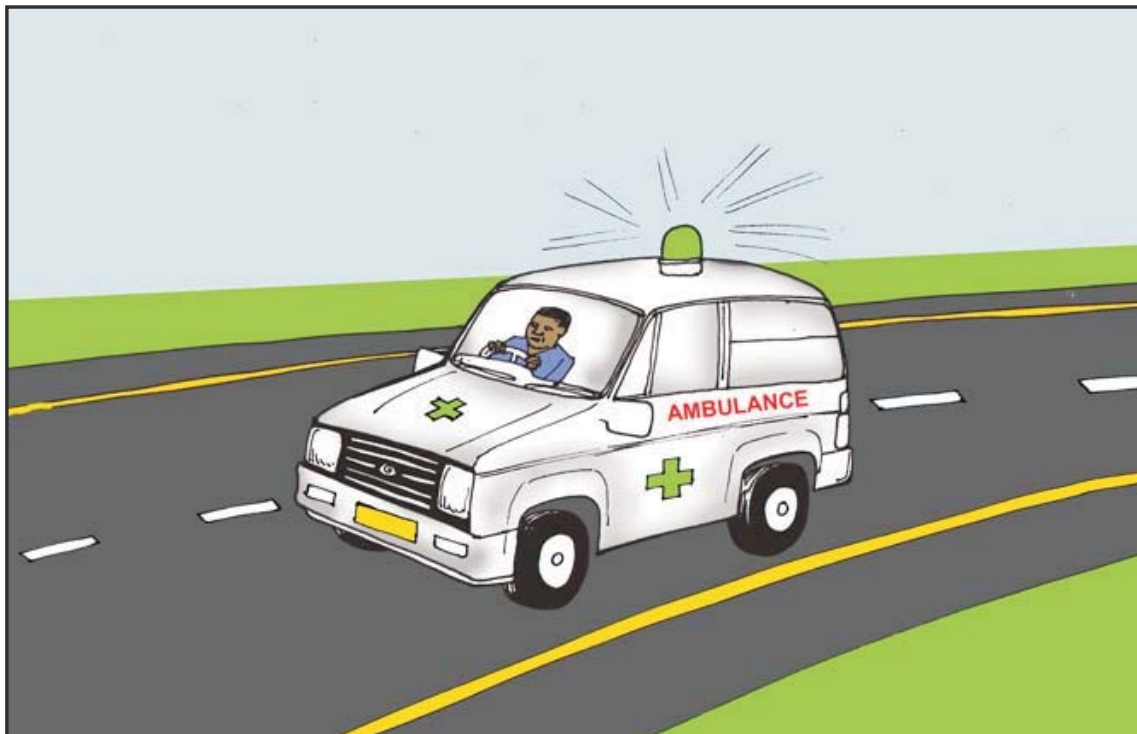


*Approach a level crossing (St. Andrews' Cross) cautiously*

# EMERGENCY MOTOR VEHICLES

These comprise Fire Trucks, Police Vehicles, Highway Authority Vehicles, and Ambulances.

- Never cross the road if you hear or see an emergency vehicle approaching.
- Right of way must be given to all emergency vehicles sounding a siren or a bell or flashing light.
- All motorists must pull over to the extreme left hand side of the road and stop to allow emergency vehicles to pass.
- Emergency vehicles and other highway authorities may stop or park wherever necessary to render essential public services.
- Do not attempt to overtake emergency vehicles when they are in the act of conducting an operation.



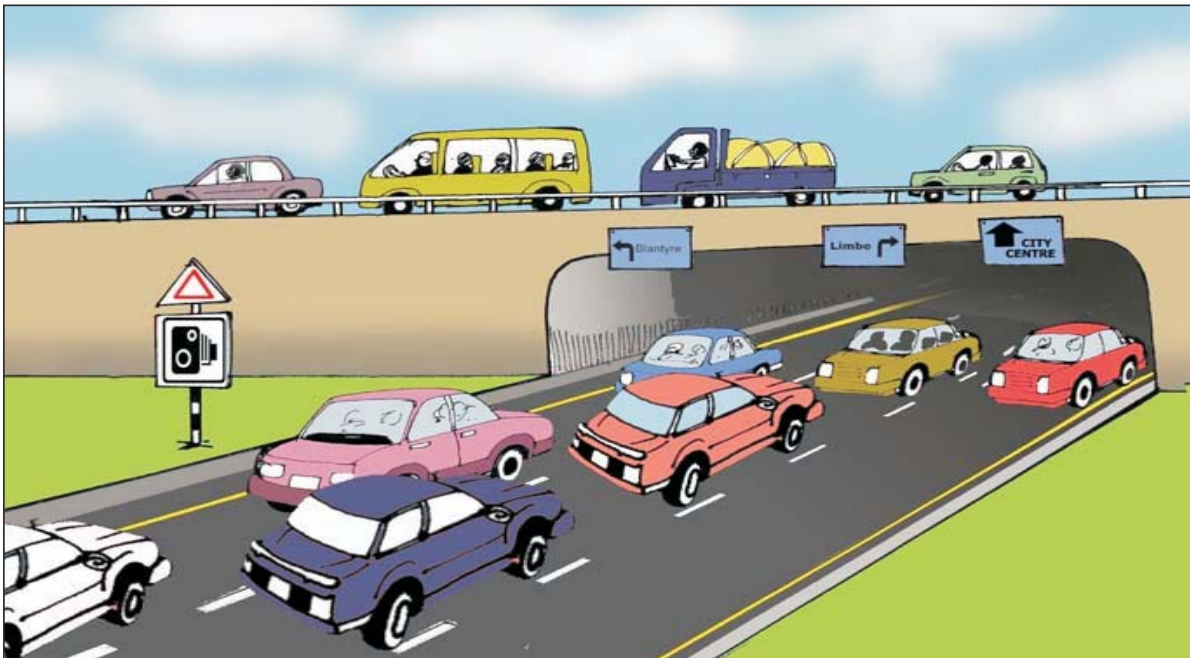
*Do not overtake emergency vehicles*



# MOTORWAYS / FREEWAYS

## On the motorway / freeway

- Take every precaution to reduce the risk of breakdown.
- Freeway/Motorway vehicular traffic travels faster than on other roads and therefore a driver must be fast in anticipating and reacting to hazards.
- You must position yourself and indicate well in advance when about to make a particular manoeuvre.
- When entering a freeway, adjust your speed to that of the traffic pattern and merge safely into the traffic flow.
- When leaving the freeway, indicate in good time, take a correct lane and adjust to the recommended speed. Follow the corresponding road signs.
- Do not stop a vehicle on a freeway except:
  - (i) In compliance with a road sign or in response to instructions by a traffic officer
  - (ii) When responding to an appropriate road sign for stopping or parking
  - (iii) For a cause which is beyond the driver's control
- Pedestrians are not allowed on a freeway/motorway unless:
  - (i) For a cause beyond their control
  - (ii) It is within a space provided for stopping or parking.



