

**ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
ROAD SAFETY AND TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**



ରାଜ୍ୟ ସୁଧାରଣା କାନ୍ତିକାଳ ନିୟମାବଳୀ ୨୦୨୧ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନିକ
**ROAD SAFETY AND TRANSPORT REGULATIONS
2021**

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2021

FOREWORD

Pursuant to the powers granted by the Road Safety and Transport Act of Bhutan 1999, the Ministry of Information and Communications hereby adopts the Road Safety and Transport Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2021. Upon enactment of this Regulations, the Road Safety and Transport Regulations 1999 and any other legal instruments that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Regulations is hereby repealed.

With the rapid change in road transport environment and increase in vehicular population over the years, the need to enhance road safety has become inevitable. The existing Regulations 1999 is inadequate to cater to emerging needs and changing road transport scenarios in the country. Hence, the revision exercise has been carried out to repeal the existing Regulations and come up with a new set of byelaw.

This Regulations establish a system to provide for the safe, reliable, efficient, inclusive and environment friendly road transport system in the Kingdom of Bhutan and to ensure the highest standard of safety of passenger transport. It shall also provide a framework for registration and renewal of motor vehicles, licensing of drivers, emission testing, vehicle roadworthiness, vehicle ownership transfer, and/or any other services associated or incidental to the motor vehicle and its drivers.

This Regulations is the outcome of several consultative meetings carried out with relevant agencies. The draft copy of the Regulations has been uploaded in the webpage of RSTA to seek comments/feedback/suggestions from the public.

Tashi Delek



Karma Donen Wangdi
(MINISTER)

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DEFINITIONS

1. **Act:** means the Road Safety and Transport Act of Bhutan 1999.
2. **Alcohol Testing Device:** means a device used by the authorized person or traffic police to establish a person's blood alcohol concentration by analysing his or her breath.
3. **Armed force:** means Royal Bhutan Army, Royal Body Guard and Royal Bhutan Police.
4. **Authority:** means the Road Safety and Transport Authority.
5. **Authority Vehicle:** means a motor vehicle registered in the name of the Authority and driven by a driver/officer of the Authority.
6. **Authorized Person:** means and include a person authorized by the Authority to enforce the provisions of the Act and Regulations.
7. **Built-up area:** means a road within the core city/town area along which there is residential development.
8. **Carriage way marking:** means the road markings drawn on a motor able roads.
9. **Commercial goods vehicle:** means a motor vehicle used for carrying goods for hire.
10. **Commercial vehicle:** means a motor vehicle carrying goods or fare-paying passengers.
11. **Conductor:** means a person who assists a driver in issuing tickets and collecting fares from a passenger on a commercial passenger vehicle.
12. **Conductor Certificate:** means a certificate issued to a person by the Authority authorizing to work as conductor of a commercial passenger vehicle.
13. **Driver Certificate:** means a certificate issued to a person by the Authority authorizing to drive a commercial passenger vehicle.
14. **Emission Stickers:** means a sticker issued after a vehicle is tested for emission levels, certifying its acceptable level of emission.
15. **Emission:** means products of combustions discharged into the atmosphere from the tailpipe of motor vehicle engine.
16. **Emission Standard:** means a standard of permissible smoke level that could be emitted by a vehicle as per the standard set by the National Environment Commission.
17. **Emission Failed Motor Vehicle:** means any motor vehicle which fails to comply with applicable emission standard during the initial test or any retest.
18. **Emergency Vehicle:** means:
 - 1) An ambulance;
 - 2) A fire-fighting vehicle;
 - 3) An army vehicle;
 - 4) A police vehicle and a vehicle belonging to the Authority, mandated to carry out duties under this Regulations; and
 - 5) Any other vehicle designated to carry out emergency services
19. **Experienced driver:** means a person who holds a valid licence for at least three years or more to drive the category of motor vehicle being driven by the learner driver.

20. **Fixed weighing device:** means mechanical or electronic/electrical device, which is fixed on the ground, used for measuring the weight of the motor vehicle or luggage.
21. **Goods vehicle permit:** means an authorisation to operate commercial goods vehicles.
22. **Inspection authorization card:** means a card issued by the Authority to a person, authorizing to inspect a motor vehicle at any given time.
23. **Ministry:** means the Ministry of Information and Communications.
24. **Motor Vehicle:** means a motor vehicle including two wheeler which has its own motive power not involving human or animal power.
25. **Obscene letter and Graffiti:** means any letters or graffiti which portrays or describes offensive or disgusting message which is not accepted by the standards of morality and decency.
26. **Object marking:** means the traffic signs and markings drawn on any objects such as milestone post, bridges, sign posts, walls etc.
27. **Passenger bus:** means a motor vehicle with 13 and more seating capacity including commercial passenger vehicle in contract with the Authority, and tourist, school, institutional and other bus.
28. **Pedestrian Crossing:** means a part of the road that is marked with white stripes approximately parallel with the centre of the road and extends from one side of the road to the other.
29. **Permit:** means an authorization issued by the Authority to operate commercial vehicle including passenger buses.
30. **Permit holder:** means a person holding a permit to operate a commercial passenger vehicle in the country.
31. **Pollution Under Control Certificate:** means a certificate issued by the authorized emission testing agent after conducting an auto emission test on a vehicle, showing the printed result of the emission test.
32. **Police vehicle:** means a motor vehicle driven by the Police official while on duty.
33. **Portable Weighing Device:** means a portable mechanical or electrical device used for measuring the weight of a motor vehicle or luggage.
34. **Privileged person:** means a person with the special advantage or right possessed to purchase or own a motor vehicle.
35. **Professional and managerial level:** shall mean and include a position same or above professional and managerial post as may be defined in the Bhutan Civil Service Rules and Regulations.
36. **Public Transport:** means a motor vehicle used for carrying fare-paying passengers such as taxis and buses.
37. **Recreational vehicle:** means and includes a motor vehicle type primarily designed for recreational camping or travel use and has its own motive power.

