

1995 No. 447

ROAD TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

Public Service Vehicles (Conditions of Fitness, Equipment and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995

Made . . . . . 4th December 1995

Coming into operation . . . . . 24th January 1996

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The Department of the Environment, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Articles 66(1) and 218(1) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981(a) and Articles 55(1), (2), (4) and (6) and 110(2) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995(b) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:

## PART I

## PRELIMINARY

*Citation and commencement*

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Public Service Vehicles (Conditions of Fitness, Equipment and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 and shall come into operation on 24th January 1996.

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(a) S.I. 1981/154 (N.I. 1); see Article 2(2) for the definition of "Department" and prescribed

(b) S.I. 1995/2994 (N.I. 18); see Article 2(2) for the definition of "Department"

*Interpretation***2.** In these Regulations—

“articulated bus”, “deck”, “double-decked vehicle”, “first used”, “gangway”, “minibus”, “registered”, “single-decked vehicle”, “vehicle in the service of a visiting force or headquarters” and “wheel” have the meanings assigned to them in regulation 2 of the Construction and Use Regulations;

“bus” means a public service vehicle seating more than eight passengers in addition to the driver;

“the Construction and Use Regulations” means the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1989(a);

“contract carriage” means the carriage, on a regular basis by contract, of passengers who constitute an organisation or group;

“crew seat” means a seat fitted to a vehicle and intended for use by crew (other than the driver) including any arm rests and foot rests with which the vehicle is fitted in relation to the seat, and which complies with the requirements specified in regulation 22;

“ECE Regulation 36” means Regulation No. 36 (uniform provisions concerning the construction of public services vehicles) which entered into force on 1st March 1976, annexed to the Agreement concerning the adoption of uniform conditions of approval and reciprocal recognition of approval for motor vehicle equipment and parts concluded at Geneva on 20th March 1958(b) as amended(c), to which the United Kingdom is a party(d);

“emergency exit” means an exit which is provided for use only in case of emergency;

“entrance” means any aperture or space provided to enable passengers to board the vehicle;

“exit” means any aperture or space provided to enable passengers to leave the vehicle;

“express carriage” has the same meaning as “stage carriage” except that there is a minimum distance of 30 miles between predetermined pick-up and set-down points;

“half-decked vehicle” means any vehicle not being a single-decked vehicle or a double-decked vehicle;

“licence” means a public service vehicle licence granted under Article 61 of the Order of 1981;

“licensed for public hire” in relation to a taxi means licensed to stand or ply for hire on a road or public place, or carry passengers for hire;

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(a) S.R. 1989 No. 299, relevant amending Regulations are S.R. 1991 No. 147; 1991 No. 420; 1992 No. 54; 1992 No. 111; 1992 No. 373; 1992 No. 509; 1993 No. 39; 1993 No. 247; 1994 No. 353 and 1994 No. 452

(b) Cmnd. 2535

(c) Cmnd. 3562

(d) By Instrument of accession dated 14th January 1963 deposited with the Secretary General of the United Nations on 15th January 1963

- “permanent top” means any covering of a vehicle other than a hood made of canvas or other flexible material which is capable of being readily folded back so that no portion of such hood or any fixed structure of the roof remains vertically above any part of any seat of the vehicle, or, in the case of a double-decked vehicle, of any seat on the upper deck of the vehicle;
- “public service vehicle” has the meaning assigned to it by Article 2(2) of the Order of 1981;
- “safety glass” has the meaning assigned to it in regulation 29(4) of the Construction and Use Regulations;
- “safety glazing” and “specified safety glass” have the meanings assigned to them in regulation 30(13) of the Construction and Use Regulations;
- “stage carriage” means the carriage of passengers at separate fares which may be collected on board a vehicle, on a pre-determined route with pre-determined pick up and set down points, in accordance with a published timetable;
- “taxi” means a public service vehicle seating not more than eight passengers in addition to the driver;
- “vehicle” in Parts I, IV and V of these Regulations means any public service vehicle, in Parts II and VI means a bus and in Part III means a taxi.

### *Compliance*

3.—(1) A person shall not use, or cause or permit to be used, on a road a vehicle unless it complies with these Regulations, in addition to the requirements contained in the Construction and Use Regulations.

(2) The statutory requirements as to the fitness of a vehicle for the purpose of the grant of a licence are compliance with the Construction and Use Regulations and Part II or Part III, as the case may be, and Part IV.

(3) Part II shall not apply to—

(a) an articulated bus, or

(b) a vehicle to which there is applied a marking designated as an approval mark in relation to ECE Regulation 36 by Regulation 4 of, and Schedule 2 (at item 36) to, the Motor Vehicles (Designation of Approval Marks) Regulations 1979(a) as read with paragraphs 1 and 7 of Schedule 3 to those Regulations and which satisfies the requirements of paragraph 5 (Specifications) of ECE Regulation 36:

Provided that such vehicles comply with the provisions specified in—

(i) paragraph 5 of ECE Regulation 36, and

(ii) Schedule 2.

(4) Part V does not apply to any vehicle in the public service of the Crown or in the service of a visiting force or headquarters.

(5) Notwithstanding paragraph (2), regulations 4 to 27, 42, 43, 52 to 58

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(a) S.I. 1979/1088; to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations

and 60 shall not apply to a minibus which either complies with, or is required to comply with, or is exempted from the requirements specified in regulations 41 to 43 of and Schedule 5 to the Construction and Use Regulations for a minibus first used on or after 1st October 1990.

## PART II

### REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE FITNESS OF BUSES

#### *Stability*

4.—(1) The stability of a vehicle shall be such that—

- (a) in the case of a double-decked vehicle, the point at which overturning occurs would not be passed if, when the vehicle is complete, fully equipped for service and loaded with weights placed in the correct relative positions to represent the driver, a full complement of passengers on the upper deck only and a conductor (if carried), the surface on which the vehicle stands were tilted to either side to an angle of 28 degrees from the horizontal;
- (b) in the case of a single-decked vehicle and of a half-decked vehicle, the point at which overturning occurs would not be passed if, when the vehicle is complete, fully equipped for service and loaded with weights placed in the correct relative positions to represent a driver, a full complement of passengers and a conductor (if carried), the surface on which the vehicle stands were tilted to either side to an angle of 35 degrees from the horizontal.

(2) For the purpose of ascertaining whether the requirements of paragraph (1) have been complied with, the height of any stop used to prevent a wheel of the vehicle from slipping sideways shall not be greater than two-thirds of the distance between the surface upon which the vehicle stands before it is tilted and that part of the rim of that wheel which is nearest to that surface when the vehicle is loaded in accordance with those requirements.

(3) For the purpose of this regulation 63.5 kilograms shall be deemed to represent the weight of one person.

#### *Guard rails*

5. If any two wheels on either side of a vehicle have a clear space of more than 610 millimetres between the nearest points that space shall be effectively guarded to within—

- (i) 230 millimetres of the front wheel;
- (ii) 155 millimetres of the rear wheel; and
- (iii) 310 millimetres of the ground when the vehicle is carrying no passengers and is otherwise unladen and is standing on level ground.

#### *Fuel tanks, carburettors, etc.*

6.—(1) Subject to paragraph 1 of Schedule 1—

- (a) in the case of a single-decked vehicle which has a seating capacity

exceeding 12 passengers, a half-decked vehicle or the lower deck of a double-decked vehicle, no fuel tank shall be placed under any part of any gangway or under any part of any passage leading to a primary emergency exit as defined in regulation 14(1) if that part of the gangway or passage is within 600 millimetres of any entrance or exit not being an emergency exit other than a primary emergency exit;

- (b) in the case of a single-decked vehicle which has a seating capacity not exceeding 12 passengers, no fuel tank shall be placed immediately under any entrance or exit or within 300 millimetres of any entrance or exit and no filling point for such a tank shall be situated at the rear of the vehicle;
- (c) no part of any fuel tank or apparatus for the supply of fuel shall be placed in the compartments or other spaces provided for the accommodation of the driver or passengers; and
- (d) a device shall be provided by means of which the supply of fuel to any carburettor, or in the case of a fuel injection pump, to the injection nozzles, can be readily cut off and the following requirements shall be complied with—
  - (i) the means of operation shall at all times be readily accessible from outside the vehicle and, except in the case of a vehicle fitted with an engine having a fuel injection system, shall be readily visible from the outside of the vehicle; and
  - (ii) in a case where the device is so visible, the “off” position of the means of operation thereof shall be clearly marked also on the outside of the vehicle, and in a case where the said device is not so visible, its position shall be clearly marked on the outside of the vehicle and the means of operation shall also be clearly indicated.

(2) All fuel tanks and all apparatus supplying fuel to the engine shall be so placed or shielded that no fuel overflowing or leaking therefrom can fall or accumulate upon any woodwork forming part of the vehicle or upon any other part of the vehicle or fitting thereto such that it might readily be ignited or that, it can fall into any receptacle where it might accumulate.

(3) The filling points for all fuel tanks shall be accessible only from the outside of the vehicle and filler caps shall be so designed and constructed that they cannot be dislodged by accidental operation and any vent hole shall be protected from danger of penetration by fire and shall be so designed as to prevent fuel from being ejected by splashing.

#### *Exhaust pipe*

7. The exhaust pipe shall be so fitted or shielded that no flammable material can fall or be thrown upon the pipe from any other part of the vehicle and so that it is not likely to cause a fire through proximity to any flammable material on the vehicle, and the outlet of the pipe shall be either at the rear or on the offside and far enough to the rear, to prevent so far as practicable fumes from entering the vehicle.

*Luggage racks*

8. All luggage racks fitted in a vehicle shall be so designed and constructed that any article placed thereon, if it becomes dislodged whilst the vehicle is in motion, is not likely to fall on the driver or interfere with his control of the vehicle.

*Artificial lighting*

9. Subject to paragraph 2 of Schedule 1, adequate internal lighting shall be provided in every vehicle for the illumination—

(a) of each deck having a permanent top; and

(b) of any step or platform forming part of any entrance or exit other than, an emergency exit;

and all lighting circuits shall be so arranged that an electrical failure of any lighting sub-circuit shall not be capable of extinguishing all the lights on any deck and at least one lamp shall be provided as near as practicable to the top of every staircase leading to an upper deck not having a permanent top.