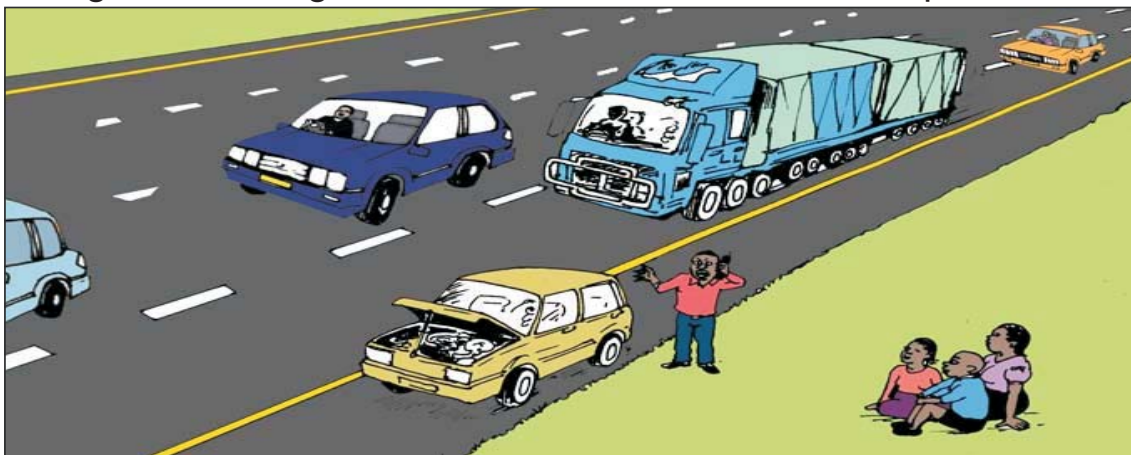
*Take note of all signs that you see on a freeway/motorway*

- On Motorways / Freeways, road signs are mounted on poles next to the road and in some cases on structures above the road.
- Do not give hand signals while driving on a freeway except for reasons beyond driver's control
- Do not overtake another vehicle on a single lane off-ramp (decelerating lane).
- When driving in the lane furthest to the right and the vehicle behind intends to pass, move to the left by properly indicating to ensure your safety and/or that of other road users, and let the driver behind pass on your right.
- Do not exceed the legal speed limit on the particular motorway/freeway and keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead, especially when the road surface is wet.



*Yellow lines prohibit stopping*

- The continuous yellow line on both sides of the motorway edge prohibit stopping and parking except in the event of an emergency.
- A learner driver should not drive on the motorway / freeway.
- Do not operate the following on a motorway / freeway:
  - (i) A vehicle drawn by animals
  - (ii) A motorcycle with an engine capacity of less than 50cc
  - (iii) A tricycle or quadrucycle
  - (iv) A pedal cycle
  - (v) A vehicle with a mass of less than 230kg specially adapted or designed for persons with disabilities.
- Do not operate a tractor and construction vehicles on the motorway/freeway unless it is involved in maintenance or construction work.
- Do not reverse on a motorway/freeway. If you pass a particular road, proceed on and make a safe turn on a safe spot and come back for the correct road.
- To help drivers on motorways/freeways at night, there are amber (yellow) coloured studs marking the left hand edge of the road, red studs for the continuous centre line and white studs separating lanes on the freeway.
- In case of a breakdown on the freeway, pull off the vehicle to the left shoulder of the road. Switch on hazard lights or tie a white piece of cloth to the radio aerial. If it is at night, switch on parking lights. Passengers and children should be under supervision.



*Ensure the safety of passengers while waiting for assistance*

- Be prepared. Carry simple, appropriate First Aid Kit in the car. Learn first-aid from authorised institutions.

# FIRST AID TIPS

- In the event of your vehicle colliding with a pedestrian, vehicle or animal, stop immediately.
- Control traffic where possible to avoid further collisions (seek help from bystanders).
- Assess the nature and degree of any injuries sustained by any persons and render appropriate assistance where possible.
- Assess the nature and degree of any injury incurred.
- Do not move casualties if it can be avoided until skilled personnel is available.
- Move casualties only if there is immediate danger of fire or explosion or if danger from traffic cannot be averted. Where casualties must be moved, handle with great care especially where fractures are suspected.
- Move uninjured persons away from the vehicles to safety.
- Stop bleeding with dry clean dressings or hand-kerchiefs and firm manual pressure. Bandage firmly with hand-kerchief or scarf.
- Cover burns with dry dressings or clean handkerchiefs.
- Keep casualties lying down and where possible keep them warm by wrapping them with blankets and coats.
- Report the collision to the nearest Police Station within 24 hours and produce your driver's licence, insurance certificate and any other relevant identity documents.
- In the event of a person(s) being killed or injured, the vehicles involved must not be moved without the authority of a traffic officer **unless** in circumstances where the vehicle(s) causes complete obstruction of the road. Clearly mark the road surface of the vehicle positions before moving them.
- Do not move the vehicle(s) from the collision scene without the permission of the owner, driver or person who may lawfully take possession of the vehicle(s).
- Do not stop at a collision site unless you are in a position to render assistance. Move slowly and proceed with care until you

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are past the site. If you stop, switch on your vehicle's hazard lights as a warning to other on-coming road users.

- It is important to immediately advise emergency services of the collision by supplying such information as: nature of the collision, injuries and location of the collision.
- Do not smoke at a collision scene and keep everyone away, especially when the collision involves a vehicle carrying hazardous substances.

## **GENERAL ROAD SAFETY TIPS**

- The general maximum speed limit on:
  - (i) Public road other than freeway in an urban area is 50 kph
  - (ii) A public road other than a freeway is 100 kph
  - (iii) A freeway is 120 kph
  - (iv) A public road outside an urban area for a goods vehicle is 80 kph and for passenger service vehicle is 90 kph.
  - (v) Speed limit will be limited by road signs
- Yellow road markings mean there is a limitation or prohibition or banning on any manouvering.
- If a vehicle is not fitted with an alarm and/or immobiliser, fit a device which locks at least one of the vehicle controls.
- While driving, especially at night, keep all the doors of the vehicle locked and the windows closed. This reduces the risk of someone jumping into the vehicle when you stop at an intersection.
- Approach traffic lights and stop/give-way streets with caution especially at night. Be on the alert for suspicious looking pedestrians.
- Always leave an escape gap between yours and the vehicles in front.
- Should someone jump into your vehicle and molest you, and you are unable to move off, bump your vehicle into the vehicle nearest so as to attract attention of other motorists or on-lookers.



- Do not use sunglasses at night when driving.

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Ensure  
good  
visibility  
at night

Do not wear  
dark glasses  
at night

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- Do not drive under the influence of alcohol and/or intoxicating drugs.
- Drive slowly when passing animals being driven along the road.
- Give them plenty of space and do not scare them by revving or hooting.
- Stop if necessary or when signalled to do so.
- Do not carry animals in Public Service Vehicles.
- Keep animals under control in the vehicle so that they do not distract the driver and do not put them on the lap.
- Always drive at reduced speed in foggy or smoky or heavy rainy conditions and maintain safe following distance to avoid colliding with stranded vehicles ahead.
- Always carry the prescribed seating capacity:
  - (i) Two children between the ages of 3 and 6 can be regarded as one person.
  - (ii) Three children aged over 6 but under 13 years can be regarded as two persons.



- 
- Do not use cellular phone, car phone or walkie-talkie whilst vehicle is in motion or the engine is running. Pull off the road and attend to the phone when the need arises.
  - Drive very carefully and slowly where roadworks are in progress. Look out for earth-moving machinery and workmen. Adhere to speed limits and relevant signage.
  - Do not use your mechanical signals to inform other drivers to or not to overtake you but maintain the centre position in your lane.



