



**PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF  
SRI LANKA**

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**MOTOR TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT)  
ACT, No. 10 OF 2019**

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**[Certified on 20th of June, 2019]**

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[Certified on 20th of June, 2019]*

L.D.—O. 53/2017

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE MOTOR TRAFFIC ACT (CHAPTER 203)**

BE it enacted by the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic  
of Sri Lanka as follows:-

**1.** This Act may be cited as the Motor Traffic Short title. (Amendment)  
Act, No. 10 of 2019.

**2.** Section 123 of the Motor Traffic Act (Chapter 203) Amendment of  
(hereinafter referred to as the “principal enactment”) is hereby section 123 of  
Chapter 203.  
amended as follows:—

(1) in subsection (1) of that section-

- (a) in paragraph (a) thereof, by the deletion of the  
word “and”, appearing at the end of that  
paragraph;
- (b) in paragraph (b) thereof, by the insertion of the  
word “and”, at the end of that paragraph;
- (c) by the addition immediately after paragraph  
(b) thereof, of the following new paragraph:-

“(c) no person shall drive a light vehicle on  
a road unless he has completed the age  
of eighteen years and shall not drive a  
heavy vehicle on a road unless he has  
completed the age of twenty-one  
years.”.

(2) in subsection (5) of that section-

- (a) by the repeal, in paragraph (a) thereof, of all the words from “to a fine not less than three thousand rupees” to the end of that paragraph and the substitution therefor of the following words:—

“to a fine not less than twenty five thousand rupees and not exceeding thirty thousand rupees and on a second or subsequent conviction to a fine not less than thirty thousand rupees and not exceeding fifty thousand rupees.”;

- (b) by the repeal, in paragraph (b) thereof, of all the words from “to a fine not less than four thousand rupees” to the end of that paragraph and the substitution therefor of the following words:—

“to a fine not less than twenty five thousand rupees and not exceeding thirty thousand rupees and on a second or subsequent conviction to a fine not less than thirty thousand rupees and not exceeding fifty thousand rupees.”;

- (c) by the addition immediately after paragraph (b) thereof, of the following new paragraph which shall have the effect as paragraph (c) thereof:-

“(c) A person who contravenes the provisions of paragraph (c) of subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction be liable to a fine not less than thirty thousand rupees and not exceeding

forty thousand rupees and on a second or subsequent conviction to a fine not less than forty thousand rupees and not exceeding fifty thousand rupees.”.

3. The following new section is hereby inserted immediately after section 141 of the principal enactment and shall have effect as section 141A of the that enactment:—

Insertion of new section 141A in the principal enactment.

“Penalty for driving at an excessive speed. 141A. (1) Any person who contravenes the provisions of sections 140, 141 and 142 or any regulation made thereunder shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction be liable, where the speed is -

- (a) in excess of the prescribed speed limit up to twenty *per centum*, to a fine not less than three thousand rupees and not exceeding five thousand rupees;
- (b) in excess of twenty *per centum* and less than thirty *per centum* of the prescribed speed limit, to a fine not less than five thousand rupees and not exceeding ten thousand rupees;
- (c) in excess of thirty *per centum* and less than fifty *per centum* of the prescribed speed limit, to a fine not less than ten thousand rupees and not exceeding fifteen thousand rupees;
- (d) and  
in excess of fifty *per centum* of the prescribed speed limit, to a fine not less than fifteen thousand rupees and

not exceeding twenty five thousand rupees.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), any person who contravenes the provisions of sections 140, 141 and 142 shall also be liable to on the spot fines as may be prescribed under section 215A.”.

Insertion of new  
section 148A of the

**4.** The following new section is hereby inserted immediately after section 148 of the principal enactment and shall have effect as section 148A of that enactment:-

principal  
enactment.

“Precautions in  
crossing a  
railway.

148A. (1) No person shall drive a motor  
vehicle on or across a railway crossing—

- (i) when the railway gate is closed;
- (ii) disregarding the railway signal  
system; or
- (iii) without obeying directions of an  
authorized officer,

to likely endanger one’s own safety or that of  
any other person.