*Electrical equipment*

10.—(1) All electrical apparatus and circuits in a vehicle shall be so constructed and installed as to guard adequately against the risk of electric shock or the outbreak of fire.

(2) Subject to paragraph 3 of Schedule 1, where the voltage exceeds 100 volts in one or more electrical circuits in a vehicle, a manually operated isolating switch which is capable of disconnecting all such circuits from the main electrical supply shall be connected in each pole of that supply which is not electrically connected to earth, and shall be located inside the vehicle in a position readily accessible to the driver or conductor:

Provided that no such isolating switch shall be capable of disconnecting any electrical circuit supplying the lamps required to be fitted by regulation 21 of the Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995(a).

(3) In this regulation any reference to an electrical circuit is a reference to an electrical circuit not being a high tension ignition circuit or, a circuit within a unit of equipment.

*Body*

11. The body of a vehicle shall be securely fixed to the chassis. Every trap door in the floor of a vehicle shall be so fitted or fastened that it cannot become dislodged by vibration, and no lifting device fitted to a trap door shall project above the level of the floor.

*Height of sides of body*

12.—(1) Subject to paragraph 4 of Schedule 1, the top of the side rails or panels of a vehicle not having a permanent top shall be at least 910 millimetres above the deck and at least 455 millimetres above the highest part

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(a) S.R. 1995 No. 449



of any passenger seat, and the top of the front and back rails or panels shall be at least 1.21 metres above any part of the deck.

(2) For the purposes of this regulation a back rest shall not be deemed to be part of a seat, and the expression "deck", in relation to a vehicle with more than one deck, means the upper deck.

*Steps, platforms and stairs*

**13.**—(1) Subject to paragraph 5 of Schedule 1—

(a) a platform from which passengers can step directly to the ground through an exit without any step intervening, or the top of the tread of the lowest step provided at any entrance or exit, other than an emergency exit, shall not be more than 435 millimetres above the ground when the vehicle is empty; all steps and the outer edge of any platform shall be fitted with non-slip treads; and fixed steps shall be not less than 225 millimetres wide and shall in no case project laterally beyond the body of the vehicle unless they are so protected by the front wings of the vehicle or otherwise are such that they are not liable to injure pedestrians; and

(b) in the case of a double-decked vehicle—

- (i) the risers of all steps leading from the lower to the upper deck shall be closed and no unguarded aperture shall be left at the top landing board;
- (ii) all steps leading from the lower to the upper deck shall be fitted with non-slip treads;
- (iii) the horizontal distance from the nearest point of the riser of the top step to the vertical line passing through the nearest point of the seat opposite to the top tread of the staircase, excluding any grab rail which does not project more than 105 millimetres from the back of the seat, shall not be less than 660 millimetres; and
- (iv) the outer stringer of an outside staircase shall be constructed, or a band shall be placed, to act as a sufficient screen to persons ascending or descending, and the height of the outer guard rail shall not be less than 1.21 metres above the front of the tread of each step.

(2) Paragraph (1)(a) shall not apply to an entrance provided with a lifting platform or a ramp for the benefit of disabled passengers if—

(a) another entrance is provided in the vehicle and in relation to such other entrance the requirements specified in paragraph (1)(a) are met; and

(b) that other entrance is placed—

- (i) in the case of any vehicle, on the near side; or
- (ii) in the case of a vehicle as is mentioned in the proviso to regulation 14(4), on the rear face of the vehicle.

(3) Paragraph (1)(a) shall not apply to an exit provided with a lifting platform or a ramp for the benefit of disabled passengers if—

- (a) another exit is provided in the vehicle and in relation to such other exit the requirements specified in paragraph (1)(a) are met; and
- (b) that other exit is placed—
  - (i) in the case of any vehicle, on the near side; or
  - (ii) in the case of a vehicle as is mentioned in the proviso to regulation 14(4), on the rear face of the vehicle.

*Number, position and size of entrances and exits*

14.—(1) For the purpose of this regulation and regulations 6 and 15 to 19—

- (a) “primary emergency exit” means an emergency exit being an exit provided in a single-decked vehicle or in the lower deck of a double-decked vehicle which, subject to paragraph 6 of Schedule 1—
  - (i) is situated so that passengers can step directly from the passage referred to in regulation 19(1)(g) to the outside of the vehicle;
  - (ii) has a height—
    - (A) in the case of a vehicle which has a seating capacity not exceeding 14 passengers, of not less than 1.21 metres; and
    - (B) in the case of any other vehicle, of not less than 1.37 metres;
  - (iii) has a width of not less than 530 millimetres;
- (b) “secondary emergency exit” means an emergency exit of which the dimensions are not less than 910 millimetres by 530 millimetres and which does not satisfy all the requirements of a primary emergency exit and which is not in the roof of a vehicle;
- (c) neither of the foregoing definitions shall apply in relation to an emergency exit as required by paragraphs (7) and (8) but the exit so required shall be of dimensions not less than 1.52 metres by 455 millimetres;
- (d) references to the seating capacity of a vehicle shall, in the case of a double-decked vehicle, be treated as a reference to the seating capacity of its lower deck;
- (e) references to the distance between the centres or between the nearest points of the openings of two exits in a vehicle are references to the distance between lines drawn at right-angles to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle and passing respectively through the centres, or as the case may be, the nearest points of the openings of the exits at gangway level; and
- (f) the reference to the distance between the centre of an exit placed at the front end of a vehicle and the foremost part of the vehicle is a reference to the distance between lines drawn at right-angles to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle and passing through the centre of that exit and the said foremost part, and the reference to the distance between the centre of an exit placed at the rear end of a vehicle and the rearmost part of the vehicle is a reference to the distance between lines drawn as aforesaid and passing through the centre of that exit and the said rearmost part.

(2) In this regulation—

- (a) “pre-October 1981 vehicle” means a vehicle manufactured before 1st October 1981 or first used before 1st April 1982; and
- (b) “post-October 1981 vehicle” means a vehicle manufactured on or after 1st October 1981 and first used on or after 1st April 1982.

(3) Subject to paragraph 6 of Schedule 1, the provisions of this regulation shall apply with respect to the number and position of entrances and exits which shall be provided in a vehicle but a vehicle shall not be treated as failing to comply with any of those provisions by reason only that a number of exits is provided in a vehicle in excess of the number specified in relation to it by any provision of this regulation.

(4) Subject to paragraphs (5) and (11), a vehicle which has a seating capacity not exceeding 45 passengers shall be provided with two exits so placed as not to be on the same side of the vehicle; and

- (a) in the case of a pre-October 1981 vehicle, one of which may be a primary emergency exit but neither of which shall be a secondary emergency exit;
- (b) in the case of a post-October 1981 vehicle, one of which shall be a primary emergency exit and the other of which shall have dimensions which are not less than those specified in paragraph (1)(a) in relation to a primary emergency exit:

Provided that this paragraph shall not apply in the case of a vehicle which has a seating capacity—

- (i) exceeding 23 passengers and which is provided with an exit by virtue of its having a platform of a type described in regulation 13(1)(a) which communicates with a deck (being in the case of a double-decked vehicle, the lower deck) by means of a doorless opening and has a doorless opening on the nearside of the vehicle continuous with another such opening at the rear of the vehicle, these openings serving together as a means of entrance to or exit from the vehicle;
- (ii) not exceeding 12 passengers and of which the fuel tank is not placed behind the rear wheels if one exit of which, in the case of a post-October 1981 vehicle, the dimensions are not less than 1.21 metres in height by 530 millimetres in width is provided and is placed at the rear of the vehicle.

(5) Where the exits provided in accordance with paragraph (4) are so placed that the distance between their centres is—

- (a) in the case of a vehicle first used before 1st January 1974 which has a seating capacity exceeding 30 passengers, less than 3.05 metres;
- (b) in the case of a vehicle first used on or after 1st January 1974 which has a seating capacity exceeding 23 passengers, less than 3.05 metres;
- (c) in the case of a vehicle first used on or after 1st January 1974 which has a seating capacity exceeding 14 but not exceeding 23 passengers, less than 2.44 metres,

a primary or secondary emergency exit shall be provided and placed so that there is a distance between the nearest points of the openings of that exit and one of the two exits mentioned in paragraph (4) of—

- (i) in the cases mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b), not less than 3.05 metres, and
- (ii) in the case mentioned in sub-paragraph (c), not less than 2.44 metres.

(6) Subject to paragraph (11), a vehicle which has a seating capacity exceeding 45 passengers shall be provided with three exits in respect of which the following provisions shall apply—

- (a) in the case of a pre-October 1981 vehicle one of the exits, but not more than one, may be a secondary emergency exit, and in the case of a post-October 1981 vehicle one of the exits shall be a primary emergency exit and any other exit (not being a secondary emergency exit) shall have dimensions not less than those specified in paragraph (1)(a) in relation to primary emergency exits;
- (b) two of the exits (neither being a secondary emergency exit) shall be so placed as not to be on the same side of the vehicle;
- (c) where two exits are placed on the same side of the vehicle, the distance between their centres shall not be less than 3.05 metres; and
- (d) one of the exits (not being a secondary emergency exit) shall be placed at the front end of the vehicle so that the distance between its centre and the foremost part of the vehicle is not more than 3.05 metres and another of the exits (not being a secondary emergency exit) shall be placed at the rear end of the vehicle so that the distance between its centre and the rearmost part of the vehicle is not more than 3.05 metres:

Provided that—

- (i) in the case of a vehicle registered on or after 28th October 1964 and before 19th June 1968 the reference in sub-paragraph (c) to 3.05 metres shall be replaced by a reference to 4.75 metres and sub-paragraph (d) shall not apply; and
- (ii) in the case of any other vehicle first used before 1st January 1974 sub-paragraph (d) shall apply with the omission of the words “(not being a secondary emergency exit)” in both places where they occur.