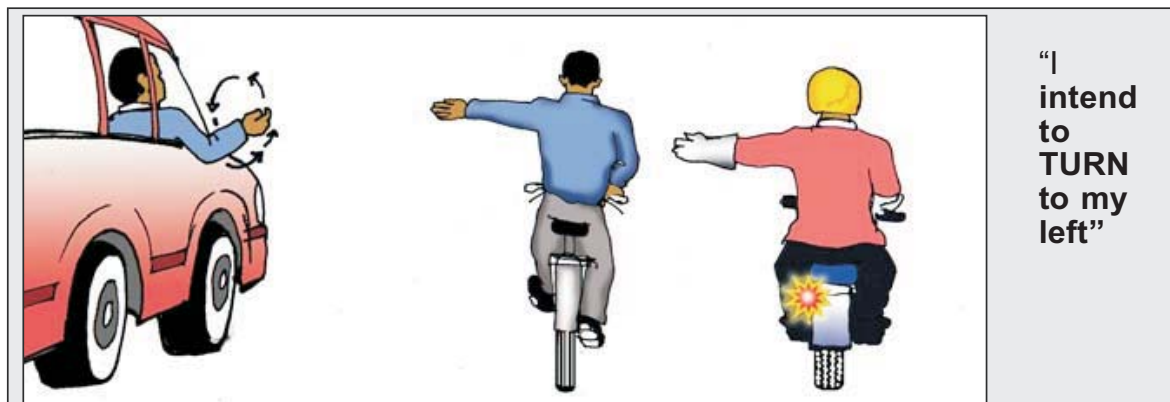
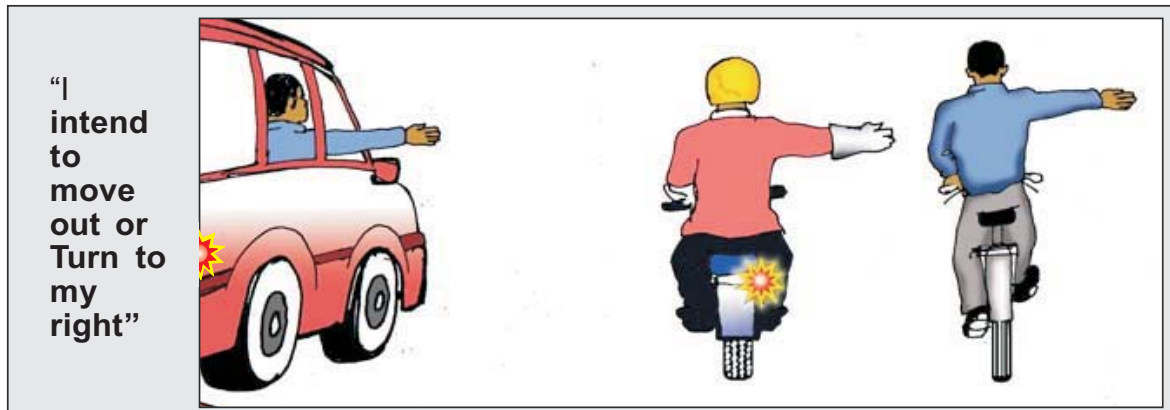
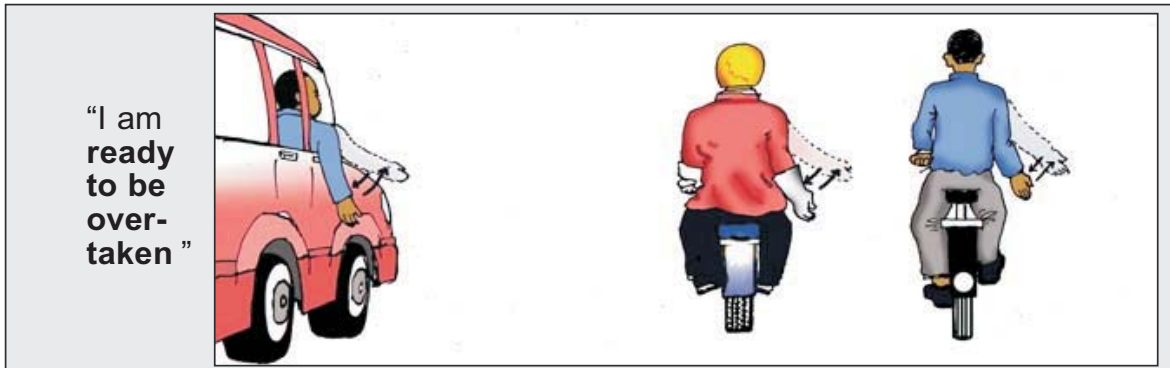
# PART II

## TRAFFIC SIGNS AND TRAFFIC SIGNALS



# DRIVERS AND RIDERS SIGNALS

Always remember to signal clearly at a distance of not less than/minimum of 50 meters before turning.

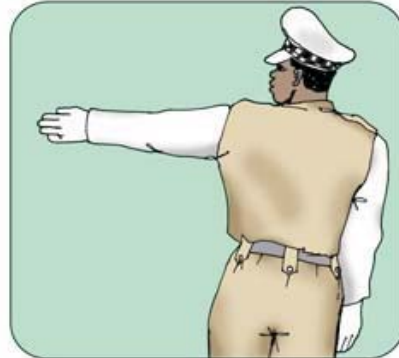


# TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS

- The directions of a Traffic Officer always take precedence over any road sign, signal or surface marking.



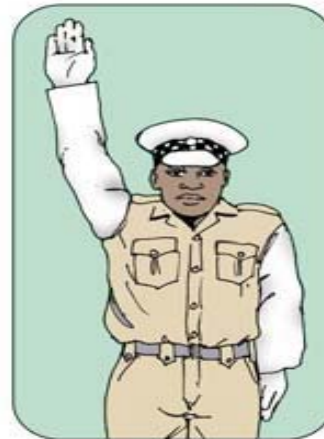
Beckoning on traffic from the side—GO



Traffic approaching from behind —STOP



Traffic approaching from front and behind—STOP



Traffic approaching from front—STOP

## FLAG SIGNALS



Stop



Warning



Proceed

- Any instruction conveyed by a road signals or surface marking must be obeyed unless directed otherwise by a Traffic Officer or Police Officer in uniform.



# Regulatory signs/ Control signs



Stop



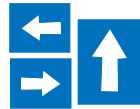
Go



Yield



No entry



One-way road

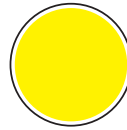


Pedestrian  
priority

COMMAND SIGNS indicate action that *must be taken* and vehicle classes that *must act*; other classes *must not*.



Permanent



Temporary



Minimum  
speed



Vehicles exceeding  
mass only



Keep left



Keep right



Proceed  
left only



Proceed  
right only



Proceed  
straight only



Turn left



Turn right



Pedestrians only



Pedal cycles and  
pedestrians only



Pay toll



Switch head  
lamps on

## PROHIBITION SIGNS

indicating maximum limits that *must not be exceeded*.



(Permanent)



(Temporary)

## PROHIBITION SIGNS

indicating actions that *must not be taken* or vehicle classes that are not allowed on a road or part of a road.



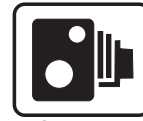
(Permanent)



(Temporary)



National speed limits apply



Camera used to check speed



Speed limit



Mass limit



Axle mass load limit



Height limit



Length limit



Excessive noise prohibited



Hitch-hiking prohibited



Unauthorized vehicles prohibited



Left turn ahead prohibited



Right turn ahead prohibited



Left turn prohibited



Right turn prohibited



U-turn prohibited



Overtaking prohibited



Overtaking by goods vehicles prohibited



Parking prohibited



Stopping prohibited



Pedestrians prohibited



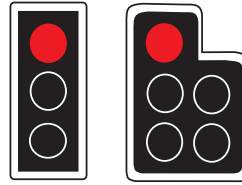
Pedal cycle or pedestrian prohibited



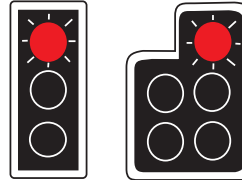
National serviceman prohibited

■ Many intersections are controlled by traffic lights:

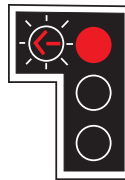
**STEADY RED LIGHT:**  
Stop before the white  
Stop line.