(2) A person who contravenes the  
provisions of subsection (1) shall be guilty of  
an offence and shall on conviction be liable to  
a fine not less than twenty five thousand  
rupees and not exceeding thirty thousand  
rupees and on a second conviction to a fine  
not less than thirty thousand rupees and not  
exceeding forty thousand rupees and the  
suspension of his driving licence for a period  
of not exceeding six months, and on a third  
or subsequent conviction to a fine not less  
than forty thousand rupees and not exceeding  
fifty thousand rupees and the suspension of  
his driving licence for a period not exceeding  
twelve months.”.

Insertion of new  
section 152A in the  
principal  
enactment.

5. The following new section is hereby inserted  
immediately after section 152 of the principal enactment  
and shall have effect as section 152A of that enactment:—

“Prohibit the 152A. (1) No person shall use a telephone, <sup>use of</sup>  
mobile phone or any other movable mobile  
phone etc. communication equipment when driving a <sup>while</sup>  
motor vehicle on a road. driving.

(2) A person who contravenes subsection  
(1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall on  
conviction be liable to the penalty specified in

section 224 and also be liable to the amount prescribed for on the spot fines under section 215A.”.

6. Section 196 of the principal enactment is hereby amended in subsection (5) thereof by the addition, immediately after the proviso to paragraph (b) of that subsection of the following paragraph:-

Amendment of section 196 of the principal enactment.

“(c) a person who contravenes the provisions of this subsection shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction be liable to the penalty specified in section 224 and also be liable to the amount prescribed for on the spot fines under section 215A.”.

Amendment of section 216 of the principal enactment.

7. Section 216 of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the repeal of all the words from “to a fine not less than three thousand five hundred rupees” to the end of that section and the substitution of the words “to a fine not less than twenty five thousand rupees and not exceeding thirty thousand rupees or to imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding three months or to both such fine and imprisonment and to the suspension of his driving licence for a period not exceeding twelve months.”.

Amendment of section 216A of the principal enactment.

8. Section 216A of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the repeal of all the words from “to a fine not less than four thousand rupees” to the end of that section and the substitution of the words “to a fine not less than twenty five thousand rupees and not exceeding thirty thousand rupees or to imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding six months or to both such fine and imprisonment and the cancellation of his driving licence.”.

Amendment of section 216B of the principal enactment.

9. Section 216B of the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows:-

“(a) by the repeal, in paragraph (a) thereof, of all the words from “to imprisonment of either description for a term not less than two years” to the end of that paragraph and the substitution of the words “to a fine not less than one hundred thousand rupees and not exceeding one hundred and fifty thousand

rupees or to imprisonment of either description for a term not less than two years and not exceeding ten years or to both such fine and imprisonment and to the cancellation of the diving licence”; and

(b) by the repeal of paragraph (b) thereof and the substitution therefor of the following paragraphs:—

“(b) where he causes—

- (i) hurt to any person, to a fine not less than thirty thousand rupees and not exceeding fifty thousand rupees or to imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding one year or to both such fine and imprisonment and to the cancellation of his driving licence; or
- (ii) grievous injury to any person, to a fine not less than fifty thousand rupees and not exceeding one hundred thousand rupees or to imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding five years or to both such fine and imprisonment and to the cancellation of his driving licence.”.

Amendment of  
section 217 of  
the principal  
enactment.

**10.** Section 217 of the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows:—

- (1) in subsection (1) of that section by the repeal of all the words from “to a fine not less than one thousand five hundred rupees” to the end of that subsection

and the substitution of the words “to a fine not less than ten thousand rupees and not exceeding twenty five thousand rupees, and on a second conviction to a fine not less than fifteen thousand rupees and not



exceeding thirty thousand rupees, and the suspension of his driving licence, and on a third or subsequent conviction, to a fine not less than twenty thousand rupees and not exceeding forty thousand rupees or to rigorous imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both such fine and imprisonment and the cancellation of his driving licence.”; and

- (2) in subsection (2) of that section by the repeal of all the words from “to a fine not less than one thousand five hundred rupees” to the end of that subsection and the substitution of the words “to a fine not less than ten thousand rupees and not exceeding twenty five thousand rupees, and on a second conviction to a fine not less than fifteen thousand rupees and not exceeding thirty thousand rupees and on a third or subsequent conviction, to a fine not less than twenty thousand rupees and not exceeding forty thousand rupees and the suspension of his driving licence for a period of six months”.

