

## Highway Code Summary –

Full Revision at <http://www.learnerdriving.com/learn-to-drive/highway-code/>

### Rule 83

On all journeys, the rider and pillion passenger on a motorcycle, scooter or moped **MUST** wear a protective helmet. This does not apply to a follower of the Sikh religion while wearing a turban. Helmets **MUST** comply with the Regulations and they **MUST** be fastened securely. Riders and passengers of motor tricycles and quadricycles, also called quadbikes, should also wear a protective helmet. Before each journey check that your helmet visor is clean and in good condition.

[Laws RTA 1988 sects 16 & 17 & MC(PH)R as amended reg 4]

### Rule 84

It is also advisable to wear eye protectors, which **MUST** comply with the Regulations. Scratched or poorly fitting eye protectors can limit your view when riding, particularly in bright sunshine and the hours of darkness. Consider wearing ear protection. Strong boots, gloves and suitable clothing may help to protect you if you are involved in a collision.

[Laws RTA sect 18 & MC(EP)R as amended reg 4]

### Rule 85

You **MUST NOT** carry more than one pillion passenger who **MUST** sit astride the machine on a proper seat. They should face forward with both feet on the footrests. You **MUST NOT** carry a pillion passenger unless your motor cycle is designed to do so. Provisional licence holders **MUST NOT** carry a pillion passenger.

[Laws RTA 1988 sect 23, MV(DL)R 1999 reg 16(6) & CUR 1986 reg 102]

### Rule 86

**Daylight riding.** Make yourself as visible as possible from the side as well as the front and rear. You could wear a light or brightly coloured helmet and fluorescent clothing or strips. Dipped headlights, even in good daylight, may also make you more conspicuous. However, be aware that other vehicle drivers may still not have seen you, or judged your distance or speed correctly, especially at junctions.



#### Rule 87

**Riding in the dark.** Wear reflective clothing or strips to improve your visibility in the dark. These reflect light from the headlamps of other vehicles, making you visible from a longer distance. See Rules 113-116 for lighting requirements.

#### Rule 88

**Manoeuvring.** You should be aware of what is behind and to the sides before manoeuvring. Look behind you; use mirrors if they are fitted. When in traffic queues look out for pedestrians crossing between vehicles and vehicles emerging from junctions or changing lanes. Position yourself so that drivers in front can see you in their mirrors. Additionally, when filtering in slow-moving traffic, take care and keep your speed low.

#### **Remember: Observation - Signal - Manoeuvre**

**Vehicle condition.** You MUST ensure your vehicle and trailer comply with the full requirements of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations and Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations (see 'The road user and the law').

#### Rule 90

Make sure that you are fit to drive. You MUST report to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) any health condition likely to affect your driving.

[Law RTA 1988 sect 94]

#### Rule 91

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

- Make sure you are fit to drive. Do not begin a journey if you are tired. Get a good night's sleep before embarking on a long journey

- Avoid undertaking long journeys between midnight and 6 am, when natural alertness is at a minimum
- Plan your journey to take sufficient breaks. A minimum break of at least 15 minutes after every two hours of driving is recommended
- If you feel at all sleepy, stop in a safe place. Do not stop on the hard shoulder of a motorway
- The most effective ways to counter sleepiness are to drink, for example, two cups of caffeinated coffee and to take a short nap (at least 15 minutes).

#### Rule 92

Vision. You **MUST** be able to read a vehicle number plate, in good daylight, from a distance of 20 metres (or 20.5 metres where the old style number plate is used). If you need to wear glasses (or contact lenses) to do this, you **MUST** wear them at all times while driving. The police have the power to require a driver to undertake an eyesight test.

[Laws RTA 1988 sect 96 & MV(DL)R reg 40 & sch 8]

#### Rule 93

Slow down, and if necessary stop, if you are dazzled by bright sunlight.

#### Rule 94

At night or in poor visibility, do not use tinted glasses, lenses or visors if they restrict your vision.

### **Alcohol and drugs**

#### Rule 95

**Do not drink and drive** as it will seriously affect your judgement and abilities. You **MUST NOT** drive with a breath alcohol level higher than 35 microgrammes/100 millilitres of breath or a blood alcohol level of more than 80 milligrammes/100 millilitres of blood. Alcohol will

- Give a false sense of confidence
- Reduce co-ordination and slow down reactions
- Affect judgement of speed, distance and risk
- Reduce your driving ability, even if you're below the legal limit
- Take time to leave your body; you may be unfit to drive in the evening after drinking at lunchtime, or in the morning after drinking the previous evening

The best solution is not to drink at all when planning to drive because any amount of alcohol affects your ability to drive safely. If you are going to drink, arrange another means of transport.

[Law RTA 1988 sects 4, 5 & 11(2)]

## Rule 96

You **MUST NOT** drive under the influence of drugs or medicine. Check the instructions or ask your doctor or pharmacist. Using illegal drugs is highly dangerous. Never take them if you intend to drive; the effects are unpredictable, but can be even more severe than alcohol and may result in fatal or serious road crashes.

[Law RTA 1988 sect 4]

## Rule 97

**Before setting off.** You should ensure that

- You have planned your route and allowed sufficient time
- Clothing and footwear do not prevent you using the controls in the correct manner
- You know where all the controls are and how to use them before you need them. Not all vehicles are the same; do not wait until it is too late to find out
- Your mirrors and seat are adjusted correctly to ensure comfort, full control and maximum vision
- Head restraints are properly adjusted to reduce the risk of neck and spine injuries in the event of a collision
- You have sufficient fuel before commencing your journey, especially if it includes motorway driving. It can be dangerous to lose power when driving in traffic
- Ensure your vehicle is legal and roadworthy
- Switch off your mobile phone



## Rule 98

**Vehicle towing and loading.** As a driver

- You **MUST NOT** tow more than your licence permits. If you passed a car test after 1 Jan 1997 you are restricted on the weight of trailer you can tow
- You **MUST NOT** overload your vehicle or trailer. You should not tow a weight greater than that recommended by the manufacturer of your vehicle
- You **MUST** secure your load and it **MUST NOT** stick out dangerously. Make sure any heavy or sharp objects and any animals are secured safely. If there is a collision, they might hit someone inside the vehicle and cause serious injury
- You should properly distribute the weight in your caravan or trailer with heavy items mainly over the axle(s) and ensure a downward load on the tow ball. Manufacturer's recommended weight and tow ball load should not be exceeded. This should avoid the possibility of swerving or snaking and going out of control. If this does happen, ease off the accelerator and reduce speed gently to regain control
- Carrying a load or pulling a trailer may require you to adjust the headlights

In the event of a breakdown, be aware that towing a vehicle on a tow rope is potentially dangerous. You should consider professional recovery.