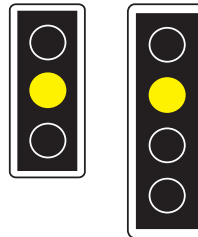
**FLASHING RED LIGHT:**  
Stop and proceed if it is  
safe to do so.



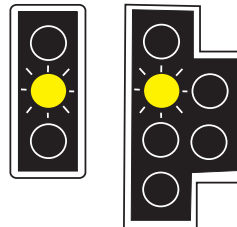
**FLASHING RED ARROW:**  
Stop, then proceed left if  
it is safe to do so (the arrow  
always points left).



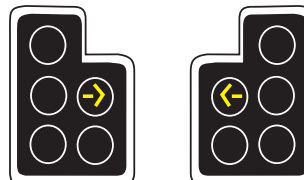
**STEADY AMBER LIGHT:**  
Slow down and prepare to stop.



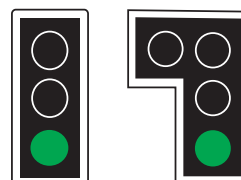
**FLASHING AMBER LIGHT:**  
Slow down, then proceed if  
it is safe to do so. Yield to  
other vehicles if necessary.



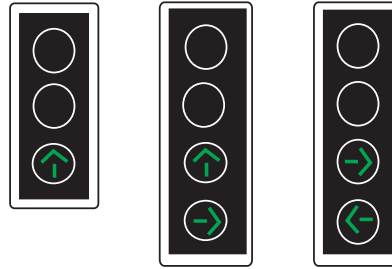
**STEADY AMBER ARROW:**  
Stop and wait for a green  
light before proceeding.



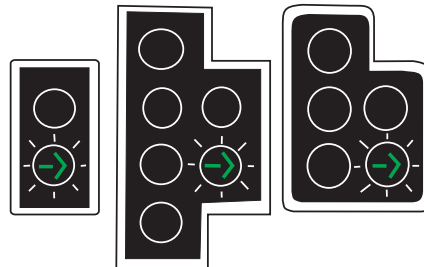
**GREEN LIGHT:**  
Proceed, straight through,  
turn left or right if the road is  
clear/safe



**STEADY GREEN ARROW:**  
Proceed only in the direction of the arrow. Yield to vehicles or pedestrians.



**FLASHING GREEN ARROW**  
Proceed in the direction of the arrow.



**STEADY RED MAN:**  
Pedestrians should not cross the road.



**STEADY GREEN MAN:**  
Pedestrians may cross the road and have right of way over vehicles.



**FLASHING RED MAN:**  
Pedestrians should not enter the crossing sign that Red stable man is coming.



## Right of way of pedestrians

- Where there is a traffic light at a pedestrian crossing, a pedestrian may cross the road only in accordance with its signals.
- Right of way must be given to a pedestrian who is already on a pedestrian crossing and is on the same half, or about to enter the same half, of the road as your vehicle.

RESERVATION SIGNS indicate that a road, or part of a road, is *reserved for only certain classes of vehicles* which *may* make use of it; other classes *must not*.



(Permanent)



(Temporary)



(Permanent)



(Temporary)



Bus lane



Bus lane begins



Bus stop



Mini-bus stop



Bus and mini-bus lane



Bus and mini-bus lane begins



Bus and midi-bus lane



Bus and midi-bus lane begins



Bus, midi-bus and mini-bus lane



Bus, midi-bus and mini-bus lane begins

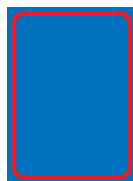


Parking

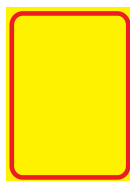


Limited time

COMPREHENSIVE SIGNS indicate that the use of a road, or part of a road, is *subject to comprehensive regulations and restrictions*.



(Permanent)



(Temporary)



Dual carriageway freeway



Single carriageway freeway



Residential area

## DIRECTION SIGNS



End of Dual  
carriageway  
freeway



End of Single  
carriageway  
freeway



End of  
Residential area

## OVERHEAD LANE DIRECTION CONTROL SIGNALS



Steady red cross  
no stopping



Steady green  
downward-pointing arrow  
proceed in the direction of the arrow

## EXCLUSIVE SECONDARY SIGNS



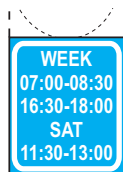
One period  
time limit



Two periods  
time limit



Two periods or  
days are limit



Three periods or  
days time limit



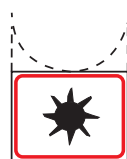
Maximum stay  
during two periods or  
days time limit



Maximum stay  
during one period  
time limit



Reduced visibility  
condition

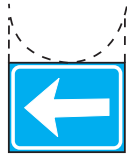


Day condition

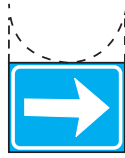


Night condition

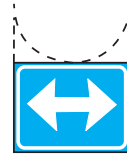




Reserved movement left by vehicle class



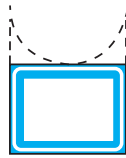
Reserved movement right by vehicle class



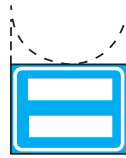
Reserved movement to left and right by vehicle class



Pay-and-display



Operator identity (logo)



Operator identity (words)



Maximum number of vehicles

## WARNING SIGNS



Crossroad



Priority crossroad (crossroad shall stop or yield)



Secondary crossroad (expect stop or yield)



T-junction



Skew T-junction



Skew T-junction



Side road junction from left



Side road junction from right



Staggered junction



Staggered junction



Sharp junction to left



Sharp junction from left



Sharp junction to right



Sharp junction from right



Y-junction



End of dual roadway (to left)



End of dual roadway (to right)



Beginning of dual roadway (to right)



Beginning of dual roadway (to left)



Round about



Gentle curve (to right)



Gentle curve (to left)



Sharp curve (to right)



Sharp curve (to left)



Hairpin bend (to right)



Hairpin bend (to left)



Winding road (first right)



Winding road (first left)



Combined curves (first to right)



Combined curves (first to left)



Two-way traffic



Two-way traffic crossroad



Right lane ends



Left lane ends



Concealed driveway (right)



Concealed driveway (left)



Concealed driveways (left and right)



Traffic signals



Traffic control 'stop' ahead



Traffic control 'yield' ahead



Pedestrian crossing



Pedestrians



Children



Cyclists



Farm animals



Farm animals



Farm animals



Wild animals



Gate



Motor gate (to right)



Motor gate (to left)



Motor gate (in middle)



Railway crossing



Tunnel



Height restriction



Length restriction



Steep ascent



Steep descent



Slow-moving heavy vehicles



Gravel road begins



Narrow bridge



One vehicle-width structure



Road narrows from both sides



Road narrows from one side only (right)



Road narrows from one side only (left)



Uneven roadway



Speed humps



Slippery road



Falling rocks (from right)



Falling rocks (from left)



General warning (any type of danger ahead)



Heavy vehicles or construction vehicles crossing (from left)



Heavy vehicles or construction vehicles crossing (from right)



Emergency flashing light



Jetty edge or riverbank



Crosswind



Drift



Low-flying aircraft



Agricultural vehicles

## HAZARD MARKER SIGNS



Danger plate



Danger plate



Railway crossing



Double railway crossing



Sharp curve chevron (right)



Sharp curve chevron (left)



Sharp curve chevron (right)



Sharp curve chevron (left)



