

THE HIGHWAY CODE

Alteration to The Highway Code (various motorway and high-speed road rules) proposed to be made by the Secretary of State for Transport and laid before both Houses of Parliament on 21 June 2021 pursuant to section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Enclosed is a complete copy of *The Highway Code* incorporating the proposed alterations.

In relation to motorways and other high-speed roads the proposals are for: significant revision of rules 256 to 258 (signs and signals), 261 (speed limits), 264 (lane discipline), 269 (hard shoulder) and the inclusion of a new rule concerning the use of emergency areas; minor revision is proposed of rules 253 (prohibited vehicles), 255 (signs and signals), 262, 263, 266, 270 (driver fatigue, manner of driving and stopping).

In relation to roads more generally: significant revision is proposed of rules 97 (before setting off), 98 (vehicle towing and loading), 124 (speed limits), 126 (stopping distances), 275 to 278 (breakdowns and incidents), 283 (incidents) and 288 to 290 (roadworks); minor revision is proposed of rules 91 (fitness to drive), 138 (dual carriageways), 234 (fog), 240 (parking and stopping), 279 to 282 (breakdowns, obstructions and incidents) and 286 (documentation).

The proposals also include revision of the rule numbering between rules 270 and 280 to accommodate the two new rules (emergency areas and places of relative safety) and the merging of four existing rules into two (rules 275 and 277, rules 279 and 280).

Finally, the proposal includes updates to both the Additional Information and Annex 4 of *The Highway Code*.

The reason for making the proposed alteration to *The Highway Code* can be found within the accompanying Explanatory Memorandum.

In accordance with section 38(3) of the Road Traffic Act 1988, where the Secretary of State proposes to revise *The Highway Code* by making any alterations in the provision of The Highway Code (other than alterations merely consequential on the passing, amendment or repeal of any statutory provision) he must lay the proposed alterations before both Houses of Parliament and must not make the proposed revision until after the end of a period of forty days beginning with the day on which the alterations were so laid.

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 91
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 91

Driving when you are tired greatly increases your risk of a collision. To minimise this risk

- make sure you are fit to drive. Do not begin a journey if you are tired. Get *sufficient* sleep before embarking on a long journey
- avoid undertaking long journeys between midnight and 6 am, when natural alertness is at a minimum
- plan your journey to take sufficient breaks. A minimum break of at least 15 minutes after every two hours of driving is recommended
- if you feel sleepy, stop in a safe place. Do not stop in *an emergency area* or on a hard shoulder of a motorway (*see Rule 262 for guidance on places to take a break when travelling on motorways*).

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 97
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 97

Before setting off. *You MUST ensure that*

- *you have a valid licence and insurance to drive the vehicle you intend to use (see Annex 3)*
- *your vehicle is legal and roadworthy (see Annex 3 and Annex 6 for important vehicle maintenance and safety checks).*

You *SHOULD* ensure that

- *you have planned your route and allowed sufficient time **for breaks and possible delays***
- *you have sufficient fuel **or charge** for your journey, especially if it includes motorway driving*
- *you know where all the controls are and how to use them*
- *clothing and footwear do not prevent you using the controls in the correct manner*
- *your mirrors and seat are adjusted correctly to ensure comfort, full control and maximum vision*
- *head restraints are properly adjusted to reduce the risk of neck and spine injuries in the event of a collision.*

It is recommended for emergency use that

- *you have a mobile telephone containing emergency contacts (e.g. breakdown assistance)*
- *you have high-visibility clothing.*

Laws RTA 1988 sects 42, 45, 47, 49, 53, 87, 99(4) & 143, MV(DL)R reg 16, 40 & sched 4, VERA sect 29, RVLR 1989 regs 23 & 27, & CUR regs 27, 30, 32 & 61

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 98
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 98

Before Towing. As a driver

- you **MUST NOT** tow more than your licence permits. If you passed *your* car *driving* test *on or* after 1 Jan 1997, you are restricted on the weight of trailer you can tow
- *you MUST ensure that both your vehicle and your trailer is in a roadworthy condition. This includes checking that all tyres are legal, the trailer braking system is in full working order and all trailer lights are working correctly*
- you **MUST NOT** overload your vehicle or trailer. You should not tow a weight greater than that recommended by the manufacturer of your vehicle
- you should distribute the weight in your caravan or trailer *evenly* with heavy items over the axle(s) and ensure a downward load on the tow ball. *The* manufacturer's recommended weight and tow ball load should not be exceeded. This should *minimise* the possibility of swerving or snaking and *loss of* control
- you **MUST** secure your load and it **MUST NOT** stick out dangerously. Make sure any heavy or sharp objects and any animals are secured safely. If there is a collision, they might hit someone inside the vehicle and cause serious injury
- *if your vehicle is narrower than your trailer or load, or your trailer or load obstructs your rearward view, then towing mirrors MUST be used*
- *your trailer MUST be fitted with a secondary coupling device, such as a safety chain*
- carrying a load or pulling a trailer may require you to adjust *your* headlights.

