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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**1999 No. 454**

**Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use)  
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999**

**Part IV**

**Conditions Relating to Use**

C —

*Trailers and Sidecars*

**Use of secondary coupling on trailers**

**100.**—(1) No person shall use, or cause or permit to be used, on a road a motor vehicle drawing one trailer if the trailer—

- (a) is a trailer to which regulation 20 applies, and
- (b) is not fitted with a device which is designed to stop the trailer automatically in the event of the separation of the main coupling while the trailer is in motion,

unless the requirements of paragraph (2) are met in relation to the motor vehicle and trailer.

(2) The requirements of this paragraph, in relation to a motor vehicle drawing a trailer, are that a secondary coupling is attached to the motor vehicle and trailer in such a way that, in the event of a separation of the main coupling while the trailer is in motion—

- (a) the drawbar of the trailer would be prevented from touching the ground, and
- (b) there would be some residual steering of the trailer.

(3) No person shall use or cause or permit to be used on a road a motor vehicle drawing one trailer if—

- (a) the trailer is a trailer to which regulation 20 applies,
- (b) the trailer is fitted with a device which is designed to stop the trailer automatically in the event of the separation of the main coupling while the trailer is in motion,
- (c) the operation of the device in those circumstances depends upon a secondary coupling linking the device to the motor vehicle, and
- (d) the trailer is not fitted with a device which is designed to stop the trailer automatically in those circumstances in the absence of such a secondary coupling,

unless the requirements of paragraph (4) are met in relation to the motor vehicle and trailer.

(4) The requirements of this paragraph, in relation to a motor vehicle drawing a trailer, are that the secondary coupling is attached to the motor vehicle and trailer in such a way that, in the event of a separation of the main coupling while the trailer is in motion, the device of the kind referred to in paragraph (3)(b) and (c) fitted to the trailer would stop the trailer.

(5) This regulation is without prejudice to any other provision in these Regulations.