[Laws CUR reg 100 & MV(DL)R reg 43]

### **Seat belts and child restraints**

#### **Rule 99**

You **MUST** wear a seat belt in cars, vans and other goods vehicles if one is fitted (see table below). Adults, and children aged 14 years and over, **MUST** use a seat belt or child restraint, where fitted, when seated in minibuses, buses and coaches. Exemptions are allowed for the holders of medical exemption certificates and those making deliveries or collections in goods vehicles when travelling less than 50 metres (approx 162 feet).

[Laws RTA 1988 sects 14 & 15, MV(WSB)R, MV(WSBCFS)R & MV(WSB)(A)R]

Seat Belt Requirements. This table summarises the main legal requirements for wearing seat belts in cars, vans and other goods vehicles

	<b>Front seat</b>	<b>Rear seat</b>	<b>Who is responsible?</b>
Driver	Seat belt <b>MUST</b> be worn if fitted		Driver
Child under 3 years of age	Correct child restraint <b>MUST</b> be used	Correct child restraint <b>MUST</b> be used. If one is not available in a taxi, may travel unrestrained.	Driver
Child from 3 <sup>rd</sup> birthday up to 1.35 metres in height (or 12 <sup>th</sup> birthday,	Correct child restraint <b>MUST</b> be	Correct child restraint <b>MUST</b> be used where seat belts fitted. <b>MUST</b> use adult belt if correct child restraint is not available in a licensed taxi or private hire vehicle, or for	Driver

whichever they reach first)	used	reasons of unexpected necessity over a short distance, or if two occupied restraints prevent fitment of a third.	
Child over 1.35 metres (approx 4ft 5ins) in height or 12 or 13 years	Seat belt MUST be worn if available	Seat belt MUST be worn if available	Driver
Adult passengers aged 14 and over	Seat belt MUST be worn if available	Seat belt MUST be worn if available	Passenger

### Rule 100

The driver MUST ensure that all children under 14 years of age in cars, vans and other goods vehicles wear seat belts or sit in an approved child restraint where required (see table Rule 99). If a child is under 1.35 metres (approx 4 feet 5 inches) tall, a baby seat, child seat, booster seat or booster cushion MUST be used suitable for the child's weight and fitted to the manufacturer's instructions.

[Laws RTA 1988 sects 14 & 15, MV(WSB)R, MV(WCBCFS)R & MV(WSB)(A)R]



### Rule 101

A rear-facing baby seat MUST NOT be fitted into a seat protected by an active frontal airbag, as in a crash it can cause serious injury or death to the child.

[Laws RTA 1988 sects 14 & 15, MV(WSB)R, MV(WCBCFS)R & MV(WSB)(A)R]

### Rule 102

**Children in cars, vans and other goods vehicles.** Drivers who are carrying children in cars, vans and other goods vehicles should also ensure that

- Children should get into the vehicle through the door nearest the kerb
- Child restraints are properly fitted to manufacturer's instructions
- Children do not sit behind the rear seats in an estate car or hatchback, unless a special child seat has been fitted
- The child safety door locks, where fitted, are used when children are in the vehicle
- Children are kept under control

Signals warn and inform other road users, including pedestrians (see 'Signals to other road users'), of your intended actions. You should always

- Give clear signals in plenty of time, having checked it is not misleading to signal at that time
- Use them to advise other road users before changing course or direction, stopping or moving off
- Cancel them after use
- Make sure your signals will not confuse others. If, for instance, you want to stop after a side road, do not signal until you are passing the road. If you signal earlier it may give the impression that you intend to turn into the road. Your brake lights will warn traffic behind you that you are slowing down
- Use an arm signal to emphasise or reinforce your signal if necessary. Remember that signalling does not give you priority

#### Rule 104

You should also

- Watch out for signals given by other road users and proceed only when you are satisfied that it is safe
- Be aware that an indicator on another vehicle may not have been cancelled

#### Rule 105

You **MUST** obey signals given by police officers, traffic officers, traffic wardens and signs used by school crossing patrols.(see 'Signals by authorised persons')

[Laws RTRA sect 28, RTA 1988 sect 35, TMA 2004 sect 6, & FTWO art 3]

#### Rule 106

**Police stopping procedures.** If the police want to stop your vehicle they will, where possible, attract your attention by

- Flashing blue lights, headlights or sounding their siren or horn, usually from behind
- Directing you to pull over to the side by pointing and/or using the left indicator

You MUST then pull over and stop as soon as it is safe to do so. Then switch off your engine.

[Law RTA 1988 sect 163]

### **Other stopping procedures**

Rule 107

**Vehicle & Operator Services Agency Officers** have powers to stop vehicles on all roads, including motorways and trunk roads, in England and Wales. They will attract your attention by flashing amber lights

- Either from the front requesting you to follow them to a safe place to stop
- Or from behind directing you to pull over to the side by pointing and/or using the left indicator

It is an offence not to comply with their directions. You MUST obey any signals given (see 'Signals by authorised persons').

[Laws RTA 1988, sect 67, & PRA 2002, sect 41 & sched 5(8)]

Rule 108

**Highways Agency Traffic Officers** have powers to stop vehicles on most motorways and some 'A' class roads, in England only. If HA traffic officers in uniform want to stop your vehicle on safety grounds (e.g. an insecure load) they will, where possible, attract your attention by

- Flashing amber lights, usually from behind
- Directing you to pull over to the side by pointing and/or using the left indicator

You MUST then pull over and stop as soon as it is safe to do so. Then switch off your engine. It is an offence not to comply with their directions (see 'Signals by authorised persons').

[Law RTA1988, sects 35 &163 as amended by TMA 2004, sect 6]

Rule 109

**Traffic light signals and traffic signs.** You MUST obey all traffic light signals (see 'Light signals controlling traffic') and traffic signs giving orders, including temporary signals and signs (see 'Signs giving orders', 'Warning signs', 'Direction signs'). Make sure you know, understand and act on all other traffic and information signs and road markings (see 'Signs giving orders', 'Warning signs', 'Direction signs', 'Information signs', 'Road markings', and 'Vehicle markings').