During Towing. As a driver

- *you should be aware that reduced speed limits apply (see Rule 124)*
- *you should be aware that your stopping distance may increase significantly when towing (see Rule 126)*

- *you **MUST NOT** drive in the right-hand lane on motorways with three or more lanes (see Rule 265)*
- *if the trailer starts to swerve or snake, or you lose control, ease off the accelerator, and reduce speed gently to regain control. Do not brake harshly.*

Breakdowns. In the event of a breakdown, be aware

- that towing a vehicle on a tow rope is potentially dangerous. You should consider *using a solid tow bar or* professional recovery
- *it may take longer to build up speed when rejoining a carriageway (see also Rule 278).*

For additional advice about towing safely, see Further reading.

Laws CUR regs 27, 33, 86a & 100, *RVLR reg 18, MT(E&W)R reg 12 & MV(DL)R reg 6, 7, 76 & sched 2*

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 124
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 124

You **MUST NOT** exceed the maximum speed limits for the road and for your vehicle (see *speed limit table below*). A *speed limit of 30 mph (48km/h) generally applies to all roads with street lights (excluding motorways) unless signs show otherwise.*

Speed limits	Built-up areas mph (km/h)	Single carriageways mph (km/h)	Dual carriageways mph (km/h)	Motorways mph (km/h)
Cars & motorcycles (including car derived vans up to 2 tonnes maximum laden weight)	30 (48)	60 (96)	70 (112)	70 (112)
Cars towing caravans or trailers (including car derived vans and motorcycles)	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	60 (96)
<i>Motorhomes or motor caravans (not exceeding 3.05 tonnes maximum unladen weight)</i>	<i>30 (48)</i>	<i>60 (96)</i>	<i>70 (112)</i>	<i>70 (112)</i>
<i>Motorhomes or motor caravans (exceeding 3.05 tonnes maximum unladen weight)</i>	<i>30 (48)</i>	<i>50 (80)</i>	<i>60 (96)</i>	<i>70 (112)</i>
Buses, coaches and minibuses (not exceeding 12 metres in overall length)	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	70† (112)
Goods vehicles (not exceeding 7.5 tonnes)	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	70†† (112)

Speed limits	Built-up areas	Single carriageways	Dual carriageways	Motorways
	mph (km/h)	mph (km/h)	mph (km/h)	mph (km/h)
maximum laden weight)				
Goods vehicles (exceeding 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight) in England and Wales	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	60 (96)
Goods vehicles (exceeding 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight) in Scotland	30 (48)	40 (64)	50 (80)	60 (96)

† 60 mph (96 km/h) if exceeding 12 metres in overall length.

†† 60 mph (96 km/h) if articulated or towing a trailer.

For speed limits that apply to special types of vehicles, such as oversized vehicles, see Further reading.

Locally set speed limits may apply, for example

- 20 mph (32 km/h) in some built-up areas
- 50 mph (80 km/h) on single carriageways with known hazards
- variable speed limit signs are used on some motorways and dual carriageways to change the maximum speed limit.

Speed limits are enforced by the police.

Law RTRA sects 81, 86, 89 & sched 6 as amended by MV(VSL)(E&W)

[The proposal includes two new images titled *Rule 124 Examples of speed enforcement*].

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 126
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 126

Stopping Distances. Drive at a speed that will allow you to stop well within the distance you can see to be clear. You should

- leave enough space between you and the vehicle in front so that you can pull up safely if it suddenly slows down or stops. The safe rule is never to get closer than the overall stopping distance (see Typical Stopping Distances diagram, shown above)
- allow at least a two-second gap between you and the vehicle in front on ***high-speed roads*** and in tunnels where visibility is reduced. The gap should be at least doubled on wet roads and ***up to ten times greater*** on icy roads
- remember, large vehicles and motorcycles need a greater distance to stop. If driving a large vehicle in a tunnel, you should allow a four-second gap between you and the vehicle in front.

If you have to stop in a tunnel, leave at least a 5-metre gap between you and the vehicle in front.

