

# THE



# HIGHWAY



# CODE



WITH AN APPENDIX  
INCLUDING DIAGRAMS  
OF SIGNALS AND SIGNS



YORK HOUSE, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C.2: 13<sup>A</sup> CASTLE  
STREET, EDINBURGH 2: 39-41 KING STREET, MANCHESTER 2:  
1 ST. ANDREW'S CRESCENT, CARDIFF: 80 CHICHESTER  
STREET, BELFAST, OR THROUGH ANY BOOKSELLER.

55-9999

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WITH AN APPENDIX  
INCLUDING DIAGRAMS  
OF SIGNALS AND SIGNS



ISSUED BY THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT  
WITH THE AUTHORITY OF PARLIAMENT  
FOR THE GUIDANCE AND SAFETY OF ALL  
ROAD USERS



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HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE  
ONE PENNY NET



For convenience the Code has been divided into sections, some of which apply specially to certain classes of road users. The following will enable you to see at a glance those sections which more particularly concern you as a—



**Pedestrian** Paragraphs 1-21



**Driver of a motor vehicle**  
Paragraphs 22-61



**Driver of a horse-drawn vehicle**  
Paragraphs 22-45



**Motor cyclist**  
Paragraphs 22-43 and 46-53



**Pedal cyclist**  
Paragraphs 22-40 and 62-75



**Rider of a horse, or a person in charge of led or driven animals**  
Paragraphs 76-78

# Foreword

BY

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

In every human activity there is a standard of conduct to which, in the common interest, we are expected to conform. This Code, which is issued with the Authority of Parliament, sets out the standard of conduct for the road.

The provisions of the Code are a simple summary of the best and widest experience. Each provision, whether it relates to a legal requirement or to discretionary behaviour, has been included because of its importance in preventing road accidents.

It is my sincere hope that all road users, whether pedestrians, drivers or riders will study the Code and respect its provisions. To do so is, in fact, a moral duty. If observance of the provisions of the Code, and the spirit of tolerance and consideration underlying them, became a habit, road accidents would rapidly decrease. They are a social evil which can only be overcome by the co-operation of everyone.

Please do not glance at the Code and decide that it does not apply to you : it applies to everyone, and I ask you to study it and act upon it and to encourage others to do so.

# THE HIGHWAY CODE

## To all Road Users

- 1 The Highway Code is a set of commonsense provisions for the guidance and safety of all who use the roads. Consideration for others as well as for yourself is the keynote of the Code. Remember that you have responsibilities as well as rights.
- 2 Be careful and courteous yourself at all times; allow for other people doing something silly at any minute.
- 3 Be sure that you are fit to use the road. Alcohol, even in small amounts, lowers your alertness and sense of caution. A fraction of a second may make all the difference between safety and disaster. If you cannot give the necessary concentration you are risking not only your own life but the lives of others. Many drugs have the same effect and so also has fatigue.
- 4 Learn the signals used for regulating traffic and by drivers of vehicles. (See pages 14 to 19 inclusive).

The policeman regulating traffic has a responsible 5 job to do. When he is busy don't put questions to him; they may distract his attention. If you want to know the way ask someone else.

Keep your dog under control whether it is on the 6 road or on a vehicle. Many a person has been killed or injured because a driver swerved to avoid a dog.

Watch the children. Accidents to small children 7 are terribly frequent.

If you are a parent or guardian teach your own 8 children to cross the road safely and set them an example by your own road conduct. Do not let your children play in the streets. Children under seven should be accompanied by an older person when using busy roads.



*As a PEDESTRIAN, study this Section*

### GENERAL

Where there is a footpath use it. If there is no 9 footpath it is generally better to walk on the right so as to face oncoming traffic.

On a footpath do not walk alongside the kerb in 10 the same direction as the nearer stream of traffic.

Do not step off the footpath unless you have made 11 sure that it is safe to do so.