[Laws RTA 1988 sect 36 & TSRGD regs 10, 15, 16, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 36, 38 & 40]



## Rule 110

**Flashing headlights.** Only flash your headlights to let other road users know that you are there. Do not flash your headlights to convey any other message or intimidate other road users.

## Rule 111

Never assume that flashing headlights is a signal inviting you to proceed. Use your own judgement and proceed carefully.

## Rule 112

**The horn.** Use only while your vehicle is moving and you need to warn other road users of your presence. Never sound your horn aggressively. You **MUST NOT** use your horn

- While stationary on the road
- When driving in a built-up area between the hours of 11.30 pm and 7.00 am

except when another road user poses a danger.

[Law CUR reg 99]

## Rule 113

You **MUST**

- Ensure all sidelights and rear registration plate lights are lit between sunset and sunrise
- Use headlights at night, except on a road which has lit street lighting. These roads are generally restricted to a speed limit of 30 mph (48 km/h) unless otherwise specified
- Use headlights when visibility is seriously reduced (see Rule 226)

Night (the hours of darkness) is defined as the period between half an hour after sunset and half an hour before sunrise).

[Laws RVLR regs 3, 24, & 25, (In Scotland - RTRA 1984 sect 82 (as amended by NRSWA, para 59 of sched 8))]

## Rule 114

You **MUST NOT**

- Use any lights in a way which would dazzle or cause discomfort to other road users, including pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders

- Use front or rear fog lights unless visibility is seriously reduced. You MUST switch them off when visibility improves to avoid dazzling other road users (see Rule 226)

In stationary queues of traffic, drivers should apply the parking brake and, once the following traffic has stopped, take their foot off the footbrake to deactivate the vehicle brake lights. This will minimise glare to road users behind until the traffic moves again.

[Law RVLR reg 27]

## Rule 115

You should also

- Use dipped headlights, or dim-dip if fitted, at night in built-up areas and in dull daytime weather, to ensure that you can be seen
- Keep your headlights dipped when overtaking until you are level with the other vehicle and then change to main beam if necessary, unless this would dazzle oncoming road users
- Slow down, and if necessary stop, if you are dazzled by oncoming headlights

## Rule 116

**Hazard warning lights.** These may be used when your vehicle is stationary, to warn that it is temporarily obstructing traffic. Never use them as an excuse for dangerous or illegal parking. You MUST NOT use hazard warning lights while driving or being towed unless you are on a motorway or unrestricted dual carriageway and you need to warn drivers behind you of a hazard or obstruction ahead. Only use them for long enough to ensure that your warning has been observed.

[Law RVLR reg 27]

## **Braking**

### Rule 117

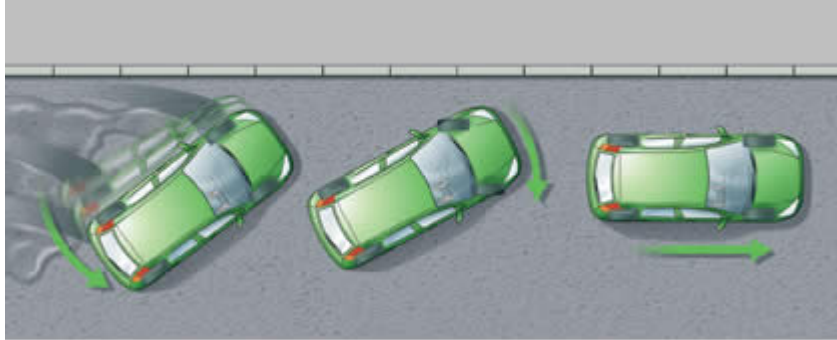
**In normal circumstances.** The safest way to brake is to do so early and lightly. Brake more firmly as you begin to stop. Ease the pressure off just before the vehicle comes to rest to avoid a jerky stop.

### Rule 118

**In an emergency.** Brake immediately. Try to avoid braking so harshly that you lock your wheels. Locked wheels can lead to loss of control.

### Rule 119

**Skids.** Skidding is usually caused by the driver braking, accelerating or steering too harshly or driving too fast for the road conditions. If skidding occurs, remove the cause by releasing the brake pedal fully or easing off the accelerator. Turn the steering wheel in the direction of the skid. For example, if the rear of the vehicle skids to the right, steer immediately to the right to recover.



#### Rule 120

**ABS.** If your vehicle is fitted with anti-lock brakes, you should follow the advice given in the vehicle handbook. However, in the case of an emergency, apply the footbrake firmly; do not release the pressure until the vehicle has slowed to the desired speed. The ABS should ensure that steering control will be retained, but do not assume that a vehicle with ABS will stop in a shorter distance.

#### Rule 121

**Brakes affected by water.** If you have driven through deep water your brakes may be less effective. Test them at the first safe opportunity by pushing gently on the brake pedal to make sure that they work. If they are not fully effective, gently apply light pressure while driving slowly. This will help to dry them out.

#### Rule 122

**Coasting.** This term describes a vehicle travelling in neutral or with the clutch pressed down. It can reduce driver control because

- Engine braking is eliminated
- Vehicle speed downhill will increase quickly
- Increased use of the footbrake can reduce its effectiveness
- Steering response will be affected, particularly on bends and corners
- It may be more difficult to select the appropriate gear when needed

#### Rule 123

**The Driver and the Environment.** You MUST NOT leave a parked vehicle unattended with the engine running or leave a vehicle engine running unnecessarily while that vehicle is stationary on a public road. Generally, if the vehicle is stationary and is likely to remain so

for more than a couple of minutes, you should apply the parking brake and switch off the engine to reduce emissions and noise pollution. However it is permissible to leave the engine running if the vehicle is stationary in traffic or for diagnosing faults.

[Law CUR regs 98 & 107]

Speed Limits	Built-up areas *	Single carriage-ways	Dual carriage-ways	Motorways
Type of vehicle	<b>mph</b> (km/h)	<b>mph</b> (km/h)	<b>mph</b> (km/h)	<b>mph</b> (km/h)
 Cars & Motorcycles (Including car-derived vans up to 2 Tonnes maximum laden weight)	30(48)	60(96)	70(112)	70(112)
 Cars towing caravans or trailers (Including car-derived vans and motorcycles)	30(48)	50(80)	60(96)	60(96)
 Buses, coaches and minibuses (not exceeding 12 metres in overall length)	30(48)	50(80)	60(96)	70(112)
 Goods vehicles (not exceeding 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight)	30(48)	50(80)	60(96)	70(112)
 Goods vehicles (exceeding 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight)	30(48)	40(64)	50(80)	60(96)

\* The 30 mph limit usually applies to all traffic on all roads with street lighting unless signs show otherwise.