Tailgating is where the gap between you and the vehicle in front is too small for you to be able to stop safely if the vehicle in front suddenly brakes.

Tailgating is dangerous, intimidating and can cause collisions, especially when driving at speed. Keeping a safe distance from the vehicle in front gives you time to react and stop if necessary. Dangerous and careless driving offences, such as tailgating, are enforced by the police.

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 138
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 138

On a *dual carriageway with three or more lanes*, you may use the middle *lanes* or the right-hand lane to overtake but *you should* return to the middle *lanes* and then the left-hand lane when it is safe *to do so*.

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 234
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 234

Before entering fog check your mirrors then slow down.

If 'Fog' is shown on a sign but the road is clear, be prepared for a bank of fog or drifting patchy fog ahead. Even if it seems to be clearing, you can suddenly find yourself in thick fog.

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 240
(*new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold*)

The Highway Code Rule 240

You **MUST NOT** stop or park on

- the carriageway, *an emergency area* or *a* hard shoulder of a motorway except in an emergency (see Rule 270 and Rule 271)
- a pedestrian crossing, including the area marked by the zig-zag lines (see Rule 191)
- a clearway (see 'Traffic signs')
- taxi bays as indicated by upright signs and markings
- an *urban clearway* within its hours of operation, except to pick up or set down passengers (see 'Traffic signs')
- a road marked with double white lines, even when a broken white line is on your side of the road, except to pick up or set down passengers, or to load or unload goods
- a tram or cycle lane during its period of operation
- a cycle track
- red lines, in the case of specially designated 'red routes', unless otherwise indicated by signs. Any vehicle may enter a bus lane to stop, load or unload where this is not prohibited (see Rule 141).

Laws MT(E&W)R regs 7 & 9 *as amended by MT(E&W)(A)(E)R₂*, MT(S)R regs 6 & 8, RTRA sects 5, 6 & 8, *TSRGD 2016 reg 3 and scheds 3, 7, 9 & 14*, & RTA 1988 sects 21(1) & 36

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 253
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 253

Prohibited vehicles. Motorways **MUST NOT** be used by pedestrians, holders of provisional motorcycle licences, riders of motorcycles under 50 cc (**4kW**), cyclists, horse riders, certain slow-moving vehicles and those carrying oversized loads (except by special permission), agricultural vehicles, and powered wheelchairs/powering mobility scooters (see Rules 36 to 46 inclusive).

Provisional car licence holders **MUST NOT** drive on the motorway unless they are accompanied by a **DVSA Approved Driving Instructor (ADI)** and are driving a car displaying red L plates (**or** D plates in Wales) with dual controls.

Laws HA 1980 sects 16, 17 & sched 4, MT(E&W)R regs 3(d), 4 & 11 *as amended by* MT(E&W)(A)(R) 2004 & **MT(E&W)(A)R 2018**, R(S)A sects 7, 8 & sched 3, **RTRA sect 17** & MT(S)R reg 10 *as amended by* **MT(S)(A)R 2018**

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 255
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 255

Signs and signals (see 'Light signals controlling traffic') are used to warn you of ***hazards*** ahead. For example, there may be an incident, fog, a spillage or road workers on the carriageway which you may not immediately be able to see.

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 256
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 256

A single sign or signal can display advice, restrictions and warnings for all lanes.

Lane specific signs and signals can display advice, restrictions and warnings that apply to individual lanes.

[The proposal includes two new images to illustrate the above].

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 257
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 257

Amber flashing lights. These *signals* warn of a hazard ahead. *You should*

- *reduce* your speed
- *be prepared for the hazard*
- *only increase your speed when* you pass a signal *that* is not flashing, *or a sign displaying a national speed limit or the word 'END'*, and you are sure it is safe *to do so.*

[The proposal includes a new image titled *Rule 257 Signal warning of a hazard*].

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 258
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 258

Red flashing light signals and a red 'X' *on a sign identify a closed lane in which people, stopped vehicles or other hazards are present. You*

- ***MUST follow the instructions on signs in advance of a closed lane to move safely to an open lane***
- **MUST NOT** drive *in a closed lane. A sign will inform you when* the lane is no longer closed by displaying *a speed limit* or the word 'END'.

Be aware that

- *there can be several hazards in a closed lane*
- *emergency services and traffic authorities use closed lanes to reach incidents and help people in need*
- *where the left lane is closed at an exit slip road, this means that the exit cannot be used.*

Where red flashing light signals and closure of all lanes are shown on a sign, the road is closed. You

- **MUST NOT** go beyond the *sign* in any lane *or use the hard shoulder to avoid the road closure unless directed to do so by a police or traffic officer.*

Lane and road closures indicated by red flashing lights are enforced by the police.