T-junction chevron



Dead end or road closed chevron



Robots out of order



Robots out of order

## INFORMATIVE SIGN

LOCATION SIGNS



River name



Toll route name



End of toll route



Dual carriageway freeway name

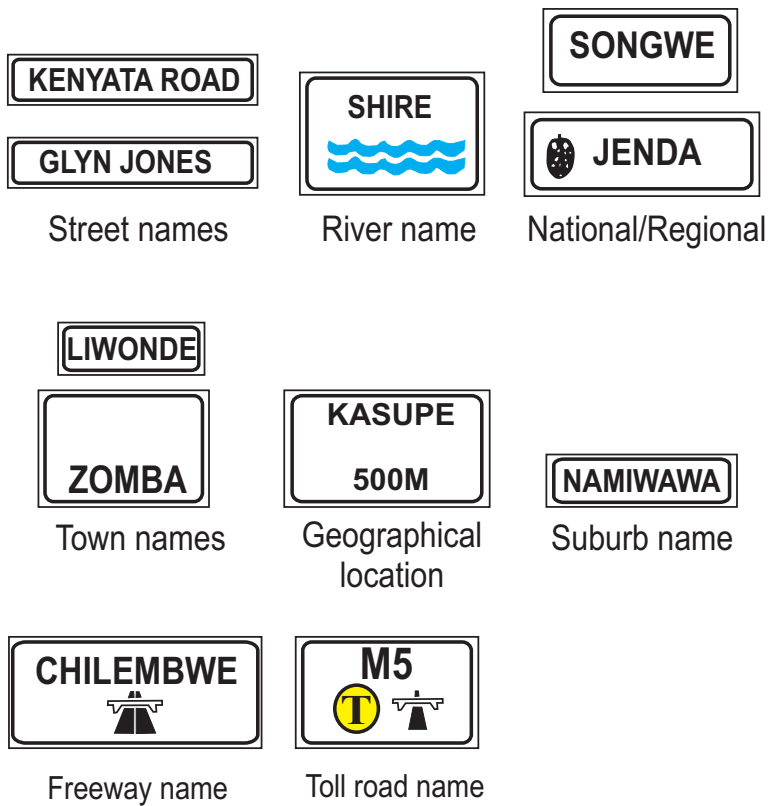


Single carriageway freeway name

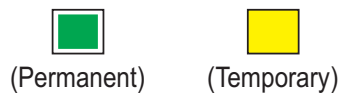


Conservancy

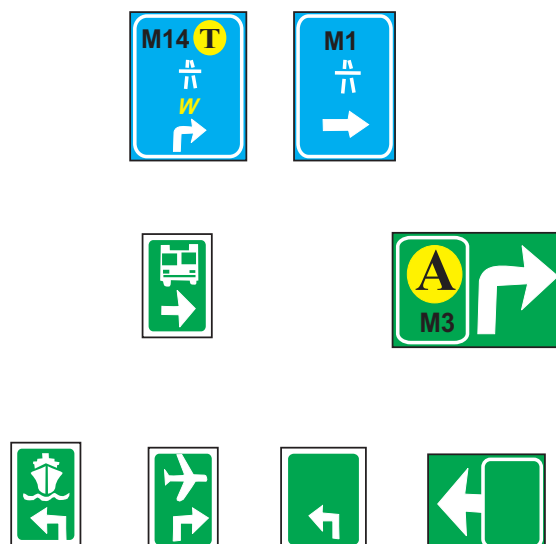
# LOCATION SIGNS



# ROUTE MARKER SIGNS



# EXAMPLES OF ROUTE MARKER SIGNS





# DIRECTION SIGNS



(Permanent)



(Temporary)

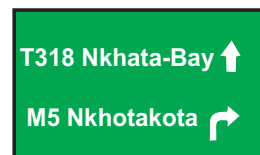
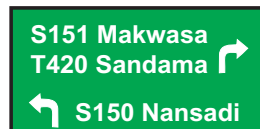
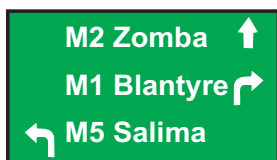
# FREEWAY DIRECTION SIGNS



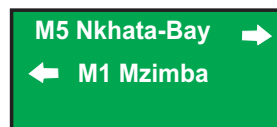
(Permanent)



(Temporary)



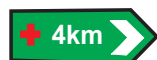
Advanced direction signs



Direction signs

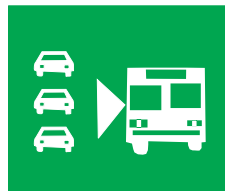
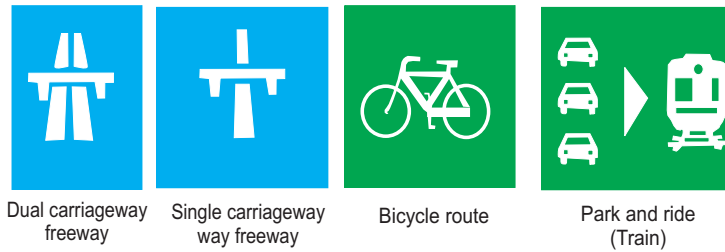
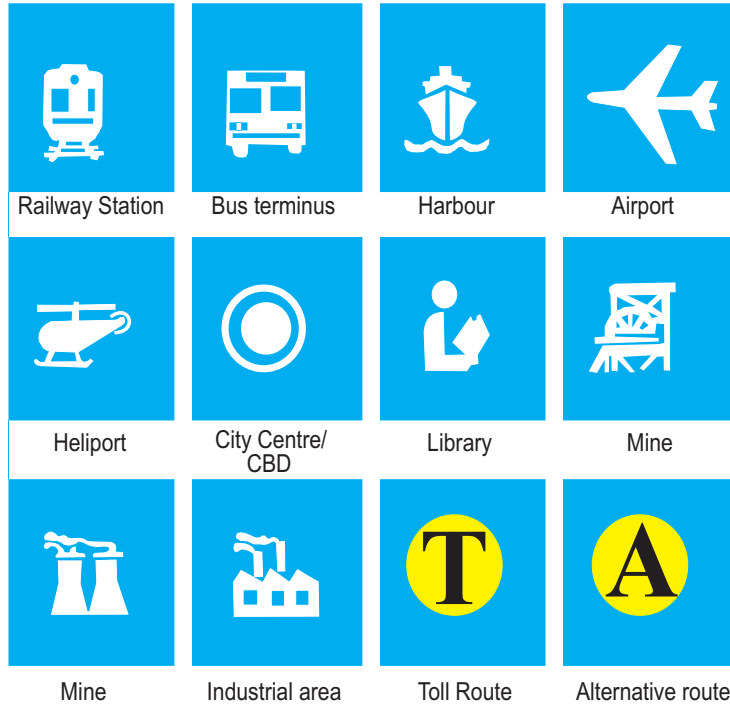


Confirmation signs



Fingerboard signs

# DIRECTION SIGN/SYMBOLS



Park and ride  
(Bus)



Change to lower gear

# TOURISM SIGNS





Filling station and workshop



Filling station



Workshop

Tow-in service



Truck services



Restaurant



Refreshments



Take-away



Service area



Rest area



Rest area



Accommodation facility



Bed and breakfast



Rooms (bed only)