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

## **Speed limits**

### Rule 124

You **MUST NOT** exceed the maximum speed limits for the road and for your vehicle (see the table in Rule 123). The presence of street lights generally means that there is a 30 mph (48 km/h) speed limit unless otherwise specified.

[Law RTRA sects 81, 86, 89 & sch 6]

### Rule 125

The speed limit is the absolute maximum and does not mean it is safe to drive at that speed irrespective of conditions. Driving at speeds too fast for the road and traffic conditions is dangerous. You should always reduce your speed when

- The road layout or condition presents hazards, such as bends
- Sharing the road with pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders, particularly children, and motorcyclists
- Weather conditions make it safer to do so
- Driving at night as it is more difficult to see other road users

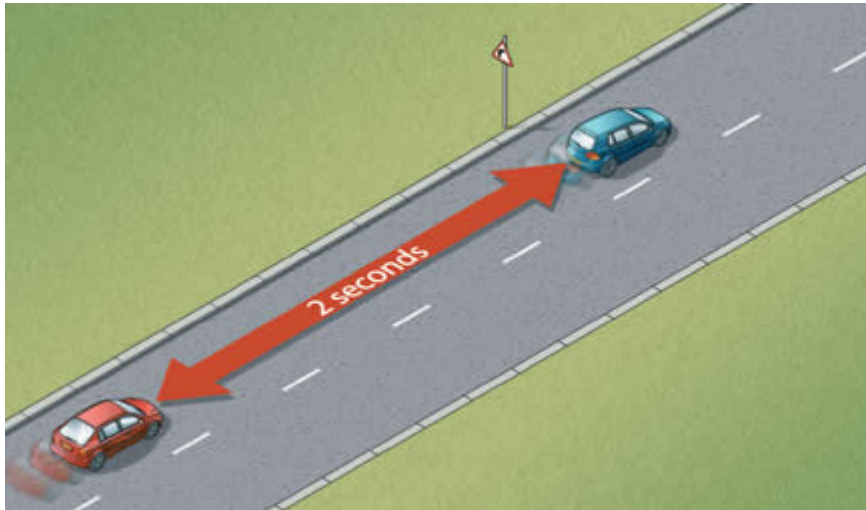
### Rule 126

#### [Typical Stopping Distances diagram](#)

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

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

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



#### Rule 127

**A broken white line.** This marks the centre of the road. When this line lengthens and the gaps shorten, it means that there is a hazard ahead. Do not cross it unless you can see the road is clear and wish to overtake or turn off.

#### Rule 128

**Double white lines where nearest line is broken.** This means you may cross the lines to overtake if it is safe, provided you can complete the manoeuvre before reaching a solid white line on your side. White direction arrows on the road indicate that you need to get back onto your side of the road.

#### Rule 129

**Double white lines where nearest line is solid.** This means you **MUST NOT** cross or straddle it unless it is safe and you need to enter adjoining premises or a side road. You may cross the line if necessary, provided the road is clear, to pass a stationary vehicle, or overtake a pedal cycle, horse or road maintenance vehicle, if they are travelling at 10 mph (16 km/h) or less.

[Laws RTA 1988 sect 36 & TSRGD regs 10 & 26]

#### Rule 130

**Areas of white diagonal stripes** or chevrons painted on the road. These are to separate traffic lanes or to protect traffic turning right.

- If the area is bordered by a broken white line, you should not enter the area unless it is necessary and you can see that it is safe to do so
- If the area is marked with chevrons and bordered by solid white lines you **MUST NOT** enter it except in an emergency

[Laws MT(E&W)R regs 5, 9, 10 & 16, MT(S)R regs 4, 8, 9 & 14, RTA sect 36 & TSRGD 10(1)]

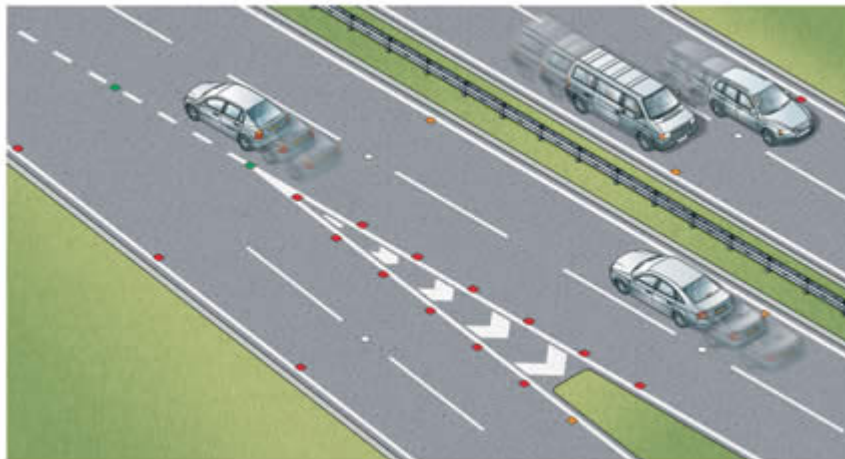
#### Rule 131

**Lane dividers.** These are short, broken white lines which are used on wide carriageways to divide them into lanes. You should keep between them.

#### Rule 132

**Reflective road studs** may be used with white lines.

- White studs mark the lanes or the middle of the road
- Red studs mark the left edge of the road
- Amber studs mark the central reservation of a dual carriageway or motorway
- Green studs mark the edge of the main carriageway at lay-bys and slip roads
- Green/yellow studs indicate temporary adjustments to lane layouts, e.g. where road works are taking place



#### Lane discipline

##### Rule 133

If you need to change lane, first use your mirrors and if necessary take a quick sideways glance to make sure you will not force another road user to change course or speed. When it is safe to do so, signal to indicate your intentions to other road users and when clear, move over.

##### Rule 134

You should follow the signs and road markings and get into the lane as directed. In congested road conditions do not change lanes unnecessarily. Merging in turn is recommended but only if safe and appropriate when vehicles are travelling at a very low speed, e.g. when approaching road works or a road traffic incident. It is not recommended at high speed.

## **Single carriageway**

### Rule 135

Where a single carriageway has three lanes and the road markings or signs do not give priority to traffic in either direction

- Use the middle lane only for overtaking or turning right. Remember, you have no more right to use the middle lane than a driver coming from the opposite direction
- Do not use the right-hand lane

## **Dual carriageways**

### Rule 136

Where a single carriageway has four or more lanes, use only the lanes that signs or markings indicate.