Laws RTA 1988 sects 35 & 36 *as amended by TMA sect 6, TSRGD 2016 reg 3 and sched 15, MT(E&W)R reg 9 & MT(S)R reg 8.*

[The proposal includes two new images titled **Rule 258 Signals and signs indicating lane closures** and two new graphics titled **Rule 258 Signals and signs indicating a road closure**].

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 261
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 261

You **MUST NOT** exceed:

- *a speed limit displayed within a red circle on a sign*
- the maximum speed limit *for the road and* for your vehicle (see **Rule 124**).

*Speed limits are enforced by the police (see **Rule 124**).*

Law RTRA sects 17, 86, 89 & sched 6

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 262
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 262

The monotony of driving on motorways and *other high-speed roads* can make you feel sleepy. To minimise the risk, follow the advice in Rule 91 *about ensuring you are fit to drive and taking breaks.*

Service areas are located along motorways to allow you to take breaks and to obtain refreshments. Refreshment and rest facilities on the local road network may also be accessible from motorway exits.

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 263
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 263

Unless directed to do so by a police or traffic officer, you **MUST NOT**

- reverse *along any part of a motorway, including slip roads, hard shoulders and emergency areas*
- cross the central reservation
- drive against the traffic flow.

If you have missed your exit, or have taken the wrong route, carry on to the next exit.

Laws *RTA 1988 sect 35 as amended by TMA sect 6*, MT(E&W)R regs 6, 8 & 10, & MT(S)R regs 4, 5, 7 & 9

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 264
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 264

Keep in the left lane unless overtaking.

- *If you are overtaking, you should return to the left lane **when it is safe to do so** (see also Rule 267 and Rule 268).*
- *Be aware of emergency services, traffic officers, recovery workers and other people or vehicles stopped on the hard shoulder or in an emergency area. If you are driving in the left lane, and it is safe to do so, you should move into the adjacent lane to create more space between your vehicle and the people and stopped vehicles.*

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 266
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 266

Approaching a junction. Look well ahead for signals, *signs and road markings*. Direction signs may be placed over the road. If you need to, *you should* change lanes *well ahead of a junction*. At some junctions, a lane may lead directly off the *road*. Only get in that lane if you wish to go in the direction indicated *by signs or road markings*.

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 269
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 269

Hard shoulder *(where present)*. You **MUST NOT** use *a* hard shoulder **except in an emergency or if directed to do so by the police, traffic officers or a traffic sign.**

Hard shoulder *(where used as an extra lane)*. The hard shoulder *is* used as an *extra* lane *on some motorways during periods of congestion*. **A red 'X' or blank sign above the hard shoulder means that you MUST NOT use the hard shoulder except in an emergency.**

You can only use the hard shoulder as an extra lane when a speed limit *is* shown above *the hard shoulder*.

Where the hard shoulder is being used as an extra lane, emergency *areas are provided* for use *in an* emergency (see **Rule 270**).

Laws MT(E&W)R regs 5 & 9, MT(S)R regs 4 & 8, & **RTA 1988 sects 35 & 36 as amended by TMA sect 6**

[The proposal includes four new graphics to illustrate the above].

Amended Text to Highway Code New Rule – (becomes Rule 270)
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code New Rule – (becomes Rule 270)

*Emergency areas are located along motorways with no hard shoulder or where the hard shoulder can be used as an extra lane (see Rule 269) and **MUST** only be used in an emergency.*

They are marked by blue signs with an orange SOS telephone symbol and may have orange surfacing.

Follow the requirements and advice in

- *Rule 277 if your vehicle develops a problem on the motorway*
- *Rule 278 to rejoin the carriageway from an emergency area.*

Laws MT(E&W)R reg 9 as amended by MT(E&W)(A)(E)R, & MT(S)R reg 8

*[The proposal includes a new image and new graphic both titled **Rule 270 Emergency area and sign indicating distance to the next emergency area**].*

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 270 – (becomes Rule 271)
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 270 (becomes Rule 271)

You **MUST NOT** stop on *any* carriageway, ***emergency area***, hard shoulder, slip road, central reservation or verge except in an emergency, or when told to do so by the police, traffic officers, an emergency sign or by red flashing light signals.

Do not stop on *any part of a motorway to make* or receive mobile ***telephone*** calls, ***except in an emergency***.