(7) In the case of a half-decked vehicle an emergency exit shall be provided in the roof of the vehicle so placed that the transverse centre line of that exit lies within 610 millimetres of the mid-point between the front edges of the foremost and of the rearmost passenger seats in the vehicle.

(8) Where, in the case of a double-decked vehicle which has a permanent top, access to the upper-deck is obtained by means of an enclosed staircase, an emergency exit shall be provided on that deck and placed otherwise than on the nearside of the vehicle.

(9) Every entrance provided in a vehicle shall be placed on the nearside of the vehicle, but one or more entrances may be provided on the offside of the vehicle if—

- (a) as respects any entrance so provided it is not also an exit provided in accordance with any of the foregoing provisions in this regulation;
- (b) every such entrance is fitted with a door which can be controlled only by the driver while sitting in his seat; and
- (c) the device available to the driver for opening or closing that door is a separate and readily distinguishable device from that available to the driver for opening or closing any door fitted to the nearside of the vehicle;

and one or more entrances may be provided on the rear face of the vehicle if each of those entrances is provided with a lifting platform or ramp for the benefit of disabled passengers:

Provided that this paragraph shall not apply in the case of any such vehicle as is mentioned in the proviso to paragraph (4).

(10) A grab handle shall be fitted to every entrance and exit (other than an emergency exit) to assist passengers to board or alight from the vehicle.

(11) In the case of a vehicle—

- (a) being a post-October 1981 vehicle;
- (b) having a seating capacity exceeding 16 passengers; and
- (c) being a single-decked vehicle or a half-decked vehicle,

there shall be at least one emergency exit which complies with the requirements specified in paragraph (12) and which is either—

- (i) in the front face of the vehicle; or
- (ii) in the rear face of the vehicle; or
- (iii) in the roof of the vehicle.

(12) The requirements referred to in paragraph (11) are, in respect of each exit therein referred to, as follows—

- (a) the dimensions of the aperture shall be such that it has a total area of not less than 4,000 square centimetres and shall include a rectangular area the dimensions of which are not less than 70 centimetres by 50 centimetres;
- (b) the exit shall be so constructed that it can be opened by means available to persons inside the vehicle, and it may be so constructed that it can be opened also by persons outside the vehicle; and
- (c) the exit shall be—
  - (i) ejectable; or
  - (ii) constructed of specified safety glass which can be readily broken by the application of reasonable force so as to afford a clear aperture having the dimensions referred to in sub-paragraph (a), and provided in a position adjacent to the exit with a suitable means, readily available to persons inside the vehicle, for breaking the glass; or
  - (iii) except where the exit is an exit in the roof, hinged.

*Width of entrances and exits*

**15.**—(1) The width of every entrance and exit (other than a secondary emergency exit, an emergency exit provided in accordance with regulation 14(7), (8) or (11) or an exit referred to in paragraph (2)) shall—

(a) (save as provided in paragraph (3)) in the case of an entrance or an exit which serves both decks of a double-decked vehicle (disregarding any stanchion), being an entrance or an exit which is either—

(i) the only such entrance or exit in the vehicle; or

(ii) the entrance or exit most readily and directly associated with a staircase serving the upper deck,

be not less than 910 millimetres; and

(b) in any other case, be not less than 530 millimetres.

(2) The requirements specified in paragraph (1) shall not apply in the case of an exit referred to in head (i) of the proviso to regulation 14(4) if the width of that exit measured along the side of the vehicle is not less than 530 millimetres and its width measured along the rear of the vehicle is not less than 455 millimetres.

(3) A vehicle shall not be regarded as failing to fulfil the requirements specified in paragraph (1)(a) by reason only of the fact that, in a case where the entrance or exit is fitted with a pair of power operated doors, one door may be opened independently of the other, if the width of the aperture thereby provided is not less than 530 millimetres and if the doors are capable of being opened together by means of the devices required by regulation 16(1)(b).

*Doors*

**16.**—(1) Subject to paragraph 7 of Schedule 1 and paragraph (4) the following conditions shall be complied with—

(a) means shall be provided for holding every entrance and exit door securely in the closed position and, where any such door is capable of remaining open when the vehicle is in motion or of being accidentally closed by the movement of the vehicle, means shall also be provided for holding that door securely in the open position;

(b) subject to paragraph (2), every entrance and exit door shall be provided with at least two devices (of which one may be a device provided for use in circumstances of normal operation only by a person authorised by the owner of the vehicle, and one, but not more than one, shall be provided on the outside of the vehicle) being in each case a device for operating the means for holding the door securely in the closed position, and every such device shall be so designed that a single movement of it will allow that door to be readily opened;

(c) the method of operation of any device mentioned in condition (b), the position of such a device where it is not placed on the door and the direction and points of application of any manual effort required to open any door, shall be clearly indicated; and there shall, in the case of a power-operated door, also be an indication that the said device may not be used by passengers except in an emergency;

- (d) where any device mentioned in condition (b) is not placed on the door, it shall be placed so as to be readily associated with that door and so that a person of normal height may conveniently operate the device without risk of being injured by movement of the door;
- (e) in the case of every entrance and exit, any device mentioned in condition (b), other than such a device provided on the outside of an emergency exit on the upper deck of a double-decked vehicle or in the roof of a vehicle, shall be easily accessible to persons of normal height;
- (f) the means and devices mentioned in conditions (a) and (b) shall be so designed and fitted that they are unlikely to become dislodged or be operated accidentally but there shall be in the vehicle no means of a mechanical nature the operation of which would prevent the devices mentioned in condition (b) when deliberately used, from allowing the entrance or exit doors for which they are provided to be readily opened;
- (g) every door shall operate so as not to obstruct clear access to any entrance or exit from inside or outside the vehicle;
- (h) vehicle having a power-operated door which, when open or being operated, projects laterally beyond the body of the vehicle at its widest point by more than 80 millimetres, shall be so constructed or adapted that it cannot move from rest under its own power when the door is open, and the door shall not be capable of being operated while the vehicle is in motion, except by the operation of such a device as is mentioned in condition (b);
- (i) the storage and transmission system of the power for operating any power-operated door shall be such that operation of the doors does not adversely affect the efficient operation of the braking system of the vehicle and the apparatus shall be so designed and constructed that in the event of the system becoming inoperative the door shall be capable of being operated manually from inside and outside the vehicle; and
- (j) the design of power-operated doors and their associated equipment at entrances and exits shall be such that, when opening or closing, the doors are unlikely to injure any passengers, and the vertical edges of any power-operated door which, when open or being operated, projects laterally beyond the body of the vehicle at its widest point by not more than 80 millimetres and which is installed in a vehicle not constructed or adapted as mentioned in condition (h), shall be fitted with soft rubber.

(2) Schedule 3 shall have effect for the purpose of supplementing paragraph (1) in relation to power-operated doors fitted to certain vehicles.

(3) A vehicle shall not be deemed to fail to comply with condition (b) or (f) of paragraph (1) by reason only of the fact that, for the purposes of securing the vehicle when unattended, any entrance or exit door has been fitted with a supplementary lock with or without an actuating mechanism if the lock is so designed and constructed that a single movement of any device mentioned

in condition (b), being a device provided on the inside of the vehicle, will at all times allow that door to be readily opened.

(4) In determining for the purposes of conditions (h) and (j) of paragraph (1) whether, or the distance by which, a power-operated door, when open or being operated, projects laterally beyond the body of the vehicle at its widest point, any moulding on the outside of the vehicle shall be disregarded.

(5) The references to exits in paragraph (1) do not include an emergency exit provided in accordance with the provisions of regulation 14(11) unless such exit is a primary emergency exit or a secondary emergency exit.

*Marking, positioning and operation of emergency exits*

17.—(1) Subject to the provisions of paragraph 8 of Schedule 1, every emergency exit, other than an emergency exit with which a vehicle is required to be fitted under regulation 14(11) shall comply with the following conditions—

(a) the emergency exit shall—

- (i) be clearly marked as such inside and outside the vehicle;
- (ii) be fitted with doors which open outwards or, in the case of a secondary emergency exit, be constructed of specified safety glass which can be readily broken by the application of reasonable force so as to afford a clear aperture of dimensions not less than those referred to in regulation 14(1)(b);
- (iii) except in the case of an emergency exit provided in the roof of a vehicle, be readily accessible to passengers; and
- (iv) in the case of a single-decked or half-decked vehicle or the lower deck of a double-decked vehicle, be so situated that passengers can step directly from the passage referred to in regulation 19(1)(g) to the outside of the vehicle:

Provided that this requirement shall not apply in the case of an emergency exit provided in the roof of the vehicle or in the case of a secondary emergency exit;

- (b) the means of operation of doors fitted to the emergency exit shall be clearly indicated;
- (c) the doors of the emergency exit shall not be fitted with any system of power operation; and
- (d) the means of operation of the doors of the emergency exit, other than those provided in the upper deck of a double-decked vehicle or in the roof of a vehicle, shall be readily accessible to persons of normal height standing at ground level outside the vehicle.

(2) Every emergency exit with which a vehicle is required to be fitted under regulation 14(11) shall—

(a) be clearly marked as an emergency exit—

- (i) on the inside of the vehicle; and
- (ii) in a case where the emergency exit can be opened from the outside, on the outside of the vehicle;



- (b) be accessible to persons inside the vehicle when the vehicle is tilted to either side through an angle of 90 degrees, measured from the normal vertical plane of the vehicle;
- (c) be clearly marked with its means of operation;
- (d) if hinged, open outwards; and
- (e) if ejectable, be fitted with a restraint which will prevent the part of the emergency exit which is ejected from becoming completely detached from the vehicle but which will not prevent egress from the vehicle by persons within it.