Caravan site



Camp site



National Parks Board



Majete Wildlife Reserve



Liwonde National Park



Nyika National Park



Fish Farm



Mawila Hot Spring



Seaside/Beach resort/Beach



Inland water resort/Watersports



Scenic route



View point



Waterfall



Hiking trail



General tourist attraction



National monument



Museum



Theatre



Amphitheatre



Botanical gardens



Wine cellar



Mine museum



Boat launch/  
Watersport



Crocodile farm



Bird park/  
Sanctuary



Ostrich farm



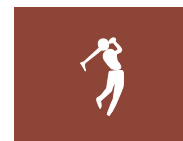
Ostrich farm



Snake park



Race course



Golf course



Parking area



Tourist information



Roadside stall/  
Curio shop



Shop



Facility for handicapped people



Toilets



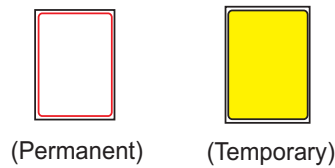
Shower



Motor car wash



## DIAGRAMMATIC SIGNS



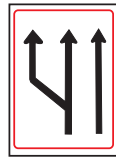
Left lane ends



Right lane ends  
500 m



Addition of traffic lane (1 to 2)



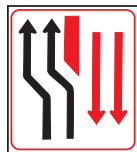
Addition of traffic lane (2 to 3)



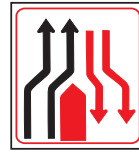
Diversion of lane



Diversion and addition of lanes



Diversion of traffic lanes (to left)



Diversion of traffic lanes (to right)



Converging of traffic lanes



Converging of traffic lanes



Converging of traffic lanes  
400 m



Addition of lane



Restriction/prohibition applicable in right lane



Restriction/prohibition applicable in right lane



Restriction/prohibition applicable in right lane



Restriction/prohibition applicable in right lane



Change to lower gear (heavy vehicles)



Overhead lane prohibition signs



Overhead lane prohibition signs

## INFORMATION SIGNS



300 m



200 m



100 m

Countdown



Cul-de-sac



Right of way



Servicemen pick-up point



Information centre



Co-ordinated robots



Multi-phase traffic lights



Park and ride



Modal transfer





Bus stop ahead



Road experiment

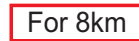
## SUPPLEMENTARY PLATE SIGNS



Recommended speed



Distance to



Distance for



Police



Customs



Tow-away zone

## ROAD SURFACE MARKINGS

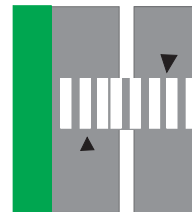
### REGULATORY



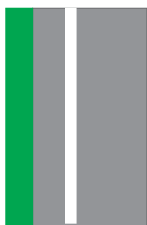
Stop line



Yield line



Pedestrian crossing



No overtaking



No crossing  
No overtaking



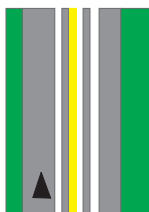
Channelising  
line



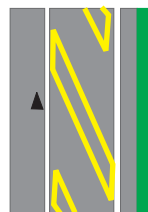
Left edge line



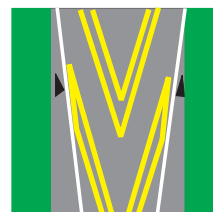
Right edge line



No  
crossing

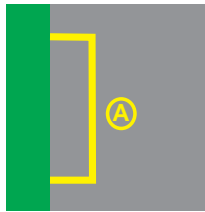


Painted islands

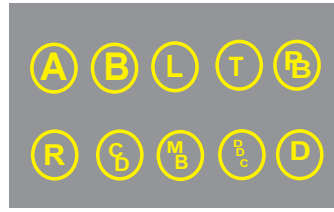




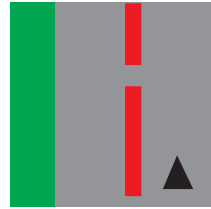
Parking bay



Exclusive parking bay and symbols



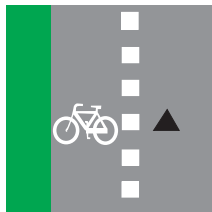
No stopping line



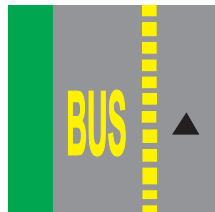
No stopping line (certain times)



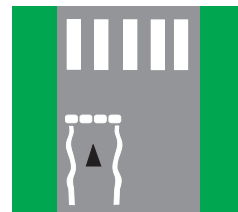
No parking line



Bicycle lane



Bus lane



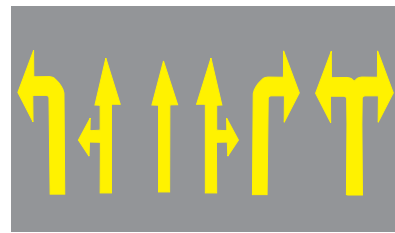
Zig-zag zone



Box junction

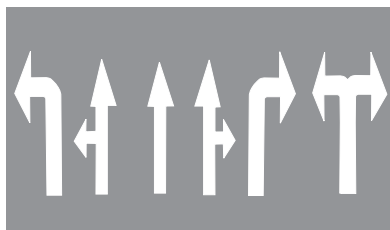


Roundabout



Mandatory direction arrows

# WARNING



Mandatory direction arrows ahead



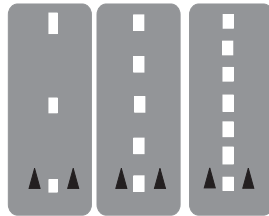
Railway crossing ahead



Yield sign ahead



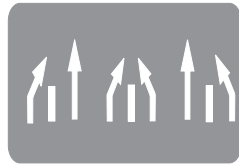
Dividing lines



Continuity lines



Reversible lines



Lane reduction arrows



No overtaking or no crossing line ahead



Arrestor bed ahead



Speed hump



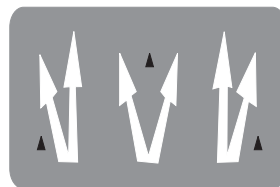
Following distance markings



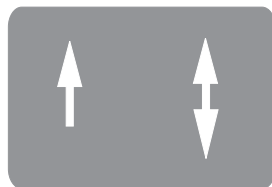
Speed reduction markings



Lane line marking



Furcation arrows



Movement direction/reversible lane information arrows



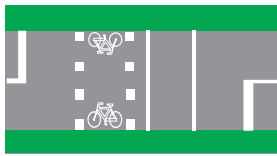
Bicycle



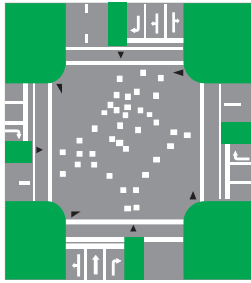
Airport



Disabled persons



Bicycle crossing guidelines



Guidelines

# VEHICLE CLASSIFICATION/IDENTIFICATION



Ambulance and emergency vehicle



Police vehicle



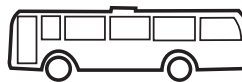
Animal-drawn vehicle



Motor car



Taxi



Bus



Midi-bus



Mini-bus



Delivery vehicle



Goods vehicle



Goods vehicle (+GVM)



Hazardous substances vehicle



Pedal cycle



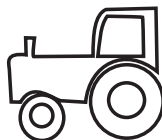
Motor cycle



Handicapped persons vehicle



Abnormal vehicle



Agricultural vehicle



Construction vehicle





# PART III

## DANGEROUS / HAZARDOUS GOODS AND SUBSTANCES



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## PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE

Those handling DANGEROUS GOODS/SUBSTANCES need to be aware of the following:-

- Properties and Dangers of various classes of DANGEROUS GOODS and SUBSTANCES
- Correct procedures to be used during handling of dangerous/hazardous goods.
- Correct types of protective devices to be used.

This can be achieved only by in-depth training.

### Classification of Dangerous/Hazardous goods and substances (SANS 10232-1)





- DANGEROUS/HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES are classified into groups according to their properties of hazards.
- In the Dangerous Goods Placarding System the main hazard is identified by the “HAZARD CLASS DIAMOND”
- DANGEROUS GOODS/HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES may fall into more than one classification e.g. Corrosive and Flammable.