Laws MT(E&W)R *regs 7, 9, 10 & 16 as amended by MT(E&W)(A)(E)R* , MT(S)R regs 6(1), 8, 9 & 14, PRA sect 41 & sched 5(8), RTA 1988 sects 35, **36** & 163 as amended by TMA sect 6, & ***CUR reg 110 as amended by CUR(A)(No4)R***

Amended Text to Highway Code New Rule – (becomes Rule 275)
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code New Rule (becomes Rule 275)

If you need to stop your vehicle in the event of a breakdown or incident, try to stop in a place of relative safety. A place of relative safety is where you, your passengers and your vehicle are less likely to be at risk from moving traffic.

The safest place to stop is a location which is designed for parking. On motorways and other high-speed roads, the safest place to stop is a service area. Other places of relative safety include

- *lay-bys*
- *emergency areas (see Rule 270)*
- *hard shoulders (see Rule 269).*

Be aware that hard shoulders provide less protection than other places of relative safety because they are so close to high-speed traffic.

You and your passengers should, where possible, keep well away from your vehicle and moving traffic. Otherwise moving traffic could collide with your vehicle, forcing it into you and your passengers.

Amended Text to Highway Code Rules 275 and 277 – (becomes Rule 277)
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rules 275 and 277 (becomes Rule 275)

If your vehicle develops a problem, leave the *carriageway* at the next exit or pull into a service area *if possible* (see **Rule 275** for places of relative safety). If you cannot, you should

Go left

- *move into the left lane*
- pull *into an emergency area or onto a* hard shoulder if you can
- stop as far to the left as possible, *leaving space to exit your vehicle and* with your wheels turned to the left
- *if you can*, stop *just beyond* an emergency telephone
- switch your hazard warning lights on
- *if it's dark or visibility is poor, use side lights.*

Get safe

- *exit your vehicle by the side furthest from traffic, if it is safe and possible to do so, and* ensure passengers do the same

If you can't

- *get your vehicle to the left lane or a place of relative safety (see Rule 275), and*
- *exit your vehicle safely to get well away from it and moving traffic,*

you should

- *stay in your vehicle*
- *keep your seatbelts and hazard warning lights on*
- *call 999 immediately and ask for the police. Alternatively, press your SOS button if your vehicle has one and ask for the police.*

- *put on high-visibility clothing if you have it and it is within easy reach*
- *get behind a safety barrier where there is one, but be aware of any unseen hazards such as sudden drops, uneven ground or debris*
- ***DO NOT stand in a place where your vehicle could be forced into you if moving traffic collides with it***

- ***DO NOT return to your vehicle even if it's raining, cold or dark***
- ***remain alert and aware of vehicles or debris coming towards you***
- ***keep*** passengers away from the carriageway and children under control
- ***DO NOT attempt repairs on your vehicle***
- ***DO NOT place a warning triangle on the carriageway***
- ***animals MUST be kept in the vehicle or, in an emergency, under control on the verge.***

Get help

- ***use the free emergency telephone to obtain advice and assistance***
- ***contact a breakdown recovery service***
- always face the traffic when you speak ***to remain aware of vehicles or debris coming towards you***
- inform them if you are a vulnerable motorist such as disabled, older or travelling alone
- wait ***well away from your vehicle and moving traffic, behind the safety barrier where there is one***
- ***if you are unable to exit your vehicle or if you have not stopped near a free emergency telephone, call 999 immediately and ask for the police. Alternatively, press your SOS button if your vehicle has one and ask for the police***

Communicating your location. How to identify your location to the emergency services.

- ***Press the SOS button if your vehicle has one.***
- ***Use a mobile telephone mapping application.***
- ***Quote the numbers and letters on marker posts or driver location signs which are located along the edge of the road.***

Laws MT(E&W)R reg 14 & MT(S)R reg 12

[The proposal replaces an existing image with two new images titled ***Rule 277 Keep well away from your vehicle and moving traffic*** and four new graphics titled ***eCall, App and Marker post or driver location signs***].

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 276 – (becomes Rule 278)
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 276 (becomes Rule 278)

To rejoin the carriageway after a breakdown from

- *a hard shoulder, build up speed, indicate, and watch for a safe gap in the traffic. Be aware that vehicles, obstructions or debris may be present on the hard shoulder*
- *an emergency area, you MUST use the emergency telephone provided and follow the operator's advice for exiting the emergency area. A lane may need to be closed so that you can rejoin the carriageway safely.*

Law RTA 1988 sect 36

[The proposal includes a new graphic titled *Rule 278 Emergency area information sign*].