#### *Access to exits*

**18.**—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) the following conditions shall be complied with in the case of every vehicle—

- (a) there shall be unobstructed access from every seat in the vehicle—
    - (i) in a case where the vehicle is, in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations, provided with only one exit, to that exit, and
    - (ii) in a case where the vehicle is, in accordance with those provisions, provided with two or more exits, to both or, as the case may be to at least two, of those exits;
  - (b) no seat in a vehicle shall be fitted to any door of the vehicle; and
  - (c) being a half-decked vehicle, there shall be no obstruction in the space between the floor in front of any passenger seat and the roof of the vehicle.
- (2) Condition (a) of paragraph (1) shall not apply in relation to—
- (a) any seat in a vehicle which is placed—
    - (i) beside the driver's seat if there is unobstructed access to that seat by means of an entrance other than the driver's entrance; or
    - (ii) on a deck which does not have a permanent top if there is unobstructed access from every seat on that deck to an exit;
  - (b) any crew seat occupied by crew; or
  - (c) an exit provided in accordance with the provisions of regulation 14(11) unless such exit be a primary emergency exit or a secondary emergency exit.

(3) In the case of a double-decked vehicle where provision is made for the placing of a barrier at the foot of the staircase leading to the upper deck, the vehicle shall not be treated as failing to comply with the requirements of condition (a) of paragraph (1) by reason only that when that barrier is in position it would effectively prevent passengers from gaining access to the upper deck.

#### *Width of gangways*

**19.**—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) and to paragraph 9 of Schedule 1, the following conditions shall be complied with in the case of every vehicle—

- (a) the width of every gangway shall be not less than—
- (i) 305 millimetres up to a height of 765 millimetres above the level of the deck of the vehicle;
  - (ii) 355 millimetres at heights exceeding 765 millimetres but not exceeding 1.22 metres above the level of the deck of the vehicle; and
  - (iii) 455 millimetres at heights exceeding 1.22 metres above the level of the deck of the vehicle;
- (b) a vertical line projected upwards from the centre line of any gangway at deck level shall, to the height prescribed in regulation 20 as the height of that gangway, be laterally not less than 150 millimetres from any part of the vehicle other than the roof above the gangway;
- (c) being a vehicle which has a seating capacity exceeding 12 passengers, no part of any gangway which is within 910 millimetres of an entrance or exit (other than an emergency exit) to which it provides access shall be less than 530 millimetres in width;
- (d) being a double-decked vehicle which has a seating capacity exceeding 12 passengers, one gangway in the vehicle which serves as a joint means of access—
- (i) to both the upper and lower decks from any entrance; or
  - (ii) to any exit from both the upper and lower decks,
- shall where it lies between an entrance or exit (other than an emergency exit) and a staircase, be, at every level, not less than 910 millimetres in width;
- (e) where a part of a gangway which adjoins an entrance or exit is divided by a handrail, the width of that part of the gangway at any point on each side of the handrail shall not be less than 455 millimetres;
- (f) where two seats (being either two seats, each for one passenger only or two portions of a continuous seat, each of such portions being for one passenger only measured in accordance with condition (b) of regulation 21(1) are placed parallel to the longitudinal axis of a vehicle and face each other and the space between those seats is not required for the purpose of obtaining access from an entrance to any other seat or from any other seat to an exit (not being an emergency exit), that space shall not for the purposes of this regulation and regulation 20 be treated as forming part of the gangway;
- (g) between every exit, not being either—
- (i) an emergency exit provided in the roof of a vehicle; or
  - (ii) an exit provided in accordance with the provisions of regulation 14(11) unless it be a primary or secondary emergency exit,
- and a gangway, there shall be a passage—
- (A) of dimensions not less than those prescribed for a gangway in condition (a) of paragraph (1);

- (B) so designed that a vertical line projected upwards from the centre line of the passage at floor level to a height of 760 millimetres from the level of the deck is laterally not less than 150 millimetres from any part of the vehicle (excluding any cowling or cover which projects not more than 230 millimetres from the bulkhead of the vehicle into the passage at floor level and not more than 230 millimetres above the deck level and the provision of which is required by the projection of part of the chassis or mechanism of the vehicle into the body);
- (C) which has a clear height at every point along the centre line of the passage of 1.52 metres from the deck level;

Provided that—

- (i) for the purposes of sub-paragraphs (A) and (B) a seat placed below or in front of an emergency exit, being such an exit provided on the upper deck of a double-decked vehicle or in the roof of a vehicle or which is secondary emergency exit shall be deemed to form part of such a passage, and
- (ii) sub-paragraph (C) shall not apply in the case of a passage leading to an emergency exit, being such an exit provided on the upper deck of a double-decked vehicle or in the roof of a vehicle or which is a secondary emergency exit, nor shall it apply in the case of a passage in a single-decked vehicle having a permanent top if the vehicle has a seating capacity not exceeding 14 passengers.

(2) Subject to paragraph 9 of Schedule 1, where any space in front of a seat in a vehicle which has a seating capacity exceeding 12 passengers is required for the accommodation of seated passengers, the space within 225 millimetres of the seat shall not be taken into account in measuring the width of a gangway:

Provided that this paragraph shall not apply in relation to paragraph (1)(d) where—

- (i) the floor of the gangway is free of any obstruction; and
- (ii) there are no other intrusions into the gangway space above the level of the deck of the vehicle.

(3) The provisions of paragraph (1)(c) and (g) do not apply as regards a crew seat occupied by crew.

#### *Height of gangways*

**20.**—(1) Subject to paragraph 10 of Schedule 1, the following conditions shall be complied with in the case of every vehicle which has a seating capacity exceeding 12 passengers—

- (a) the clear height at every point along the centre line of any gangway between the limits specified in paragraph (2) shall be—
- (i) in the case of a single-decked vehicle being a vehicle having a permanent top, and in the case of a half-decked vehicle and the lower deck of a double-decked vehicle, not less than 1.77 metres

if the seating capacity of the vehicle exceeds 14 passengers and not less than 1.6 metres in any other case; and

- (ii) in the case of the top deck of a double-decked vehicle having a permanent top, not less than 1.72 metres;
- (b) except as respects any part of any gangway placed on the offside of the vehicle which is required only to provide access to the foremost passenger seat in the vehicle, the said clear height shall, outside the limits specified in paragraph (2), be not less than the clear height as prescribed in relation to the vehicle in condition (a) reduced by 105 millimetres;
- (c) in the case of a single-decked vehicle not having a permanent top, when the hood of the vehicle is extended or raised, the said clear height from the level of the deck shall in no place (except over the driver's seat) be less than 1.52 metres; and
- (d) in the case of the top deck of a double-decked vehicle, no part of any gangway shall project into the compartment or other space provided for the accommodation of the driver in such a manner as to incommode the driver or cause his view of the road to the front of the vehicle or to the sides thereof to be restricted.

(2) The clear height prescribed in condition (a) of paragraph (1) shall, in the case of the lower deck of a double-decked vehicle, extend throughout the gangway and in any other case shall extend from the front edge of the foremost passenger seat adjacent to the gangway to the front edge of the rearmost passenger seat adjacent to the gangway:

Provided that where the gangway is on the offside of the vehicle it shall be a sufficient compliance with the requirements of head (ii) of that condition if the clear height of 1.72 metres extends from a point 460 millimetres behind the front edge of the foremost passenger seat adjacent to that gangway to the front edge of the rearmost passenger seat adjacent thereto.

(3) In the case of a vehicle which has a seating capacity not exceeding 12 passengers, the clear height at every point along the centre line of any gangway in the vehicle, except for a distance of 305 millimetres along the line measured from each entrance and exit, shall be not less than 1.42 metres and, in the case of the said distance, shall be not less than 1.21 metres.

### *Seats*

21.—(1) Subject to paragraph 11 of Schedule 1, the following conditions shall, as regards every passenger seat, be complied with in the case of every vehicle—

- (a) the supports of all seats shall be securely fixed in position;
- (b) a length of at least 400 millimetres measured horizontally along the front of each seat shall be allowed for the accommodation of a seated passenger:

Provided that in the case of a continuous seat fitted with arms for the purpose of separating the seating spaces, being arms so constructed that they can be folded back or otherwise put out of use, the seat shall be

measured for the purposes of this paragraph as though it were not fitted with arms.

- (c) every seat shall have a back rest so closed or otherwise constructed as to prevent, as far as practicable, the pockets of passengers from being picked;
- (d) all passenger seats shall be so fitted—
  - (i) that the distance between any part of the back rest of any seat placed lengthwise and the corresponding part of the back rest of the seat facing it shall be, in the case of a vehicle which has a seating capacity not exceeding 12 passengers, not less than 1.37 metres, and in any other case, not less than 1.60 metres; and
  - (ii) that there is a clear space of at least 610 millimetres in front of the back rest of any seat measured from the centre of each complete length of seat allowed for the accommodation of a seated passenger and a clear space of 200 millimetres in front of any part of that seat:

Provided that in the case of a seat for more than three passengers—

- (a) in the case of a vehicle being used as a stage carriage; and
- (b) in the case of any vehicle to which this regulation applies and which is first used on or after 1st April 1982,

where access to that seat can be obtained only from one end of the seat, the said clear spaces shall respectively be at least 685 millimetres and 300 millimetres;

- (e) there shall be a clear space of at least 480 millimetres between any part of the front edge of any transverse seat and any part of any other seat which faces it:

Provided that any support provided for a table shall be disregarded if there is a clear space of at least 225 millimetres between that support and the front edge of the nearest seat and the support is not in such a position as to cause discomfort to passengers occupying the seats;

- (f) no seat shall be placed in such a position as to cause discomfort to passengers;
- (g) there shall, as respects every seat, be a clear space measured vertically from the centre of each complete length of the seat allowed for the accommodation of a seated passenger which shall be, in the case of a vehicle which has a seating capacity not exceeding 12 passengers, not less than 910 millimetres, and, in any other case, not less than 965 millimetres;
- (h) where any seat is so placed that a passenger seated upon it is liable to be thrown through any entrance to or exit from the vehicle or down a stairway in the vehicle, an effective screen or guard shall be placed so as to afford adequate protection against that occurrence to a passenger occupying that seat; and
- (i) the shortest distances between the edge of the well of any step in the vehicle and a vertical plane passing through the front edge of any seat shall be not less than 225 millimetres:

Provided that this condition shall not apply in the case of the well of a step provided as a means of obtaining access only to any forward-facing front passenger seat placed alongside the driver in a vehicle which has a seating capacity not exceeding 12 passengers.