**11.** Section 218 of the principal enactment is hereby repealed and the following section substituted therefor:—

Replacement of  
 section 218 of  
 the principal  
 enactment.

“Penalty for 218. A person who contravenes the driving provisions of section 99 shall be guilty of an offence without certificate of offence and shall on conviction be liable to a fine not less than twenty five thousand rupees and not exceeding fifty thousand rupees or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month or to both such fine and imprisonment.”.

Amendment of  
section 224 of  
the principal  
enactment.

**12.** Section 224 of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the repeal of all the words from “to a fine not less than two thousand five hundred rupees” to the end of that section and the substitution of the words “to a fine not less than two thousand five hundred rupees and not exceeding seven thousand five hundred rupees, and on a second conviction to a fine not less than seven thousand five hundred rupees and not exceeding fifteen thousand rupees, and on a third or subsequent conviction to a fine not less than fifteen thousand rupees and not exceeding twenty five thousand rupees.”.

Amendment of the  
Second Schedule to  
the principal  
enactment.

**13.** The Second Schedule to the principal enactment, is hereby amended as follows:—

(1) by the repeal of item 10 thereof and the substitution therefor of the following item:—

“

	Section	Provision
10.	140, 141 and 142	- <i>Non-compliance with speed limits</i>
	141 A(1)(a)	- <i>In excess of the speed limit prescribed up to twenty per centum</i>
	141 A(1)(b)	- <i>In excess of twenty per centum and less than thirty per centum of the speed limit prescribed</i>
	141 A(1)(c)	- <i>In excess of thirty per centum and less than fifty per centum of the speed limit prescribed</i>
	141 A(1)(d)	- <i>In excess of fifty per centum of the speed limit prescribed</i>

”;

(2) by the addition immediately after item 12 thereof, of the following new item which shall have the effect as item 12(a):—

“

	Section	Provision
12a.	152A	Use of mobile phones while driving

”.

**14.** In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala text to Sinhala and Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall prevail in case of inconsistency.

## Fine details

Driving without a license

First occasion - Rs 25,000

Second occasion Rs 30,000

Employing a driver without a licence

First occasion - Rs 25,000 - Rs 30,000

Second occasion - Rs 30,000 - Rs 50,000

Driving under the influence of liquor / narcotics

Rs 25,000 - Rs 30,000 or

An imprisonment term not more than three months

Suspension of the driving license for not more than an year

Transporting passengers for hire while being under the influence of liquor

Rs 25,000 - Rs 30,000

Imprisonment upto six months

Cancellation of the driving license

Causing injuries / death to a person while driving under the influence of liquor;

In case of death;

A fine of Rs 100,000 - Rs 150,000 and / or

Imprisonment between 2-10 years and

Cancellation of the driving licence

In case of causing serious injuries to a person;

A fine of Rs 50,000 - Rs 100,000 and / or

Imprisonment of of not more than five years and

Cancellation of the driving license

In case of causing minor injuries to a person;

A fine of Rs 30,000 - Rs 50,000 and / or

Imprisonment of not more than one year and

Cancellation of the driving license

Driving through railway crossings in a haphazard manner

First occasion - Rs 25,000 - Rs 30,000  
Second occasion - Rs 25,000 - Rs 40,000  
Third occasion - Rs 40,000 - Rs 50,000  
Suspension of the driving license upto 12 months  
Driving without a valid insurance cover

Rs 25,000 - Rs 50,000 and / or  
Imprisonment of not more than one month  
Speeding

Rs 1000 - Rs 2000  
Rs 2000 - Rs 3000  
Rs 3500 - Rs 5000  
Driving 20 percent more than the maximum speed limit

Rs 3000 - Rs 5000  
Spot fine of Rs 3000  
Driving between 20 percent to 30 percent more the maximum speed limit

Rs 5000 - Rs 10,000  
Spot fine of Rs 5000  
Driving between 30 percent to 50 percent more the maximum speed limit

Rs 10,000 - Rs 15,000  
Spot fine of Rs 10,000  
Driving more than 50 percent of the maximum speed limit

Rs 15,000 - Rs 25,000  
Spot fine of Rs 15,000  
Overtaking from the left side / breaching road rules

Rs 2500 - Rs 3500  
Rs 3500 - Rs 5000  
Rs 5000 - Rs 25,000  
Spot fine of Rs 2000