# EXPLOSIVE HAZARDS - CLASS 1

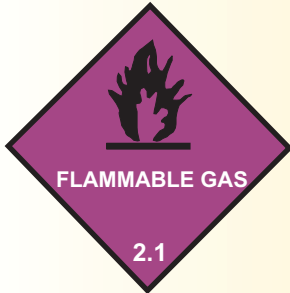
Explosives are capable of producing gas at such a temperature and pressure and at such a speed as to cause damage to the surroundings. As they contain both fuel and oxidant, they can function independently of their surroundings. Six hazards are recognized which are used to segregate explosives into the six divisions. Apart from the risk of fire, some explosives may also have other subsidiary risks. E.g. Toxicity, ash with some nitro compounds.

## Warning Diamond

## Description of Hazard

|   |  |
|---|--|
|    | <p>Under the UN classification system, this Class comprises the following six divisions.</p> <p>Division 1.1 <u>Mass explosion hazard</u> when an explosion effects virtually the entire load almost simultaneously. E.g. high explosives such as dynamite.</p> <p>Division 1.2 <u>Projection hazard</u> but not mass explosion hazard. E.g. rocket motors</p> <p>Division 1.3 <u>Fire hazard</u> and minor blast or minor projection hazard or both but not a mass explosion hazard. This comprises commodities which give rise to considerable radiant heat or which burn one after another, producing minor blast or projection effects or both. E.g. Unfilled repellent.</p> |
|  | <p>Division 1.4 <u>No significant hazard</u> E.g. Short gun cartilages</p>   |
|  | <p>Division 1.5 <u>Very insensitive</u> explosives with a mass explosion hazard but a low probability. E.g. Blasting explosives of the water, gel or slurry types.</p>   |
|  | <p>Division 1.6 <u>Extremely insensitive</u> with no mass explosion hazard.</p>  |

## GAS HAZARDS - CLASS 2



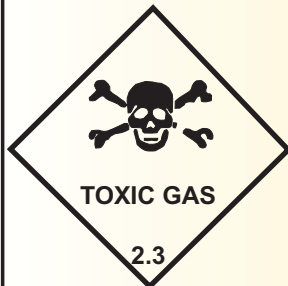
### FLAMMABLE GAS/ NON FLAMMABLE - NON TOXIC COMPRESSED/TOXIC GAS

- Normally carried under pressure so may be effected by temperature changes.
- May be flammable
- May be poisonous / toxic
- May cause explosion
- Flash-back may occur.



### FLAMMABLE GAS/ NON FLAMMABLE - NON TOXIC COMPRESSED/TOXIC GAS

- Normally carried under pressure so may be effected by temperature changes.
- May be flammable
- May be poisonous / toxic
- May cause explosion
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### FLAMMABLE GAS/ NON FLAMMABLE - NON TOXIC COMPRESSED/TOXIC GAS

- Normally carried under pressure so may be effected by temperature changes.
- May be flammable
- May be poisonous / toxic
- May cause explosion
- Flash-back may occur.

## FLAMMABLE LIQUID HAZARD CLASS - 3



- Easily ignited and burns fiercely
- Invisible vapour
- Flash-back and explosion or bleve effect
- May float on water
- May also be toxic.

## FLAMMABLE SOLID/SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION/DANGEROUS WHEN WET CLASS - 4



- Easily ignited and burns fiercely
- Water application may cause fire
- May burn for long periods
- May also be toxic.
- The substance may generate its own heat, causing self ignition.

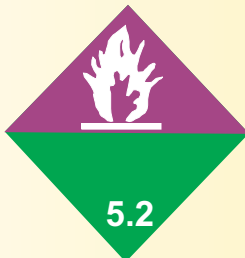


- Easily ignited and burns fiercely
- Water application may cause fire
- May burn for long periods
- May also be toxic.
- The substance may generate its own heat, causing self ignition.



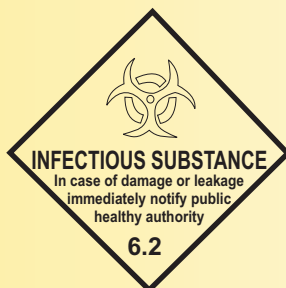
- Easily ignited and burns fiercely
- Water application may cause fire
- May burn for long periods
- May also be toxic.
- The substance may generate its own heat, causing self ignition.

## OXIDISING AGENT / ORGANIC PEROXIDE - CLASS 5



- May react with other materials
- Causes combustible material to burn fiercely.
- May be toxic
- May be unstable with age.

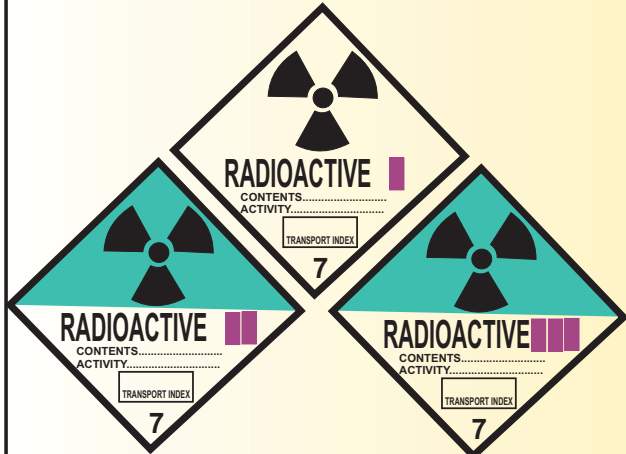
## TOXIC AND INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES - CLASS 6



- Swallowing, absorption or inhalation will cause illness or death.
- Will affect foodstuffs
- May affect health (short or long term)
- Difficult to dispose of and may be dangerous for long periods of time



## RADIOACTIVE - CLASS 7



Exposure may cause damage to living tissue.

Radioactive has been categorised into three groups; ALPHA, BETTA and GAMMA.

- **ALPHA** particles do not penetrate the skin and are not hazardous unless swallowed or absorbed into the body (e.g via a wound)
- **BETTA** particles may penetrate the skin causing damage to body cells unless shielding is employed.
- **GAMMA** rays and X-ray radiation need thicker shielding and neutrons require very thick shielding.

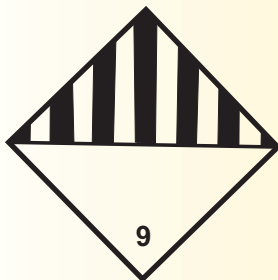
Other risks are generally of limited effect due to the low masses of radioactive substances normally handled.

## CORROSIVE HAZARDS - CLASS 8



- Attacks skin, clothing and materials - causing burns.
- Leaks will damage road surface.
- Corrosion may release flammable vapours.
- Have to be diluted or neutralized

## MISCELLANEOUS - CLASS 9



- Pollution of environment, air or water.
- Damage to plant and wildlife.

## MIXED LOAD / MULTILOAD - LOAD - CLASS 10



- This is the load of more than one class of dangerous product being transported on a vehicle simultaneously.

# VEHICLE MARKING AND LABELING - CLASS 11

## The subsidiary risk diamonds

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1073           |  |
| (012) 345-6789 |  |
| (011) 999-9999 |  |

### PLACARD FOR OXYGEN

Oxygen (UN No 1073), for example, is a class 2.2 gas but is also an oxidizer. So, the placard for oxygen must also carry a 100 mm X 100mm subsidiary risk diamond. Similarly, nitric oxide (UN No. 1660), as a toxic gas, belongs to class 2.3 but is also an oxidizer and corrosive. So, the placard also carries subsidiary risk diamonds of class 5.1 and class 8. Subsidiary risk diamonds are not required on reduced size placards used on light delivery vehicles.