(2) In this regulation and in paragraph 11 of Schedule 1 the expression "back rest" includes any part of the vehicle which is available for seated passengers to lean against.

(3) Paragraph (1)(b) shall not apply to a wheelchair carried in a vehicle.

(4) Where a table is fitted to the rear of a seat and is so constructed that it can be folded back or otherwise put out of use, distances shall be measured for the purposes of paragraph (1)(d) with the table so folded or put out of use.

#### *Crew seats*

22.—(1) Every crew seat shall be so constructed and located that when it is in use—

(a) the person by whom it is occupied—

(i) is adequately protected by means of arm rests from falling sideways either to the left or to the right;

(ii) may conveniently place his feet either on a deck of the vehicle or on a foot rest; and

(iii) does not impede the driving of the vehicle either by obstructing the driver's field of vision or otherwise; and

(b) a space of at least 300 millimetres exists, along the whole width of the seat, between the foremost edge of the seat and any other part of the vehicle.

(2) Every crew seat shall be so constructed and located that when it is not in use—

(a) no part of it impedes the driving of the vehicle either by obstructing the driver's field of vision or otherwise; and

(b) every part of it which, when the seat is ready for or in use, protrudes into a gangway so that the provisions of regulation 19(1)(c) and (g) are not complied with, is, as a result of automatic mechanism, retracted so that those provisions are complied with.

(3) The words "FOR CREW USE ONLY" shall be marked either on or near and in relation to every crew seat in letters not less than 10 millimetres tall and in a colour which contrasts with their background.

(4) The provisions of paragraph (1)(a) to (f) of regulation 21 apply as respects a seat to which this regulation applies.

#### *Passenger protection*

23.—(1) Subject to paragraph 12 of Schedule 1, all transverse glass windows or panels not made of safety glass or specified safety glass shall be adequately protected against the likelihood of breakage in the event of passengers being thrown against them.

(2) No emergency exit or ventilating panel (not being a window) shall be fitted to the roof of any vehicle manufactured on or after 1st October 1981 unless such exit or panel is constructed of metal, specified safety glass or safety glazing.

#### *Ventilation*

24. Adequate ventilation shall be provided for passengers and the driver without the necessity for opening any main window or windscreen.

#### *Driver's accommodation*

25. Subject to paragraph 13 of Schedule 1, the following conditions shall be complied with in the case of every vehicle—

- (a) the vehicle shall be so designed that the driver, when sitting in his seat, has adequate room and can readily reach and operate the controls;
- (b) the controls shall be so placed as to allow reasonable access to the driver's seat;
- (c) the accommodation for the driver shall be so arranged as to afford adequate protection from the weather;
- (d) means shall be provided to prevent light from the interior of the vehicle from incommoding the driver and, in respect of any window placed on that side of the centre line of the vehicle occupied by the driver, the means so provided shall be capable of being operated by the driver when in his seat;
- (e) except in the case of a vehicle which has a seating capacity not exceeding 12 passengers, the driver's seat shall be capable of being adjusted in a vertical direction and in a horizontal direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle and of being firmly secured in any desired position within the limits of such adjustments: the range of such adjustments shall permit the seat to be fixed in a position such that the horizontal distance between the nearest part of the steering wheel and the back rest of the seat is 355 millimetres and the vertical distance between the lowest part of the steering wheel and the horizontal plane level with the top of the seat cushion is 200 millimetres and also as to permit the seat to be adjusted at least 50 millimetres forwards, backwards, upwards and downwards from that position;
- (f) except in the case of a vehicle which has a seating capacity not exceeding 12 passengers where direct and reasonable access is provided to the driver's seat, such access shall be provided to that seat either from the offside of the vehicle or by means of a passage which shall be not less than 300 millimetres in width up to a height of 765 millimetres above the floor of the vehicle and not less than 355 millimetres in width above that height and shall comply with the requirement prescribed in relation to the gangway of the vehicle by condition (b) of regulation 19(1);

- (g) where access to the driver's seat is obtained from the offside of the vehicle—
- (i) an opening in the side of the vehicle shall be provided which shall have a clear width of not less than 455 millimetres except where this dimension cannot be provided by reason only of the presence of a portion of the wheel arch in that opening;
  - (ii) except in the case of a vehicle which has a seating capacity not exceeding 12 passengers where direct and reasonable access is provided to the driver's seat, a grab handle shall be fitted to assist the driver in boarding and alighting from the vehicle; and
  - (iii) a step shall be provided on the vehicle at a convenient position and height adjacent to the opening if the lowest point of the sill of that opening is more than 690 millimetres from ground level when the vehicle is unladen;
- (h) where a separate and enclosed compartment is provided for the driver and access to the driver's seat is obtained from the offside of the vehicle, an emergency escape window shall be provided (otherwise than on the offside of that compartment) which shall be readily accessible to the driver and shall have a clear opening with dimensions of not less than 530 millimetres by 455 millimeters; and
- (i) where any seat for a passenger is placed to the side of the driver's seat (whether to one side or to both sides of that seat and whether or not that seat is continuous with the driver's seat) then—
- (i) whether the seat is a separate seat or is continuous with the driver's seat, a space of at least 455 millimetres measured from the centre of the steering column towards the side on which the seat is placed shall be reserved for use solely by the driver; and
  - (ii) if the seat is continuous with the driver's seat or if it is a separate seat so placed that any part of it is nearer to the centre of the steering column than 455 millimetres the said space shall be divided off by means of a solid partition having a height of at least 225 millimetres measured from the seat level of the driver's seat and extending for the whole depth of the seat.

### *Windscreens*

26. Where a vehicle is fitted with a front windscreen for the driver the windscreen shall, except where an adequate demisting and defrosting device is fitted, be capable of being opened so as to give the driver a clear view of the road ahead.

### *Passengers' communication with driver*

27. Except in the case of a vehicle which has a seating capacity not exceeding 12 passengers, adequate means shall be provided in every vehicle to enable passengers on any deck to signal to the driver.



*General construction and condition*

28.—(1) The bodywork, upholstery and fittings of every vehicle shall be soundly and properly constructed of suitable materials, and of such design as to be capable of withstanding the loads and stresses likely to be met with in normal operation of the vehicle.

(2) In relation to every vehicle, the doors, windows, seats, roof, springs, wheels, cushions, linings and bodywork panels shall be maintained in proper order and repair.

(3) The interior of every vehicle shall be maintained in a clean condition.

## PART III

## REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE FITNESS OF TAXIS

*Length*

29.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2) the total length of a vehicle shall be not less than 3.96 metres.

(2) The total length of a vehicle which is licensed for public hire in the City of Belfast shall not exceed 4.73 metres.

*Width*

30. The width of a vehicle shall not be greater than 1.91 metres in any part.

*Parts subject to severe vibration*

31. Where parts subject to severe vibration are connected by bolts or studs and nuts, such bolts, studs or nuts shall be fitted with a suitable locking device.

*Vibration and noise*

32. The engine, transmission, body and fittings shall be so constructed that no undue noise or vibration arises from their use.

*Fuel tanks and apparatus*

33. Fuel tanks and all apparatus supplying fuel to the engine shall be properly constructed of suitable material and of sufficient strength, and shall be so placed that fuel flowing from any such part shall not fall or accumulate where it can be readily ignited unless suitably encased or screened.

*Electrical equipment*

34. All wires and equipment carrying electrical current shall be adequately insulated and protected and be so placed as not to be a source of danger.

*Exhaust system*

35. The exhaust system shall be so fitted or shielded that no flammable material can fall or be thrown upon it from any other part of the vehicle and

so that it is not likely to cause a fire through proximity to any flammable material on the vehicle. The outlet of the system shall be so placed and the whole system be such as to prevent so far as practicable fumes from entering the vehicle.

#### *Front seats*

**36.** Not more than one passenger shall be carried in any front seat of the vehicle alongside the driver.

#### *Steps and rails*

**37.** Suitable steps and hand rails shall be provided where necessary.

#### *Cushions*

**38.** Vehicles which are licensed for public hire in the City of Belfast shall be properly upholstered with leather or good quality artificial leather and shall not be fitted with cloth seat covers. All other vehicles shall be properly upholstered with suitable material other than rubber-cloth.

#### *General construction and condition*

**39.—**(1) Every vehicle shall comply with the provisions of regulation 28.

(2) Where access or egress is by means of a sliding door, it shall be constructed so as to prevent it from being accidentally opened or moved to a position where it would cause, or be likely to cause, danger to any passenger.

(3) The lowest step of every entrance or exit from which a passenger can step directly to the ground, shall be not more than 435 millimetres above the ground when the vehicle is empty. Any fixed step shall in no case project laterally beyond the body of the vehicle unless it is protected by the front wings of the vehicle, or otherwise is such that it is not liable to injure pedestrians.

(4) Every vehicle shall have a permanent top.

(5) Every vehicle shall be fitted with—

(a) at least four doors, of which two shall be situated on each side of the vehicle;

(b) a steering wheel on the right hand side of the vehicle when viewed from a forward-facing front seat; and

(c) four wheels.

(6) In this regulation “forward-facing front seat” has the meaning assigned to it in regulation 47(9) of the Construction and Use Regulations.

#### *Luggage*

**40.** Provision shall be made for conveyance of a reasonable quantity of luggage and efficient means provided of securing it. If the roof is to be used to carry luggage a suitable fixed roof guard rail shall be provided.

#### *Bodywork*

**41.—**(1) This regulation shall apply to every vehicle licensed for public hire in the City of Belfast.

(2) Every such vehicle shall conform with the following specifications—

- (a) it shall be fitted with a saloon body, with a solid partition dividing the driver's seat from the passengers' compartment;
- (b) the partition mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) shall extend from the floor to the roof of the vehicle and be fitted with a sliding window capable of being opened by the passengers;
- (c) inside the passengers' compartment—
  - (i) the height shall not be less than 120 centimetres from the floor to the roof;
  - (ii) the distance from the partition to the front of the cushion of the back seat shall not be less than 76 centimetres; and
  - (iii) the distance from the front of the back seat cushion to the back squab shall not be less than 45 centimetres; and
- (d) it shall be provided with separate entrances to the driver's and passengers' compartment.