## **Dual carriageways**

A dual carriageway is a road which has a central reservation to separate the carriageways.

### Rule 137

On a two-lane dual carriageway you should stay in the left-hand lane. Use the right-hand lane for overtaking or turning right. After overtaking, move back to the left-hand lane when it is safe to do so.

### Rule 138

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

### Rule 139

**Climbing and crawler lanes.** These are provided on some hills. Use this lane if you are driving a slow-moving vehicle or if there are vehicles behind you wishing to overtake. Be aware of the signs and road markings which indicate the lane is about to end.

### Rule 140

**Cycle lanes.** These are shown by road markings and signs. You **MUST NOT** drive or park in a cycle lane marked by a solid white line during its times of operation. Do not drive or park in a cycle lane marked by a broken white line unless it is unavoidable. You **MUST NOT** park in any cycle lane whilst waiting restrictions apply.



[Law RTRA sects 5 & 8]

#### Rule 141

**Bus lanes.** These are shown by road markings and signs that indicate which (if any) other vehicles are permitted to use the bus lane. Unless otherwise indicated, you should not drive in a bus lane during its period of operation. You may enter a bus lane to stop, to load or unload where this is not prohibited.

#### Rule 142

High-occupancy vehicle lanes and other designated vehicle lanes. Lanes may be restricted for use by particular types of vehicle; these restrictions may apply some or all of the time. The operating times and vehicle types will be indicated on the accompanying traffic signs. You **MUST NOT** drive in such lanes during their times of operation unless signs indicate that your vehicle is permitted (see 'Information signs').

Vehicles permitted to use designated lanes may or may not include cycles, buses, taxis, licensed private hire vehicles, motorcycles, heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) and high-occupancy vehicles (HOVs).

Where HOV lanes are in operation, they **MUST ONLY** be used by

- Vehicles containing at least the minimum number of people indicated on the traffic signs
- Any other vehicles, such as buses and motorcycles, as indicated on signs prior to the start of the lane, irrespective of the number of occupants

[Laws RTRA sects 5 & 8, & RTA 1988, sect 36]

#### Rule 143

**One-way streets.** Traffic **MUST** travel in the direction indicated by signs. Buses and/or cycles may have a contraflow lane. Choose the correct lane for your exit as soon as you can. Do not change lanes suddenly. Unless road signs or markings indicate otherwise, you should use

- The left-hand lane when going left
- The right-hand lane when going right
- The most appropriate lane when going straight ahead. Remember - traffic could be passing on both sides

[Laws RTA 1988 sect 36 & RTRA sects 5 & 8]

#### Rule 144

You MUST NOT

- Drive dangerously
- Drive without due care and attention
- Drive without reasonable consideration for other road users

[Law RTA 1988 sects 2 & 3 as amended by RTA 1991]

Rule 145

You MUST NOT drive on or over a pavement, footpath or bridleway except to gain lawful access to property, or in the case of an emergency.

[Laws HA 1835 sect 72 & RTA 1988 sect 34]

Rule 146

**Adapt your driving** to the appropriate type and condition of road you are on. In particular

- Do not treat speed limits as a target. It is often not appropriate or safe to drive at the maximum speed limit
- Take the road and traffic conditions into account. Be prepared for unexpected or difficult situations, for example, the road being blocked beyond a blind bend. Be prepared to adjust your speed as a precaution
- Where there are junctions, be prepared for road users emerging
- In side roads and country lanes look out for unmarked junctions where nobody has priority
- Be prepared to stop at traffic control systems, road works, pedestrian crossings or traffic lights as necessary
- Try to anticipate what pedestrians and cyclists might do. If pedestrians, particularly children, are looking the other way, they may step out into the road without seeing you

Rule 147

**Be considerate.** Be careful of and considerate towards all types of road users, especially those requiring extra care (see Rule 204). You should

- Try to be understanding if other road users cause problems; they may be inexperienced or not know the area well
- Be patient; remember that anyone can make a mistake
- Not allow yourself to become agitated or involved if someone is behaving badly on the road. This will only make the situation worse. Pull over, calm down and, when you feel relaxed, continue your journey
- Slow down and hold back if a road user pulls out into your path at a junction. Allow them to get clear. Do not over-react by driving too close behind to intimidate them

- Not throw anything out of a vehicle, for example, cigarette ends, cans, paper or carrier bags. This can endanger other road users, particularly motorcyclists and cyclists

#### Rule 148

##### **Safe driving and riding needs concentration.**

Avoid distractions when driving or riding such as

- Loud music (this may mask other sounds)
- Trying to read maps
- Inserting a cassette or CD or tuning a radio
- Arguing with your passengers or other road users
- Eating and drinking
- Smoking

You **MUST NOT** smoke in public transport vehicles or in vehicles used for work purposes in certain prescribed circumstances. Separate regulations apply to England, Wales and Scotland.

[Laws TSf(EV) regs 2007, TSfP(W) regs 2007 & TPSCP(S) regs 2006]

##### **mobile phones and in-car technology**

#### Rule 149

You **MUST** exercise proper control of your vehicle at all times. You **MUST NOT** use a hand-held mobile phone, or similar device, when driving or when supervising a learner driver, except to call 999 or 112 in a genuine emergency when it is unsafe or impractical to stop. Never use a hand-held microphone when driving. Using hands-free equipment is also likely to distract your attention from the road. It is far safer not to use any telephone while you are driving or riding - find a safe place to stop first or use the voicemail facility and listen to messages later.