- 12 Wait until a 'bus or tram has stopped at a recognised stopping place before you get on or off.
- 13 Do not walk on a cycle track ; leave it free for the cyclists.
- 14 Never stand in the road at a blind corner or other place where you may not be seen by approaching drivers.

#### CROSSING THE ROAD

- 15 Before you cross the road, *stop, look right, left, and right again* ; then cross at right-angles, keeping a careful look-out all the time. Be specially alert on one-way traffic roads.
- 16 Where there is a pedestrian crossing, refuge, over-bridge or subway — use it. (See page 28).
- 17 If your view of the traffic is obscured by a stationary vehicle or other obstruction, take particular care. If you don't you may be knocked down.
- 18 A slippery road is dangerous ; watch your step.
- 19 At traffic signals or at a police-controlled crossing watch the traffic as well as the signals and cross the road only when you can see that it is safe. Look out for traffic turning the corner.
- 20 Where pedestrian-operated signals are provided, use them, and wait until you see the "Cross now" signal.
- 21 It is a courteous and kindly act to help small children, the aged, the infirm and the blind to cross the road safely.



*If you drive a MOTOR VEHICLE study this Section and Paragraphs 41-61.*



*If you drive a HORSE-DRAWN VEHICLE study this Section and Paragraphs 41-45.*



*If you ride a MOTOR CYCLE study this Section and Paragraphs 41-43 and 46-53.*



*If you ride a PEDAL CYCLE study this Section and Paragraphs 62-75.*

#### GENERAL

Keep well to the left unless you are about to over- 22  
take or turn right.

When on a narrow winding road, however familiar to 23  
you, go slow. You may come upon danger suddenly.

Be careful when passing standing vehicles and other 24  
obstructions ; a pedestrian may dodge out from behind them.

Take special care at cross roads, crossings and bends. 25  
If about to turn from one road into another, give the proper signal. When turning, go slow and give way to pedestrians. Give way to traffic on the major road. At uncontrolled crossings, unless you have a clear view of the major road in both directions, stop before entering the major road.

When traffic in front of you is held up, never 26  
attempt to gain a forward position by encroaching on the offside of the road.

- 27 Go slow when passing animals and give them plenty of room. Stop if necessary or if signalled to do so. Be prepared to meet pedestrians and led animals coming towards you on your side of the road.

#### OVERTAKING

- 28 Never overtake unless you are sure that you can do so without danger to yourself and others. Be specially careful in the dusk when it is more difficult to judge speed and distance.
- 29 Overtake only on the right except when the driver in front has signalled that he is going to turn right. (This does not necessarily apply at roundabouts and in one-way roads or when overtaking tramcars.)
- 30 Do not overtake :—
- (a) unless you can do so without forcing the overtaken or approaching vehicles to swerve or reduce speed ;
  - (b) at a corner or bend ;
  - (c) at or approaching the brow of a hill or a hump-back bridge ;
  - (d) at cross roads ;
  - (e) at a pedestrian crossing.
- 31 Never cut out, that is, do not turn from the near side sharply, without giving ample warning and making sure that it is safe to do so.
- 32 Give way to pedestrians about to get on or off a tramcar.

#### SIGNALS AND SIGNS

Before you stop or slow down or change direction, 33 give the proper signal and give it in good time.

Keep a sharp look-out for traffic light signals, traffic 34 signs, and lines marked on the highway. (See pages 20 to 22.)

A policeman regulating traffic is there to help you. 35 Do as he directs, and help him in return by letting him see clearly by your signal which way you want to go.

Do not rely on signals to proceed given by un- 36 authorised persons.

#### PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

Look out for pedestrian crossings. Learn and 37 observe the Regulations relating to them. (See page 28).

#### FILTERING

When you are held up at a road junction by a 38 police officer regulating traffic, or by a traffic light signal, do not turn to the left unless you get a definite signal to do so. (See pages 15 and 22).

#### LIGHTS

See that your lights are in good order and are 39 properly adjusted.

Always light up in good time. When visibility is 40 poor and particularly on foggy days, put on your lights so that other people can see you.