#### PART IV

#### REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE EQUIPMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES

##### *Fire extinguishing apparatus*

**42.**—(1) The licensee of a vehicle shall ensure that it is provided with suitable and efficient fire extinguishing apparatus which is of one or more of the types specified in Schedule 4.

(2) The apparatus referred to in paragraph (1) shall be—

- (a) readily available for use;
- (b) clearly marked with the appropriate British Standards Institution Specification number; and
- (c) maintained in good and efficient working order.

##### *First aid equipment*

**43.**—(1) There shall be carried by every bus being used for express carriage or contract carriage a receptacle which contains the items specified in Schedule 5.

(2) The receptacle referred to in paragraph (1) shall be—

- (a) maintained in a good condition;
- (b) suitable for the purpose of keeping the items referred to in the said paragraph in good condition;
- (c) readily available for use; and
- (d) prominently marked as a first aid receptacle.

(3) The items specified in Schedule 5 shall be—

- (a) maintained in good condition; and
- (b) of a suitable quality and design.

*Destination boards*

44.—(1) The licensee of a bus shall display destination and route indicators on the front of the vehicle while it is standing or plying for hire.

(2) A person shall not place anything on the bus which shall have the effect of obscuring the destination or route indicators.

*Repair outfit*

45.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the licensee of a taxi shall cause the taxi to be provided with—

- (a) a tyre fully inflated mounted on a spare rim or wheel, such tyre being suitable for use in accordance with regulation 25(1) of the Construction and Use Regulations;
- (b) an efficient lifting jack; and
- (c) a wheelbrace or similar tool.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a taxi which is fitted with tyres which are suitable for use in accordance with regulation 25(2) of the Construction and Use Regulations.

*Taximeters*

46.—(1) A taximeter fitted to a taxi shall be tested and sealed by a vehicle examiner.

(2) A taximeter fitted to a taxi shall be approved by the Department, and shall be maintained so as to indicate accurately the fares chargeable.

(3) The taximeter shall be so placed as to be easily seen and read at all times by a passenger in the taxi and shall be sufficiently lighted at night.

(4) The mechanism driving the distance recording gearing of the taximeter shall not be fitted directly to the wheels of the taxi.

(5) All connections of the flexible drive or transmission cable connecting the taximeter with the gearbox of the taxi shall be capable of being sealed.

(6) The flexible drive or transmission cable shall be affixed to the taximeter and the gearbox of the taxi so that no part of the inner cable can be reached without breaking the seals.

(7) The flexible drive or transmission cable shall be properly secured.

(8) The bolts securing the taximeter to the taxi shall be sealed.

(9) The licensee or driver of a taxi fitted with a taximeter and licensed for public hire shall not use it for that purpose unless the taximeter complies with the provisions of paragraphs (1) to (8).

(10) A person shall not—

(a) break or otherwise tamper with a seal or mark embossed thereon used in connection with a taximeter; or

(b) tamper with a taximeter or its fittings.

(11) If a taximeter becomes defective the licensee or driver shall report the defect to the Department and shall take immediate steps to have the meter repaired or replace.

(12) On completion of repairs to or the replacement of a taximeter, the

licensee shall report the fact to the Department and shall ensure that the taxi is presented to a vehicle testing centre for testing and sealing.

(13) A taximeter shall not be used for more than twelve months from the date of last testing.

(14) The licensee or driver of a taxi fitted with a taximeter and licensed for public hire shall—

- (a) exhibit in a conspicuous position in the vehicle a statement called “a fares board” displaying in legible letters and figures the fares which shall be paid by the passengers; and
- (b) affix and keep affixed in a conspicuous position on the outside of the vehicle at the front and rear a plate supplied by the Department as illustrated in Schedule 6.

### *Wheelchair facilities*

**47.**—(1) Regulations 47 to 50 apply only to every taxi licensed for public hire in the City of Belfast.

(2) Every taxi shall be equipped with anchorage points which are designed to hold a wheelchair securely in place on the taxi.

(3) Anchorage points shall be either attached to the chassis or to the floor of the taxi.

(4) If attached to the floor, anchorage points shall be affixed to a galvanised plate at least 3 millimetres in gauge of minimum dimensions 200 millimetres by 200 millimetres which must be attached beneath the floor.

(5) Anchorage points shall also be provided for the safe storage of a wheelchair when not in use, whether folded or otherwise, if carried within the passengers’ compartment.

(6) Anchorage points shall be so designed that they do not cause a foreseeable danger to other passengers.

**48.**—(1) Every taxi shall be equipped with restraints for a wheelchair and its occupant which shall be—

- (a) independent of each other; and
- (b) so designed that they do not cause a foreseeable danger to other passengers.

(2) In this regulation “restraint” means a belt or other suitable device, which can be attached to a wheelchair or intended to be worn by its occupant and designed to prevent or lessen injury in the event of an accident.

**49.**—(1) Every taxi shall be equipped with a ramp for the loading or unloading of a wheelchair and its occupant.

(2) An adequate device shall be fitted to ensure that the ramp does not slip or tilt when in use.

(3) The ramp shall be capable of being stowed safely when not in use.

**50.** The equipment referred to in regulations 47, 48 and 49 shall be provided from—

- (a) 20th December 1995 in the case of a vehicle first licensed on or after 20th December 1994; and
- (b) 20th December 2000 in the case of a vehicle licensed before 20th December 1994.

### *Roof signs*

**51.**—(1) Subject to paragraph (5) the licensee or driver of every taxi standing or plying for hire or carrying passengers for hire shall not use it for that purpose unless there is displayed a sign which is mounted on and fixed safely to the roof of the vehicle and which complies with the requirements of paragraphs (2), (3) and (4).

(2) The sign shall—

- (a) be fitted so as not to cause danger to a person in the taxi or a person entering or alighting from it or on a road;
- (b) be mounted centrally and positioned transversely when viewed from the front of the taxi;
- (c) not overhang the roof or measure less than 750 millimetres across but may occupy the breadth of the roof;
- (d) not project more than 250 millimetres above the highest part of the roof;
- (e) subject to paragraph (3) display to the front on a white background in clear and legible black letters the licensee's name or trading name or the word "Taxi";
- (f) display to the rear a telephone number or the word "Taxi";
- (g) subject to paragraph (3) be illuminated internally during the hours of darkness to show a steady white light to the front and a steady red light to the rear;
- (h) be fused at source against electrical short circuit; and
- (i) not cause dazzle or discomfort to other road users.

(3) In the case of a taxi licensed for public hire and used for that purpose outside the City of Belfast—

- (a) the background referred to in paragraph (2)(e) shall be amber instead of white; and
- (b) the light shown to the front referred to in paragraph (2)(g) shall be amber instead of white.

(4) A person shall not place anything on the roof of a taxi which shall have the effect of obscuring the sign.

(5) This regulation shall not apply to a taxi which—

- (a) is being used for the purpose of a wedding or funeral or for purposes in connection with the Northern Ireland Civil Service, industry or commerce;
- (b) is fitted with a taximeter and used from a taxi stand in the City of Belfast; or
- (c) conforms to the specifications set out in regulation 41.

## PART V

## REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE USE OF PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES

*Obstruction of entrances, exits and gangways*

**52.** A person shall not, while passengers are being carried by a vehicle, cause or permit any unnecessary obstruction to any entrance or exit or gangway of the vehicle.

*Obstruction of driver*

**53.** A person shall not cause or permit any unnecessary obstruction of the driver of a vehicle.

*Body maintenance*

**54.** A person shall not use a vehicle while it is carrying passengers or cause or permit it to be so used unless the inside and the outside of the body of the vehicle and all windows and fittings and all passengers' seats are maintained in clean and good condition.

*Lamps*

**55.—(1)** A person shall not use a bus during the hours of darkness while it is carrying passengers or cause or permit it to be so used unless every lamp provided in compliance with regulation 9 for the illumination of each deck, step or platform of the bus is at all times during such use kept lighted to such extent as is necessary to provide adequate illumination of every access from any seat in the bus to every exit in the bus and of every such marking as is required by regulation 17 to be provided in relation to every emergency exit in the bus:

Provided that it shall not be necessary to keep lighted any lamp provided on the upper deck of a double-decked vehicle if a barrier is secured across the bottom of all staircases leading to that deck so as effectively to prevent passengers using any such staircase.

(2) In this regulation "hours of darkness" means the time between half-an-hour after sunset and half-an-hour before sunrise.

*Use of device for operating power-operated doors*

**56.—(1)** Except as provided by paragraph (2), a person shall not use or cause or permit to be used any device for operating the doors of a bus having power-operated doors, being a device such as is mentioned in condition (b) of regulation 16(1) or, as the case may be, in paragraph 7(b)(ii) of Schedule 1.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply—

(a) in an emergency, as to the use of a device by any person;

(b) otherwise than in an emergency, as to the use of a device by a person authorised by the licensee, save that no such use shall occur if—

(i) the bus is in motion, and

- (ii) the doors, when fully opened, project more than 80 millimetres from the side of the bus.

#### *Filling of fuel tank*

**57.** While the engine of a vehicle is running a person shall not cause or permit the filler cap fitted to the fuel tank of the vehicle to be removed or fuel to be put into its fuel tank.

#### *Carriage of flammable or dangerous substances*

**58.**—(1) A person shall not use or cause or permit to be used any vehicle by which any highly flammable or otherwise dangerous substance is carried unless that substance is carried in containers so designed and constructed, or unless the substance is so packed, that, notwithstanding an accident to the vehicle, it is unlikely that damage to the vehicle or injury to passengers carried by the vehicle will be caused by reason of the presence on it of that substance.

(2) The requirements of this regulation are in addition to and not in derogation of the requirements of regulations made under the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act (Northern Ireland) 1929(a) or under any other enactment.