[Laws RTA 1988 sects 2 & 3 & CUR regs 104 & 110]

#### Rule 150

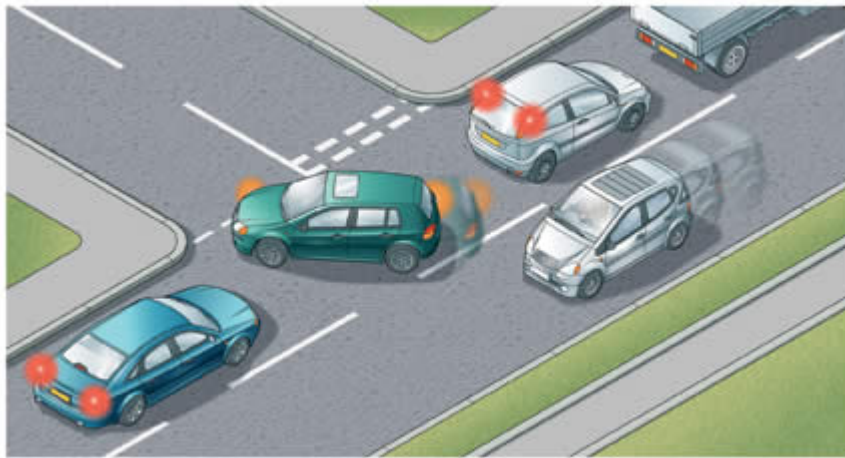
There is a danger of driver distraction being caused by in-vehicle systems such as satellite navigation systems, congestion warning systems, PCs, multi-media, etc. You **MUST** exercise proper control of your vehicle at all times. Do not rely on driver assistance systems such as cruise control or lane departure warnings. They are available to assist but you should not reduce your concentration levels. Do not be distracted by maps or screen-based information (such as navigation or vehicle management systems) while driving or riding. If necessary find a safe place to stop.

[Laws RTA 1988 sects 2 & 3 & CUR reg 104]

## Rule 151

### **In slow-moving traffic.** You should

- Reduce the distance between you and the vehicle ahead to maintain traffic flow
- Never get so close to the vehicle in front that you cannot stop safely
- Leave enough space to be able to manoeuvre if the vehicle in front breaks down or an emergency vehicle needs to get past
- Not change lanes to the left to overtake
- Allow access into and from side roads, as blocking these will add to congestion
- Be aware of cyclists and motorcyclists who may be passing on either side



### **Driving in built-up areas**

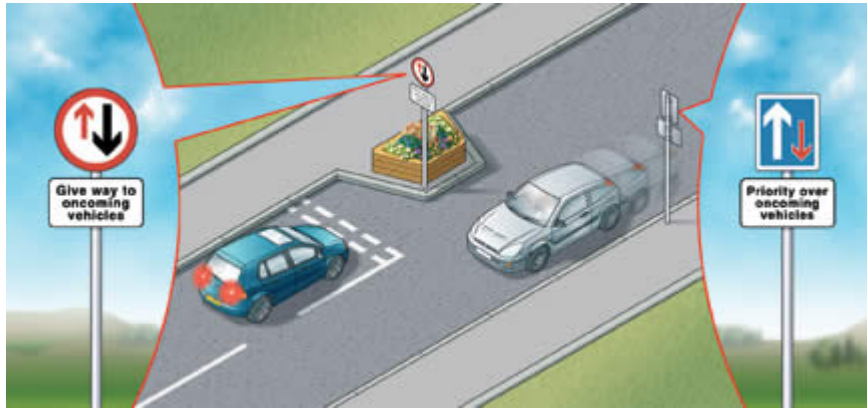
#### Rule 152

**Residential streets.** You should drive slowly and carefully on streets where there are likely to be pedestrians, cyclists and parked cars. In some areas a 20 mph (32 km/h) maximum speed limit may be in force. Look out for

- Vehicles emerging from junctions or driveways
- Vehicles moving off
- Car doors opening
- Pedestrians
- Children running out from between parked cars
- Cyclists and motorcyclists

#### Rule 153

**Traffic-calming measures.** On some roads there are features such as road humps, chicanes and narrowings which are intended to slow you down. When you approach these features reduce your speed. Allow cyclists and motorcyclists room to pass through them. Maintain a reduced speed along the whole of the stretch of road within the calming measures. Give way to oncoming road users if directed to do so by signs. You should not overtake other moving road users while in these areas.



## Contry roads

### Rule 154

Take extra care on country roads and reduce your speed at approaches to bends, which can be sharper than they appear, and at junctions and turnings, which may be partially hidden. Be prepared for pedestrians, horse riders, cyclists, slow-moving farm vehicles or mud on the road surface. Make sure you can stop within the distance you can see to be clear. You should also reduce your speed where country roads enter villages.

### Rule 155

**Single-track roads.** These are only wide enough for one vehicle. They may have special passing places. If you see a vehicle coming towards you, or the driver behind wants to overtake, pull into a passing place on your left, or wait opposite a passing place on your right. Give way to vehicles coming uphill whenever you can. If necessary, reverse until you reach a passing place to let the other vehicle pass. Slow down when passing pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

### Rule 156

Do not park in passing places.

## Vehicles prohibited from using roads and pavements

### Rule 157

Certain motorised vehicles do not meet the construction and technical requirements for road vehicles and are generally not intended, not suitable and not legal for road, pavement, footpath, cycle path or bridleway use. These include most types of miniature motorcycles, also called mini motos, and motorised scooters, also called go peds, which are powered by electric or internal combustion engines. These types of vehicle **MUST NOT** be used on roads, pavements, footpaths or bridleways.

[Laws RTA 1988 sects 34, 41a, 42, 47, 63 & 66, HA 1835, sect 72, & R(S)A sect 129]

## Rule 158

Certain models of motorcycles, motor tricycles and quadricycles, also called quad bikes, are suitable only for off-road use and do not meet legal standards for use on roads. Vehicles that do not meet these standards **MUST NOT** be used on roads. They **MUST NOT** be used on pavements, footpaths, cycle paths or bridleways either. You **MUST** make sure that any motorcycle, motor tricycle, quadricycle or any other motor vehicle meets legal standards and is properly registered, taxed and insured before using it on the roads. Even when registered, taxed and insured for the road, vehicles **MUST NOT** be used on pavements.

[Laws RTA 1988 sects 34, 41a, 42, 47, 63, 66 & 156, HA 1835, sect 72, R(S)A sect 129, & VERA Ss 1, 29, 31A, & 43A]

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

[Laws HA 1980 sects 16, 17 & sch 4, MT(E&W)R regs 3(d), 4 & 11, MT(E&W)(A)R, R(S)A sects 7, 8 & sch 3, RTRA sects 17(2) & (3), & MT(S)R reg 10]

## Rule 254

Traffic on motorways usually travels faster than on other roads, so you have less time to react. It is especially important to use your mirrors earlier and look much further ahead than you would on other roads.

### **Motorway signals**

#### Rule 255

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

#### Rule 256

Signals situated on the central reservation apply to all lanes. On very busy stretches, signals may be overhead with a separate signal for each lane.

#### Rule 257

**Amber flashing lights.** These warn of a hazard ahead. The signal may show a temporary maximum speed limit, lanes that are closed or a message such as 'Fog'. Adjust your speed and

look out for the danger until you pass a signal which is not flashing or one that gives the 'All clear' sign and you are sure it is safe to increase your speed.