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1660           |  |
| (012) 345-6789 |  |
| (011) 999-9999 |  |

### PLACARD FOR NITRIC OXIDE

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1203           |  |
| (012) 345-6789 |  |
| (011) 999-9999 |  |

### PLACARD FOR DIESEL, PETROL, PARAFFIN AND AVIATION FUEL

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| MIXED LOAD     |  |
| (012) 345-6789 |  |
| (011) 999-9999 |  |

### PLACARD FOR MIXED FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| MIXED LOAD     |  |
| (012) 345-6789 |  |
| (011) 999-9999 |  |

### PLACARD FOR MIXED CLASSES

## Mixed load placards

1. Where goods in a mixed or multiload belong to the same class and have the same emergency response guide number, placarding is as for a single load using the UN number of the most dangerous substance in the load. A good example is the transport of diesel, [petrol, paraffin or aviation fuel, all of which are flammable liquids with different UN numbers, but which may be collectively transported under the UN No. for petrol (UN No. 1203) with a flammable liquid diamond.
2. Where goods in a mixed load belong to the same class but do not have the same emergency response guide number, the words "MIXED LOAD " must be used in place of the UN number along with the appropriate class warning diamond.
3. Where goods belong to different classes, the words "MIXED LOAD" must be used in place of the UN number and the "DANGEROUS" mixed load diamond must be used.

The word "MULTILOAD" is also permitted.

The emergency response guide number is used by first responders to identify the appropriate guide to handling an incident. This information can be found in the *Emergency Response Guidebook* or the *Dangerous Goods Digest*, both of which are available from Foresight Publications.

## Hazard waste placards

In the case of a cargo of waste, the UN number must be prefixed with the word "WASTE" above the number.

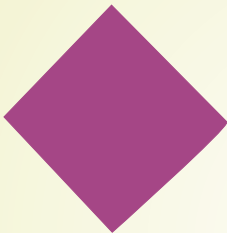
**WASTE**  
**1760**

(012) 345-6789

(011) 999-9999



## Danger warning diamond



In addition to the main placards, a plain orange danger warning diamond (250 mm x 250 mm) must be affixed to the front of a placarded vehicle. For Light Delivery Vehicles (LDV's) the size may be reduced to

## Split placards for ISO freight containers

An ISO freight container or tanktainer carrying dangerous goods must display normal placarding unless being transported by road as part of a journey that includes movement by sea or across borders. In which case, it must be placarded in terms of the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) code. Known as split placarding, this requires the UN number and warning diamonds to be displayed as shown below on all four sides of the container.

**2260**

UN Number



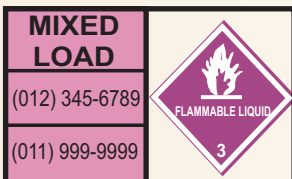
Hazard class



Subsidiary risk, if any

## VEHICLE MARKING AND LABELING

### Positioning of vehicle placards



700 mm x 400 mm

### Lighty delivery vehicles

Half-size placards are permitted on vehicles less than 3500 kg GVM. Warning diamonds are 100 mm x 100 mm and subsidiary risk diamonds are not needed.

### Rear

Placarding displaying warning diamond, subsidiary risk diamond/s (if applicable) and the correct UN number for the goods being transported as well as the 24 hour telephone numbers.

### Sides

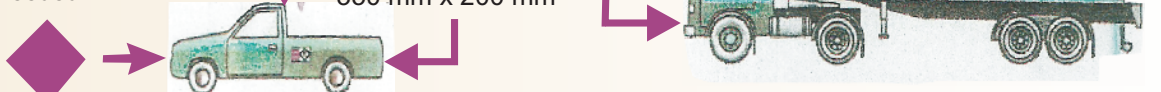
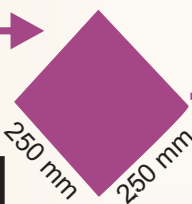
Both sides require a placard (same as for the rear)

### Front

Danger warning diamond (plain orange coloured)



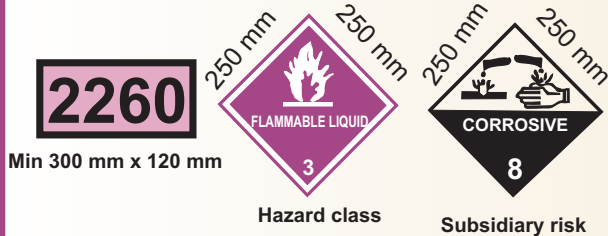
350 mm x 200 mm



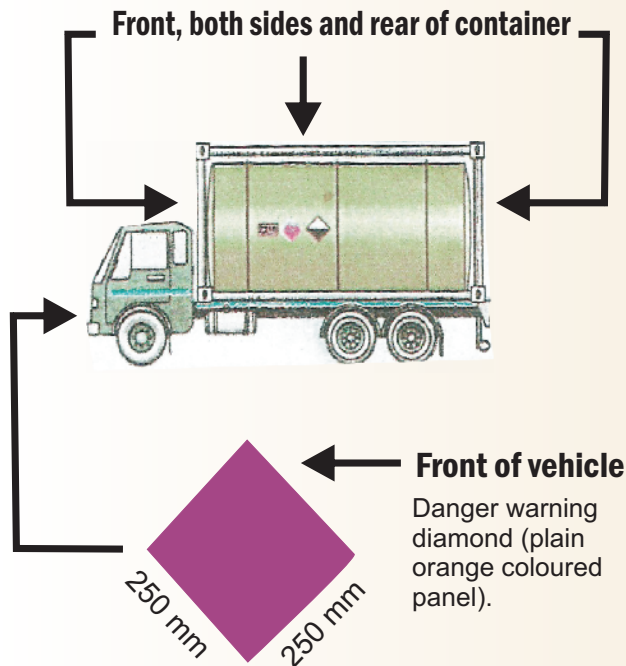
# VEHICLE MARKING AND LABELING

## Placards on ISO freight container

Placarding of vehicles carrying multi modal ISO freight containers or tanktainers is as above, unless being transported by road as part of a journey that includes movement by sea or across borders. In which case, split placarding must be used as prescribed by the International Maritime Dangerous Goods.



Known as split placarding, the IMDG code requires, the UN number to be displayed, as shown above, immediately adjacent to the appropriate hazard class diamond. If there is subsidiary risk, the appropriate diamond must be placed next to the hazard class diamond.



## Other placards

### Elevated Temperature

Transport units containing liquids exceeding 100°C or solids exceeding 240°C must display this triangular placard on both sides and at the rear.



### Marine pollutant

The International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) code requires this placard to be used on an ISO container when shipping a substance identified as a marine pollutant.



### Fumigation warning

When dangerous goods are used to fumigate large containers, this fumigation sign must be displayed where it will be easily seen by anyone attempting to enter.



### Environmentally hazardous

ISO containers carrying environmentally hazardous solids (UN 3077) or liquids (UN 3082) must be marked with this diamond on two opposing sides.



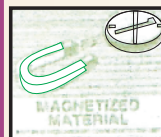
### Symbolic safety signs

There are a number of safety signs in SANS 1186. The "no smoking" sign and "no naked flame" sign should be displayed when transporting flammables. The signs prohibiting the use of mobile phones and water as an extinguishing agent prohibited should also be used where appropriate.

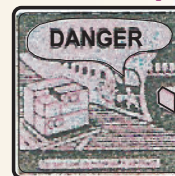


## Handling labels

### International air freight



90 mm x 110 mm



110 mm x 120 mm

### European road & rail freight



210 mm x 148 mm

A half-size version of the orientation label is also used for international air freight and may be either black or red on white.





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