#### *Markings*

**59.** A bus shall not be used on a road unless there shall be marked on the nearside of the vehicle with letters not less than 25 millimetres in height, in a colour contrasting with the colour of their background—

- (a) its maximum seating capacity as determined in accordance with regulation 61, or such lesser seating capacity as may be determined by the licensee;
- (b) its maximum standing capacity as determined in accordance with regulation 62, or such lesser standing capacity as may be determined by the licensee; and
- (c) the name and address of the licensee.

#### *Use of seats*

**60.**—(1) A passenger on a bus shall not be permitted to occupy a seat provided for a passenger unless it complies with the conditions specified in regulation 21.

(2) A person shall not be permitted to occupy a crew seat unless it complies with the requirements specified in regulation 22.

#### *Calculation of maximum seating capacity*

**61.**—(1) The maximum number of passengers who may be seated in a vehicle shall be determined in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) In determining the number of passengers who may be seated in a bus—



- (a) one passenger shall be counted for each seat length of 400 millimetres; and
  - (b) where a continuous seat is provided with arms which separate the seating spaces and the arms are so constructed that they can be either folded back or otherwise put out of use, the continuous seat shall be measured as if arms were not provided.
- (3) For the purposes of paragraph (2)—
- (a) a child under 5 years of age who is not occupying a seat does not count as a passenger; and
  - (b) subject to sub-paragraph (a) three seated children each of whom is under 14 years of age and none of whom are occupying a seat provided with a seat belt shall count as two passengers.
- (4) In this regulation “seat belt” has the meaning given by regulation 47 of the Construction and Use Regulations.
- (5) For the purposes of this regulation, in relation to a continuous seat which is designed for the accommodation of more than one adult, each part of the seat which is designed to accommodate one adult shall be regarded as a separate seat.

(6) In determining the number of passengers who may be seated in a taxi, a licence shall be granted for such number of passengers that the vehicle can suitably seat irrespective of whether or not there are 400 millimetres available for each passenger.

Provided that where a taxi is being used in connection with arrangements made by a public authority for carrying children, any five children each of whom is under 14 years of age shall be deemed to be four passengers but not more than one child shall be carried alongside the driver.

#### *Calculation of maximum standing capacity*

**62.**—(1) Subject to paragraph (3) the maximum number of standing passengers who may be carried in a vehicle shall be determined in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) The number of passengers who may stand in a vehicle shall not exceed—

- (a) one third of the number of passengers for which the vehicle, or in the case of a double-decked vehicle, the lower deck, has seating capacity, or 8, whichever is the less; or
  - (b) such greater or lesser number than that provided for in sub-paragraph (a) as determined by a vehicle examiner and marked on the outside of the vehicle in accordance with regulation 59.
- (3) Standing passengers shall not be carried in—
- (a) a vehicle with a seating capacity not exceeding 12 passengers;
  - (b) a vehicle with a gangway any part of the height of which is less than 1.77 metres;
  - (c) the upper deck or on any step leading to the upper deck of any double-decked vehicle;

- (d) any part of a gangway of a vehicle forward of the rearmost part of the driver's seat; or
- (e) any part of a vehicle in which the operator has indicated by a notice, the letters of which are at least 10 millimetres tall and in a colour contrasting with the colour of their background, that no standing shall occur.

### *Exemption*

**63.** Regulations 61 and 62 shall not apply to a vehicle to which Part III of the European Communities (International Passenger Services) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981(a) applies.

### *Drawing of trailers*

**64.** The licensee or driver of a vehicle shall not cause or permit a trailer to be drawn by the vehicle except where an empty vehicle is being towed by another vehicle in an emergency.

## PART VI

### SAVINGS AND REVOCATIONS

**65.—(1)** Subject to paragraph (2) the Regulations specified in Schedule 7 are hereby revoked.

(2) Part II of the Public Service Vehicles (Construction) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1960(b), as originally enacted, shall continue to apply to a vehicle which—

- (a) was registered before 20th December 1994; and
  - (b) does not comply with Part II of these Regulations,
- as if these regulations had not been made.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of the Environment on  
4th December 1995.

(L.S.)

*Trevor Pearson*

Assistant Secretary

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(a) S.R. 1981 No. 199 as amended by S.R. 1984 No. 45

(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1960 No. 91; relevant amending Regulations are S.R. & O. 1967 No. 224 and S.R. & O. 1969 No. 63

**Exceptions from the provisions prescribed in Part II as applicable to vehicles registered before certain dates**

1. Regulation 6(1) (fuel tanks, carburettors, etc.) shall not apply—
  - (a) in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st April 1959 if, in the case of a single-decked vehicle or a half-decked vehicle, no fuel tank is placed under any part of any gangway which is within 600 millimetres of any entrance or exit and, in the case of a double-decked vehicle, no such tank is placed under any part of any gangway on the lower deck of that vehicle which is within 600 millimetres of any entrance or exit on that deck;
  - (b) in the case of a single-decked vehicle registered before 28th October 1964 which has a seating capacity not exceeding 12 passengers, if no fuel tank is placed immediately under any entrance or exit and no filling point for such a tank is situated under or immediately adjacent to any entrance or exit;
  - (c) in so far as it consists of sub-paragraph (c), in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st April 1959;
  - (d) in so far as it consists of sub-paragraph (d), in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st April 1959 if—
    - (i) the vehicle is fitted with an engine having a fuel injection system; or
    - (ii) the vehicle is not so fitted, but a cock is fitted by means of which the supply of fuel to any carburettor can be immediately cut off and the “off” position of the means of operation is clearly marked on the outside of the vehicle.
2. Regulation 9 (artificial lighting) in so far as it consists of sub-paragraph (b), shall not apply in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st April 1959 and the requirements as to lighting circuits in that regulation shall not apply in the case of a vehicle registered before 28th October 1964.
3. Regulation 10(2) (electrical equipment) shall not apply in the case of a vehicle registered before 19th June 1968 if one or more electrical circuits in which the voltage exceeds 100 volts has been installed in the vehicle on or after that date.
4. Regulation 12 (height of sides of body) shall not apply in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st April 1959—
  - (a) in the case of a vehicle not being a single-decked vehicle, if it otherwise complies with the requirements of that regulation with the substitution of a reference to 990 millimetres for the reference therein to 1.21 metres; and
  - (b) in the case of a single-decked vehicle, if the height of the body sides from the deck measured at the sides of the vehicle is not less than 710 millimetres.
5. Regulation 13(1) (steps, platforms and stairs) shall not apply—
  - (a) in so far as consists of paragraph (a), in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st April 1982 in respect of any platform except a rear platform; and
  - (b) in so far as it consists of paragraph (b)(iv) in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st April 1959 if it otherwise complies with the requirements of that paragraph with the substitution of a reference to 990 millimetres for the reference therein to 1.21 metres.

6. Regulation 14 (number, position and size of entrances and exits) shall not apply—

- (a) in so far as it consists of paragraphs (4) and (6) in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st April 1959 if it is provided with two exits so placed as not to be on the same side of the vehicle;
- (b) in so far as it consists of paragraph (6) in the case of a vehicle registered on or after 1st April 1959 and before 28th October 1964 which has a seating capacity exceeding 45 passengers if—
  - (i) the vehicle is provided with two exits (of which neither is a secondary emergency exit) and those exits are not on the same side of the vehicle; and
  - (ii) in the case where exits are so placed that the distance between their centres is less than 3.05 metres, a secondary emergency exit is provided in such a position that there is a distance of not less than 3.05 metres between the nearest points of the openings of that exit and of whichever of the exits mentioned in head (i) is the nearer to that exit. For the purpose of this paragraph the reference to the distance between the centres and between the nearest points of the openings of the two exits there mentioned shall be construed in accordance with regulation 14(1)(e);
- (c) in so far as it consists of paragraph (9)—
  - (i) in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st April 1959 (not being a single-decked vehicle having a permanent top) if it is provided with two exits so placed as not to be on the same side of the vehicle; or
  - (ii) in the case of a vehicle which—
    - (A) is provided with a platform such as is mentioned in head (i) of the proviso to regulation 14(4); or
    - (B) has a seating capacity not exceeding 14 passengers, if one means of exit and entrance is provided and is placed behind the rear wheels.

7. Regulation 16(1) (doors) shall not apply—

- (a) in so far as it consists of sub-paragraph (j) in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st August 1968;
- (b) save in so far as it consists of sub-paragraph (j) in the case of a vehicle registered before 19th June 1968 if—
  - (i) every entrance door and every exit door can be readily opened from inside and outside the vehicle by one operation of the locking mechanism;

Provided that a vehicle shall not be deemed to fail to comply with this sub-paragraph by reason only of the fact that, for the purpose of securing the vehicle when unattended, any entrance or exit door has been fitted with a supplementary lock with or without an actuating mechanism if the lock is so designed and constructed that the door can at all times be opened by a person inside the vehicle by one operation of the ordinary locking mechanism;

- (ii) except in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st April 1959, the device provided outside the vehicle for operating the locking mechanism on the door (not being a device provided in relation to an emergency exit on the upper deck of a double-decked vehicle or in the roof of a half-decked vehicle) is readily accessible to persons of normal height standing at ground level outside the vehicle;

- (iii) except in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st April 1959, means are provided for holding every entrance and exit door securely in the closed position;
- (iv) except in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st April 1959, all locks and fastenings fitted to entrance and exit doors are so designed and fitted that they are not likely to become dislodged or be operated accidentally, and, in the said excepted case, door handles or levers to door catches are so designed and fitted that they are not likely to become dislodged or be operated accidentally;
- (v) where any entrances are provided with doors which are designed to remain open when the vehicle is in motion, suitable fastenings are provided to hold such doors securely in the opened position;
- (vi) except in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st April 1959, every sliding door and every folding door fitted to an entrance or exit is provided with suitable fastenings to prevent it from being closed by any movement of the vehicle;
- (vii) all doors can open so as not to obstruct clear access to any entrance or exit from inside or outside the vehicle; and
- (viii) except in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st April 1959, the means by which a power-operated door may be opened are provided inside the vehicle on or adjacent to the door and their position is clearly indicated and there is also an indication that the said means may be used by passengers only in an emergency; and the storage and transmission system of the power for operating the door is such that operation of the doors does not adversely affect the efficient operation of the braking system of the vehicle and the apparatus is so designed and constructed that in the event of the system becoming inoperative the door can be operated manually from inside and outside the vehicle.