#### Rule 258

**Red flashing lights.** If red lights on the overhead signals flash above your lane and a red 'X' is showing, you **MUST NOT** go beyond the signal in that lane. If red lights flash on a signal in the central reservation or at the side of the road, you **MUST NOT** go beyond the signal in any lane.

[Laws RTA 1988 sect 36 & TSRGD regs 10 & 38]

#### Rule 259

**Joining the motorway.** When you join the motorway you will normally approach it from a road on the left (a slip road) or from an adjoining motorway. You should

- Give priority to traffic already on the motorway
- Check the traffic on the motorway and match your speed to fit safely into the traffic flow in the left-hand lane
- Not cross solid white lines that separate lanes or use the hard shoulder
- Stay on the slip road if it continues as an extra lane on the motorway
- Remain in the left-hand lane long enough to adjust to the speed of traffic before considering overtaking

#### **On the motorway**

##### Rule 260

When you can see well ahead and the road conditions are good, you should

- Drive at a steady cruising speed which you and your vehicle can handle safely and is within the speed limit (see Rule 124)
- Keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front and increase the gap on wet or icy roads, or in fog (see Rules 126 and 235)

##### Rule 261

You **MUST NOT** exceed 70 mph (112 km/h), or the maximum speed limit permitted for your vehicle (see Rule 124). If a lower speed limit is in force, either permanently or temporarily, at road works for example, you **MUST NOT** exceed the lower limit. On some motorways, mandatory motorway signals (which display the speed within a red ring) are used to vary the maximum speed limit to improve traffic flow. You **MUST NOT** exceed this speed limit.

[Law RTRA sects 17, 86, 89 & sch 6]

## Rule 262

The monotony of driving on a motorway can make you feel sleepy. To minimise the risk, follow the advice in Rule 91.

## Rule 263

You **MUST NOT** reverse, cross the central reservation, or drive against the traffic flow. If you have missed your exit, or have taken the wrong route, carry on to the next exit.

[Laws MT(E&W)R regs 6, 8 & 10 & MT(S)R regs 4, 5, 7 & 9]

## **Lane discipline**

### Rule 264

You should always drive in the left-hand lane when the road ahead is clear. If you are overtaking a number of slower-moving vehicles, you should return to the left-hand lane as soon as you are safely past. Slow-moving or speed-restricted vehicles should always remain in the left-hand lane of the carriageway unless overtaking. You **MUST NOT** drive on the hard shoulder except in an emergency or if directed to do so by the police, HA traffic officers in uniform or by signs.

[Laws MT(E&W)R regs 5, 9 & 16(1)(a), MT(S)R regs 4, 8 & 14(1)(a), and RTA 1988, sects 35 & 186, as amended by TMA 2004 sect 6]

### Rule 265

The right-hand lane of a motorway with three or more lanes **MUST NOT** be used (except in prescribed circumstances) if you are driving

- Any vehicle drawing a trailer
- A goods vehicle with a maximum laden weight exceeding 3.5 tonnes but not exceeding 7.5 tonnes, which is required to be fitted with a speed limiter
- A goods vehicle with a maximum laden weight exceeding 7.5 tonnes
- A passenger vehicle with a maximum laden weight exceeding 7.5 tonnes constructed or adapted to carry more than eight seated passengers in addition to the driver
- A passenger vehicle with a maximum laden weight not exceeding 7.5 tonnes which is constructed or adapted to carry more than eight seated passengers in addition to the driver, which is required to be fitted with a speed limiter

[Laws MT(E&W)R reg 12, MT(E&W)AR (2004), MT(S)R reg 11 & MT(S)AR (2004)]

### Rule 266



**Approaching a junction.** Look well ahead for signals or signs. Direction signs may be placed over the road. If you need to change lanes, do so in good time. At some junctions a lane may lead directly off the motorway. Only get in that lane if you wish to go in the direction indicated on the overhead signs.

## **Overtaking**

### Rule 267

Do not overtake unless you are sure it is safe and legal to do so. Overtake only on the right. You should

- Check your mirrors
- Take time to judge the speeds correctly
- Make sure that the lane you will be joining is sufficiently clear ahead and behind
- Take a quick sideways glance into the blind spot area to verify the position of a vehicle that may have disappeared from your view in the mirror
- Remember that traffic may be coming up behind you very quickly. Check all your mirrors carefully. Look out for motorcyclists. When it is safe to do so, signal in plenty of time, then move out
- Ensure you do not cut in on the vehicle you have overtaken
- Be especially careful at night and in poor visibility when it is harder to judge speed and distance

### Rule 268

Do not overtake on the left or move to a lane on your left to overtake. In congested conditions, where adjacent lanes of traffic are moving at similar speeds, traffic in left-hand lanes may sometimes be moving faster than traffic to the right. In these conditions you may keep up with the traffic in your lane even if this means passing traffic in the lane to your right. Do not weave in and out of lanes to overtake.

### Rule 269

**Hard shoulder.** You MUST NOT use the hard shoulder for overtaking. In areas where an Active Traffic Management (ATM) Scheme is in force, the hard shoulder may be used as a running lane. You will know when you can use this because a speed limit sign will be shown above all open lanes, including the hard shoulder. A red cross or blank sign above the hard shoulder means that you MUST NOT drive on the hard shoulder except in an emergency or breakdown. Emergency refuge areas have also been built into these areas for use in cases of emergency or breakdown.

[Laws MT(E&W)R regs 5, 5A & 9, MT(S)R regs 4 & 8]



## **Stopping**

### Rule 270

You **MUST NOT** stop on the carriageway, hard shoulder, slip road, central reservation or verge except in an emergency, or when told to do so by the police, HA traffic officers in uniform, an emergency sign or by flashing red light signals. Do not stop on the hard shoulder to either make or receive mobile phone calls.

[Laws MT(E&W)R regs 5A, 7, 9, 10 & 16, MT(S)R regs 6(1), 8, 9 & 14, PRA 2002 sect 41 & sched 5(8), & RTA 1988 sects 35 & 163 as amended by TMA 2004, sect 6]

### Rule 271

You **MUST NOT** pick up or set down anyone, or walk on a motorway, except in an emergency.