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 278 – (becomes Rule 279)
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 278 (becomes Rule 279)

Disabled drivers. If you have a disability which prevents you from following the above advice *in **Rule 277 and Rule 278***, you should

- switch on your hazard warning lights
- stay in your vehicle *and keep your seatbelt on*
- *call 999 immediately and ask for the police. Alternatively, press your SOS button if your vehicle has one and ask for the police*

If you are deaf, hard of hearing or speech-impaired it is recommended that you register for the 999 text service (emergencySMS.net) before making a journey.

Amended Text to Highway Code Rules 279 and 280 – (becomes Rule 280)
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rules 279 and 280 (becomes Rule 280)

If anything falls from *a vehicle* on to *a motorway or other high-speed road*, **DO NOT** remove the obstruction yourself. Stop *in a place of relative safety* (see **Rule 275**) and *call the emergency services on 999*.

On other roads, you should only remove obstructions if it is safe to do so.

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 281
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 281

Warning signs or flashing lights. If you see emergency or incident support vehicles *displaying flashing lights* in the distance, be aware there may be an incident ahead (see Rule 219). *You should* slow down and be prepared to *move safely into another lane or stop*.

The emergency services, traffic officers, and recovery workers may be required to work in the carriageway; for example, dealing with debris, collisions or conducting rolling road blocks. You **MUST** follow any directions given by police or traffic officers as to whether you can safely pass the incident or *obstruction*.

Law RTA 1988 sects 35 & 163 as amended by TMA sect 6

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 282
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 282

When passing the scene of an incident, ***remain alert for hazards (such as debris or slow-moving vehicles) and*** do not slow down unnecessarily (for example, if an incident is on the other side of a dual carriageway). ***You should focus on the road ahead when passing an incident because a lack of attention*** may cause ***a further incident***, collision or congestion (*see also* Rule 283, below).

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 283
(*new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold*)

The Highway Code Rule 283

If you are involved in an *incident or collision* or stop to give assistance

- *if possible, stop in a place of relative safety (see Rule 275)*
- use your hazard warning lights to warn other traffic
- *put on high-visibility clothing if you have it*
- ask drivers to switch off their engines
- *ask drivers and passengers to stop smoking*
- *contact* the emergency services *on 999 and provide* full details of the incident location and any casualties. *Use an emergency telephone, a mobile telephone, or press the SOS button if your vehicle has one (see Rule 277 on how to identify your location on a motorway or other high-speed road)*
- move uninjured people away from the vehicles to a *place of relative safety (see Rule 275)*
- **DO NOT** move injured people from their vehicles unless they are in immediate danger
- **DO NOT** remove a motorcyclist's helmet unless it is essential *and you are trained to do so*
- be prepared to give first aid (*see Annex 7 First aid on the road, and Useful websites*)
- stay at the scene until the emergency services arrive
- *be prepared to exchange details (see Rule 286).*

If you are involved in any other medical emergency, you should contact the emergency services in the same way.

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 286
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 286

If you are involved in a collision which causes damage or injury to any other person, vehicle, animal or property, you **MUST**

- stop. *If possible, stop in a place of relative safety (see Rule 275)*
- give your own and the vehicle owner's name and address, and the registration number of the vehicle, to anyone having reasonable grounds for requiring them
- if you do not give your name and address at the time of the collision, report it to the police as soon as reasonably practicable, and in any case within 24 hours.

Law RTA 1988 sect 170

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 288
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 288

When the 'Road Works Ahead' sign is displayed, *take extra care* and look for additional signs providing more specific instructions. Observe all signs - they are there for your safety and the safety of road workers.

- You **MUST NOT** exceed any temporary maximum speed limit.
- Keep a safe distance *from the vehicle in front (see Rule 126)*.
- Use your mirrors and get into the correct lane for your vehicle in good time and as signs direct.
- Do not switch lanes to overtake queuing traffic.
- Take extra care near cyclists and motorcyclists as they are vulnerable to skidding on grit, mud or other debris at road works.
- Where lanes are restricted due to road works, merge in turn (see Rule 134).
- Do not drive through an area marked off by traffic cones.
- Watch out for *vehicles* entering or leaving the works area. *Where vehicles are travelling in the road and are displaying amber warning lights, leave extra space and expect them to slow or turn into a works area.*
- Concentrate on the road ahead, not the road works.
- Bear in mind that the road ahead may be obstructed by the works or by slow-moving or stationary traffic.

Law RTRA sect 16

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 289
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 289

Take special care on motorways and other high-speed dual carriageways.