8. Regulation 17(1)(a)(iv) (marking, positioning and operation of emergency exits) shall not apply in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st April 1959, being a vehicle which is provided with a rear platform, if an emergency exit (of which the clear height at the centre line is not less than 1.52 metres and of which the width is not less than 455 millimetres) is provided from that platform to the rear of the vehicle and is enclosed by means of a door placed on the near side of that platform.

9. The provisions of regulation 19 (width of gangways) specified in column 1 of the Table shall not apply in the case of a vehicle specified, in relation to those provisions, in column 2.

TABLE

| <i>Column 1</i>                  | <i>Column 2</i>  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Paragraph (1)(e)                 | A vehicle registered before 19th June 1968.  |
| Paragraph (1)(d)                 | A double-decked vehicle registered before 19th June 1969 if no part of any gangway which serves as a joint means of access from any entrance to the upper and lower decks is less than 910 millimetres in width.             |
| Paragraph (1)(a), (c) and (g)(C) | A vehicle registered before 1st April 1959 if the width of every gangway is not less than 305 millimetres up to a height of 765 millimetres above the level of the deck and not less than 355 millimetres above that height. |

## TABLE — (continued)

| <i>Column 1</i>  | <i>Column 2</i>  |
|------------------|--|
| Paragraph (1)(c) | A vehicle registered after 1st April 1959 and before 19th June 1968 if no part of any gangway which is within 915 millimetres of an exit (other than an emergency exit) to which it leads is less than 530 millimetres in width. |

10. Regulation 20 (height of gangways) shall not apply in the case of a half-decked vehicle registered before 8th August 1950, and regulation 20(1)(d) shall not apply in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st January 1947.

11. Regulation 21 (seats) shall not apply—

(a) in so far as it consists of paragraph (1)(d) in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st April 1959 if all the passengers' seats in the vehicle are so fitted—

(i) that no part of the back rest of any seat placed lengthwise is less than 1.37 metres from the corresponding part of the back rest of the seat facing it; and

(ii) there is in relation to every transverse seat in the vehicle a clear space of at least 660 millimetres in front of the whole length of the top of the back rest of that seat measured from the centre of each complete length of the seat allowed for the accommodation of a seated passenger in accordance with condition (b) of the said paragraph (1) but disregarding any handles or grips which do not project more than 105 millimetres from the back rest;

(b) in so far as it consists of paragraph (1)(f) and (g) in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st April 1959 if no seat placed over the arch of a wheel of the vehicle is in such a position as to cause discomfort to passengers;

(c) in so far as it consists of paragraph (1)(h) in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st April 1959 if, as respects any transverse seat in the vehicle which is so placed that a passenger seated upon it is liable to be thrown through any entrance to or exit from the vehicle or down a stairway in the vehicle, an effective screen or guard is placed so as to afford adequate protection against that occurrence to a passenger occupying that seat.

12. Regulation 23 (passenger protection) shall now apply in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st April 1959 if all glass windows or panels which face any transverse seat in the vehicle are adequately protected against the likelihood of breakage in the event of passengers being thrown against them.

13. Regulation 25 (driver's accommodation) shall not apply—

(a) in so far as it consists of sub-paragraphs (b) and (e) in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st April 1959;

(b) in so far as it consists of sub-paragraph (d) in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st April 1959 if means are provided (where necessary) to prevent light from the interior of the vehicle from incommoding the driver; and

(c) in so far as it consists of sub-paragraphs (g) and (h) in the case of a vehicle registered before 1st April 1959.

**Provisions prescribed in regulations in Part II, applicable to certain vehicles**

- Regulation 4 (Stability);
- Regulation 5 (Guard rails);
- Regulation 7 (Exhaust pipe);
- Regulation 8 (Luggage racks);
- Regulation 9 (Artificial lighting);
- Regulation 10 (Electrical equipment);
- Regulation 11 (Body);
- Regulation 16 (Doors);
- Regulation 17 (Marking, positioning and operation of emergency exits);
- Regulation 21(1)(a) and (h) (Seats);
- Regulation 23 (Passenger protection);
- Regulation 24 (Ventilation);
- Regulation 25 (Driver's accommodation);
- Regulation 26 (Windscreens);
- Regulation 27 (Passengers' communication with driver).

**Power-operated doors on certain vehicles***Application*

1. This Schedule applies to every vehicle registered on or after 1st April 1980.

*Conditions*

2. Save as provided below, the following conditions shall be complied with in relation to every power-operated door which is—

- (a) fitted to a vehicle to which this Schedule applies, and
- (b) so situated in the vehicle that the whole of the door opening is more than 500 millimetres behind the transverse vertical plane that touches the back of the driver's seat when the seat is in its rearmost position.

3.—(1) The first condition is that when the door is prevented from closing by the presence of a fixed vertical surface that is 60 millimetres high placed at right angles to the direction of movement of the closing edge—

- (a) the force exerted on the surface does not exceed 150 newtons; and
- (b) the door re-opens automatically and remains open until a closing control is operated manually.

(2) This condition shall not have to be met when a door is within 30 millimetres of its fully closed position, but shall otherwise apply wherever the surface is placed within the door opening (regardless of the stage of closure when the door first strikes the surface or of the part of the closing edge that strikes the surface).

4.—(1) The second condition is that whenever the door is closed on to the fingers or the palm of the hand—

- (a) the door re-opens automatically and remains open until a closing control is operated manually; or
- (b) the fingers or hand can be readily extracted from the doors without injury.

(2) This condition shall not apply to a door fitted to a coach manufactured before 1st October 1992 or registered before 1st April 1993.

(3) In this paragraph "coach" has the same meaning as in the Construction and Use Regulations.

5. The third condition is that a visual warning device, clearly visible to the driver at all times, is activated whenever the door is not fully closed.



**Fire Extinguishing Apparatus**

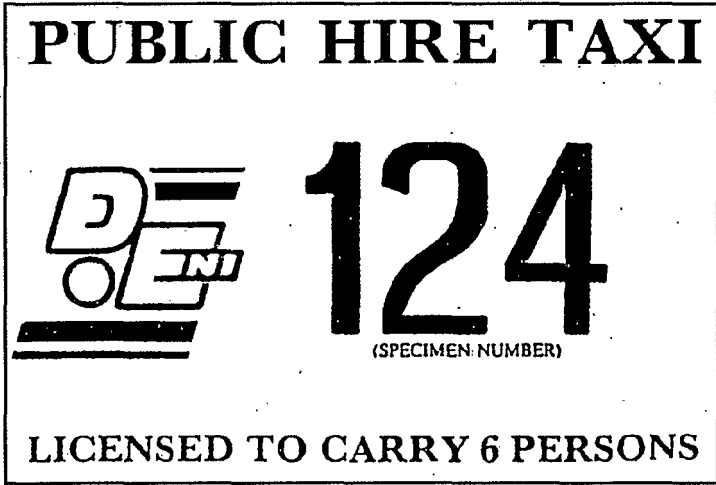
A fire extinguisher which complies in all respects with the specification for portable fire extinguishers issued by the British Standards Institution numbered BS 5423: 1977 or BS 5423: 1980 or BS 5423: 1987 and which—

- (a) has a minimum test rating of 8A or 21B, and
- (b) contains water or foam or contains, and is marked to indicate that it contains, halon 1211 or halon 1301.

**First Aid Equipment**

- (i) Ten antiseptic wipes, foil packed.
- (ii) One conforming disposable bandage (not less than 7.5 centimetres wide).
- (iii) Two triangular bandages.
- (iv) One packet of 24 assorted adhesive dressings.
- (v) Three large sterile unmedicated ambulance dressings (not less than 15 centimetres × 20 centimetres).
- (vi) Two sterile eye pads, with attachments.
- (vii) Twelve assorted safety pins.
- (viii) One pair of rustless blunt-ended scissors.

Diagram of a plate to be displayed on a taxi with a taximeter and licensed for public hire



Permitted variant: "5 persons" may be substituted for "6 persons".

**Revocations**

| <i>Title</i>   | <i>Year and Number</i>        |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Public Service Vehicles (Construction) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1960             | S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1960 No. 91  |
| Public Service Vehicles (Construction) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1967 | S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1967 No. 224 |
| Public Service Vehicles (Construction) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1969 | S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1969 No. 63  |
| Public Service Vehicles (Construction) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1988 | S.R. 1988 No. 335             |
| Public Service Vehicles (Construction) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1994 | S.R. 1994 No. 435             |

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations.)*

These Regulations revoke and re-enact, with amendments, the Public Service Vehicles (Construction) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1960, as amended.

The principal amendments are as follows—

1. A bus is now a public service vehicle seating more than eight passengers (formerly defined as seating more than six passengers) and a taxi is a public service vehicle seating not more than eight passengers (formerly defined as seating not more than six passengers).

2. Provisions relating to the equipment and use of public service vehicles are now included in the Regulations. Some of the provisions were previously contained in the Public Service Vehicles Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1985. The following are new provisions—

- (a) first aid equipment on certain buses (regulation 43),
- (b) body maintenance (regulation 54),
- (c) lamps in buses (regulation 55),
- (d) power operated doors on buses (regulation 56),
- (e) filling of fuel tank (regulation 57), and
- (f) use of seats on buses (regulation 60).

The Regulations set out in Schedule 7 are revoked (regulation 65(1)).

Any person who acts in contravention of the Regulations in respect of a bus shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale (currently £2,500).

Any person who acts in contravention of the Regulations in respect of a taxi shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1,000).

The Command Papers referred to in the Regulations may be obtained from HMSO, 16 Arthur Street, Belfast.