[Laws RTRA sect 17 & MT(E&W)R reg 15]

## **Leavin the motorway**

### Rule 272

Unless signs indicate that a lane leads directly off the motorway, you will normally leave the motorway by a slip road on your left. You should

- Watch for the signs letting you know you are getting near your exit
- Move into the left-hand lane well before reaching your exit
- Signal left in good time and reduce your speed on the slip road as necessary

### Rule 273

On leaving the motorway or using a link road between motorways, your speed may be higher than you realise - 50 mph may feel like 30 mph. Check your speedometer and adjust your speed accordingly. Some slip-roads and link roads have sharp bends, so you will need to slow down.

If your vehicle breaks down, think first of all other road users and

- Get your vehicle off the road if possible
- Warn other traffic by using your hazard warning lights if your vehicle is causing an obstruction
- Help other road users see you by wearing light-coloured or fluorescent clothing in daylight and reflective clothing at night or in poor visibility
- Put a warning triangle on the road at least 45 metres (147 feet) behind your broken-down vehicle on the same side of the road, or use other permitted warning devices if you have them. Always take great care when placing or retrieving them, but never use them on motorways
- If possible, keep your sidelights on if it is dark or visibility is poor
- Do not stand (or let anybody else stand) between your vehicle and oncoming traffic
- At night or in poor visibility do not stand where you will prevent other road users seeing your lights

### **Additional rules for the motorway**

#### **Rule 275**

If your vehicle develops a problem, leave the motorway at the next exit or pull into a service area. If you cannot do so, you should

- Pull on to the hard shoulder and stop as far to the left as possible, with your wheels turned to the left
- Try to stop near an emergency telephone (situated at approximately one-mile intervals along the hard shoulder)
- Leave the vehicle by the left-hand door and ensure your passengers do the same. You **MUST** leave any animals in the vehicle or, in an emergency, keep them under proper control on the verge. Never attempt to place a warning triangle on a motorway
- Do not put yourself in danger by attempting even simple repairs
- Ensure that passengers keep away from the carriageway and hard shoulder, and that children are kept under control



- Walk to an emergency telephone on your side of the carriageway (follow the arrows on the posts at the back of the hard shoulder) - the telephone is free of charge and connects directly to the Highways Agency or the police. Use these in preference to a mobile phone (see Rule 283). Always face the traffic when you speak on the phone
- Give full details to the Highways Agency or the police; also inform them if you are a vulnerable motorist such as disabled, older or travelling alone
- Return and wait near your vehicle (well away from the carriageway and hard shoulder)
- If you feel at risk from another person, return to your vehicle by a left-hand door and lock all doors. Leave your vehicle again as soon as you feel this danger has passed

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

#### Rule 276

Before you rejoin the carriageway after a breakdown, build up speed on the hard shoulder and watch for a safe gap in the traffic. Be aware that other vehicles may be stationary on the hard shoulder.

#### Rule 277

If you cannot get your vehicle onto the hard shoulder

- Do not attempt to place any warning device on the carriageway
- Switch on your hazard warning lights
- Leave your vehicle only when you can safely get clear of the carriageway

#### Rule 278

**Disabled drivers.** If you have a disability which prevents you from following the above advice you should

- Stay in your vehicle
- Switch on your hazard warning lights
- Display a 'Help' pennant or, if you have a car or mobile telephone, contact the emergency services and be prepared to advise them of your location

#### Rule 279

If anything falls from your vehicle (or any other vehicle) on to the road, stop and retrieve it only if it is safe to do so.

#### Rule 280

**Motorways.** On a motorway do not try to remove the obstruction yourself. Stop at the next emergency telephone and call the Highways Agency or the police.

#### Rule 281

**Warning signs or flashing lights.** If you see or hear emergency or incident support vehicles in the distance, be aware there may be an incident ahead (see Rule 219). Police Officers and Highways Agency Traffic Officers may be required to work in the carriageway, for example dealing with debris, collisions or conducting rolling road blocks. Police officers will use rear-facing flashing red and blue lights and HA Traffic Officers will use rear-facing flashing red and amber lights in these situations. Watch out for such signals, slow down and be prepared to stop. You **MUST** follow any directions given by Police officers or Traffic officers as to whether you can safely pass the incident or blockage.

[Laws RTA1988, sects 35 &163, and as amended by TMA 2004, sect 6]

#### Rule 282

When passing the scene of an incident or crash do not be distracted or slow down unnecessarily (for example if an incident is on the other side of a dual carriageway). This may cause a collision or traffic congestion, but see Rule 283.

#### Rule 283

If you are involved in a crash or stop to give assistance

- Use your hazard warning lights to warn other traffic
- Ask drivers to switch off their engines and stop smoking
- Arrange for the emergency services to be called immediately with full details of the incident location and any casualties (on a motorway, use the emergency telephone

which allows easy location by the emergency services. If you use a mobile phone, first make sure you have identified your location from the marker posts on the side of the hard shoulder)

- Move uninjured people away from the vehicles to safety; on a motorway this should, if possible, be well away from the traffic, the hard shoulder and the central reservation
- Do not move injured people from their vehicles unless they are in immediate danger from fire or explosion
- Do not remove a motorcyclist's helmet unless it is essential to do so
- Be prepared to give first aid as shown in Annex 7 - 'First aid on the road'
- Stay at the scene until emergency services arrive

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

### **Incidents involving dangerous goods**

#### **Rule 284**

Vehicles carrying dangerous goods in packages will be marked with plain orange reflective plates. Road tankers and vehicles carrying tank containers of dangerous goods will have hazard warning plates (see 'Vehicle markings').

#### **Rule 285**

If an incident involves a vehicle containing dangerous goods, follow the advice in Rule 283 and, in particular

- Switch off engines and **DO NOT SMOKE**
- Keep well away from the vehicle and do not be tempted to try to rescue casualties as you yourself could become one
- Call the emergency services and give as much information as possible about the labels and markings on the vehicle. **DO NOT** use a mobile phone close to a vehicle carrying flammable loads

### **Documentation**

#### **Rule 286**

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

- Stop
- Give your own and the vehicle owner's name and address, and the registration number of the vehicle, to anyone having reasonable grounds for requiring them
- If you do not give your name and address at the time of the collision, report it to the police as soon as reasonably practicable, and in any case within 24 hours

[Law RTA 1988 sect 170]

## Rule 287

If another person is injured and you do not produce your insurance certificate at the time of the crash to a police officer or to anyone having reasonable grounds to request it, you **MUST**

- Report it to the police as soon as possible and in any case within 24 hours
- Produce your insurance certificate for the police within seven days

[Law RTA 1988 sect 170]