- Lanes may be closed to traffic and a lower speed limit may apply.
- Works vehicles *may be used to* close lanes *or carriageways* for repairs. Where large 'Keep Left' or 'Keep Right' signs *are displayed on the back, you MUST move over and pass the works vehicle on the side indicated and not return to the closed lane until you can see it is safe to do so.*
- *Where a vehicle displays the sign 'CONVOY VEHICLE NO OVERTAKING', you MUST NOT pass the vehicle.* A flashing light arrow or *red 'X'* may also be used to make the works vehicle more *visible* from a distance and give earlier warning to drivers.

Laws RTA 1988 sect 36, TSRGD 2016 reg 3 and sch 13

Amended Text to Highway Code Rule 290
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Rule 290

Road works may contain features that require extra care.

- *Narrow lanes. Lanes may be narrower than normal and will be marked by studs or temporary road markings. Keep a safe distance (see Rule 126) from the vehicle in front and make sure you can clearly see the edges of the lane ahead.*
- *Contraflow systems. These mean that you may be travelling in a narrower lane than normal and with no permanent barrier between you and oncoming traffic. At the start and finish of contraflows, you should slow down and increase the distance to the vehicle in front because changes in the camber of the road may affect vehicle stability.*
- *Breakdown advice. If your vehicle breaks down in road works follow Rules 275, 277 and 278 but be aware that areas marked off by cones contain significant hazards. Where available, you should move your vehicle into a signed road works refuge location. Signs indicate where dedicated recovery services are provided.*

Amended Text to Highway Code Light Signals controlling traffic – Motorway signals
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Light Signals controlling traffic – Motorway signals

These signals are also used on other high-speed roads.

*You **MUST NOT** enter or proceed in the left lane, temporary mandatory maximum speed limit and information message*

[The proposal replaces an existing graphic with a new graphic illustrating a modern motorway signal].

Amended Text to Highway Code Signals to other road users – Hazard lights
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Signals to other road users – Hazard lights

I am temporarily obstructing traffic or warning of a hazard or obstruction ahead (see Rule 116)

These signals should not be used except for the purpose described.

[The proposal includes a new graphic titled *Hazard lights*].

Amended Text to Highway Code Traffic Signs – Information signs
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Traffic Signs – Information signs

[Additional image of a traffic sign inserted]

Variable speed limit with camera enforcement sign

Amended Text to Highway Code Annex 4. The road user and the law
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Annex 4. The road user and the law

The following list can be found abbreviated throughout the Code. It is not intended to be a comprehensive guide, but a guide to some of the important points of law. For the precise wording of the law, please refer to the various Acts and Regulations (as amended) indicated in the Code. Abbreviations are listed below.

Most of the provisions apply on all roads throughout Great Britain, although there are some exceptions. The definition of a road in England and Wales is ‘any highway and any other road to which the public has access and includes bridges over which a road passes’ (RTA 1988 sect 192(1)). In Scotland, there is a similar definition which is extended to include any way over which the public have a right of passage (R(S)A 1984 sect 151(1)).

It is important to note that references to ‘road’ therefore generally include footpaths, bridleways and cycle tracks, and many roadways and driveways on private land (including many car parks). In most cases, the law will apply to them and there may be additional rules for particular paths or ways. Some serious driving offences, including drink-driving offences, also apply to all public places, for example public car parks.

The reference to ‘emergency area’ in the Code is an ‘emergency refuge area’ as defined in the Motorways Traffic (England and Wales) Regulations 1982 as amended by the Motorways Traffic (England and Wales)(Amendment)(England) Regulations 2015.

Chronically Sick & Disabled Persons Act 1970	CSDPA
Environmental Protection Act 1990	EPA
Functions of Traffic Wardens Order 1970	FTWO
Greater London (General Powers) Act 1974	GL(GP)A
Highway Act 1835 or 1980 (as indicated)	HA
Horses (Protective Headgear for Young Riders) Act 1990	H(PHYR)A
Horses (Protective Headgear for Young Riders) Regulations 1992	H(PHYR)R
Motor Cycles (Eye Protectors) Regulations 1999	MC(EP)R
Motor Cycles (Protective Helmets) Regulations 1998	MC(PH)R
Motorways Traffic (England & Wales) Regulations 1982	MT(E&W)R
Motorways Traffic (England & Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2004 <i>or</i> 2018 <i>(as indicated)</i>	MT(E&W)(A)R
<i>Motorways Traffic (England & Wales) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2015</i>	<i>MT(E&W)(A)(E)R</i>
Motorways Traffic (Scotland) Regulations 1995	MT(S)R
Motorways Traffic (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2004 <i>or</i> 2018 <i>(as indicated)</i>	MT(S)(A)R
Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations 1999	MV(DL)R

Motor Vehicles (Variation of Speed Limits) (England & Wales) Regulations 2014	MV(VSL)(E&W)
Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) Regulations 1993	MV(WSB)R
Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 or 2006 (as indicated)	MV(WSB)(A)R
Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts by Children in Front Seats) Regulations 1993	MV(WSBCFS)R
New Roads and Streetworks Act 1991	NRSWA
Pedal Cycles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1983	PCUR
Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000	PCC(S)A
Police Reform Act 2002	PRA
Prohibition of Smoking in Certain Premises (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Scottish SI 2006/No 90	TPSCP(S)R*
Public Passenger Vehicles Act 1981	PPVA
Road Safety Act 2006	RSA
Road Traffic Act 1984, 1988 or 1991 (as indicated)	RTA
Road Traffic Act 1988 (Prescribed Limit) (Scotland) Regulations 2014	PLSR
Road Traffic (New Drivers) Act 1995	RT(ND)A
Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988	RTOA
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984	RTRA
Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986	CUR
Road Vehicles (Construction and Use)(Amendment)(No 4) Regulations 2003	CUR(A)(No4)R
Road Vehicles (Display of Registration Marks) Regulations 2001	RV(DRM)R
Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989	RVLR
Road Vehicles (Registration & Licensing) Regulations 2002	RV(R&L)R
Roads (Scotland) Act 1984	R(S)A
Smoke-free (Exemptions and Vehicles) Regulations 2007 SI 2007/765	TSf(EV)*
Smoke-free Premises etc (Wales) Regulations 2007 SI 2007/W787	TSfP(W)R*
Smoke-free Premises etc (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015	S-f(W)R
Smoke-free (Private Vehicles) Regulations 2015	S-f(PV)R
Smoking Prohibition (Children in Motor Vehicles) (Scotland) Act 2016	SP(CIMV)(S)A
Traffic Management Act 2004	TMA
Traffic Signs Regulations & General Directions 2002	TSRGD
Traffic Signs Regulations & General Directions 2016	TSRGD 2016
Use of Invalid Carriages on Highways Regulations 1988	UICHR
Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994	VERA
Zebra, Pelican and Puffin Pedestrian Crossings Regulations and General Directions 1997	ZPPPCRGD

Acts and regulations are available as enacted or as amended at www.legislation.gov.uk and are available in their original print format from The Stationery Office as detailed inside the back cover.

* Specific legislation applies to smoking in vehicles which constitute workplaces.
For information visit: www.smokefreeengland.co.uk
www.ashscotland.org.uk/go-smoke-free www.gov.wales/smoking

Amended Text to Highway Code Other Information – Useful Websites
(*new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold*)

The Highway Code Other Information – Useful Websites

GOV.UK

St John Ambulance

St Andrew's First Aid

British Red Cross

Highways England

Transport Scotland

Transport Wales

Traffic England

Traffic Scotland

Traffic Wales

Road Safety GB

Ask the police: frequently asked questions database

Traffic Penalty Tribunal (outside London)

London Tribunals (inside London)

Traveline

European Commission - road safety abroad

European New Car Assessment Programme

Amended Text to Highway Code Other Information – Useful Reading
(new, additional or amended text to the Rule has been italicised in bold)

The Highway Code Other Information – Useful Reading

Best practice

Further information about good driving and riding practice can be found in the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency books ‘The Official DVSA Guide to Driving - the essential skills’ and ‘The Official DVSA Guide to Riding - the essential skills’. Information specifically for drivers of large vehicles can be found in ‘The Official DVSA Guide to Driving Goods Vehicles’ and ‘The Official DVSA Guide to Driving Buses and Coaches’.

The Blue Badge Scheme

Get information about the Blue Badge Scheme from your council.

Code of Practice for Horse-Drawn Vehicles

A Code of Practice is available from

Department for Transport

International Vehicle Standards

Great Minster House

33 Horseferry Road

London

SW1P 4DR

Tel 0300 330 3000

Special types of vehicles

Further information about the use of special types of vehicles under the authority of the Road Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) (General) Order 2003 (STGO) or Special Orders can be found in the Special types enforcement guide.

Towing

Further information about towing safely can be found at

- ***Tow a trailer with a car: safety checks***
- ***Towing a trailer with a car or van: the basics***
- ***Requirements for towing trailers in Great Britain***