38. **Road:** means and includes a motorway, street, passage to which the public have right of way, including bridges, tunnels and road infrastructure.
39. **Roundabout:** means an intersection that is laid out for the movement of traffic in one direction around a central island.
40. **Stop line:** means an unbroken line that is marked across the whole or part of a road.
41. **Taxi:** means a motor vehicle used for carrying passengers for hire or reward, and seating no more than 12 adults including the driver.
42. **Taxi rank:** means a part of the road set aside by the Authority or any other relevant agency to allow taxis to stand or park.
43. **Temporary Permit:** means an authorisation, which allows the vehicle to ply temporarily for specified duration on designated routes/place.
44. **Traffic Police:** means police officials working under the Traffic Division of the Royal Bhutan Police or as authorized by the Royal Bhutan Police Act 2009.
45. **Transport Infringement Notice:** means notice for offences of all nature arising out of the use or as a result of the use of a motor vehicle.
46. **Visiting vehicle:** means a foreign registered motor vehicle allowed to ply temporarily in Bhutan by the provisions of the Act and the Regulations.

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

Legal basis

1. This Regulations is issued in accordance with Part 1, Section 15 (1) and (2) (d) of the Road Safety and Transport Act 1999.

Short Title, Extent and Commencement

2. This Regulations shall:
 - 1) be called the Road Safety and Transport Regulations 2021;
 - 2) extend to the whole of the Kingdom of Bhutan, and
 - 3) come into force on.....Day of the..... Month of the Iron Female Ox Year of the Bhutanese calendar corresponding to.....

Scope of application

3. This Regulations shall apply to:
 - 1) all civilian vehicles registered in the country;
 - 2) all vehicles belonging to three armed forces and personnel working for these organizations in so far as road safety and traffic Regulations are concerned; and
 - 3) vehicles registered in other countries and plying within Bhutan in relation to safety and traffic Regulations

Purpose

4. The purpose of the Regulations includes, but not limited to:
 - 1) set out procedures for motor vehicle, including two wheelers, registration, renewal, de-registration, re-registration and transfer of ownership;
 - 2) set out procedures for the granting of learner, driving and instructor licenses;
 - 3) empower the Authority to grant permit or approval as deemed appropriate;
 - 4) prescribe fees to be paid for any transaction under this Regulations;
 - 5) provide powers to the Authority for cancellation or suspension of vehicle registration, driving Licence and/or certificates;
 - 6) provide measures to reduce excessive motor vehicular emission level;
 - 7) encourage use of cleaner fuel and eco-friendly vehicles;
 - 8) ensure professionalism and quality in driving training to produce competent drivers;
 - 9) provide for monitoring and enforcement mechanism to ensure quality of training provided by the driving training institutes;
 - 10) set standards for commercial passenger vehicles;

- 11) provide for certificates to be issued to drivers and conductors in commercial passenger vehicles;
- 12) provide for issuance of commercial passenger vehicles permit and the conditions for operation;
- 13) establish systems and procedures for the licensing and operation of taxi in the country;
- 14) establish motor vehicle standards;
- 15) ensure safe, comfortable and quality services to the users;
- 16) set down the procedures for the use of road safety equipment;
- 17) establish the procedures for the issue of Transport Infringement Notice;
- 18) provide procedure for the Authority to forward any civil or criminal case to the relevant authorities; and
- 19) set out traffic Regulations including road markings, traffic signs and signals

Amendment

5. Amendment to this Regulations shall be made according to the needs and changes in national priorities, policies and industry trends. The Ministry may effect the amendment to this Regulations, by way of addition, variation or repeal as and when required.

Interpretation

6. The power to interpret this Regulations shall vest with the Ministry which may issue such instructions as may be necessary to give effect to and implement the provisions of this Regulations.

Rules of construction

7. In this Regulations, unless the context indicates otherwise, the masculine gender shall include the feminine gender and the singular shall include the plural and vice versa.

Repeal

8. This Regulations shall repeal the Road Safety and Transport Regulations 1999, and provisions under any byelaw, executive orders that are inconsistent with this Regulations.

Penalty Unit

9. For the purpose of this Regulations, one penalty unit is equivalent to Ngultrum Fifty (Nu. 50).

CHAPTER II

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION

Registration of motor vehicle

10. A person shall register a new motor vehicle with the Authority within 15 days from the date reflected in the invoice or date of customs clearance.

11. A person applying for vehicle registration shall:
 - 1) submit duly filled and signed application Form-I as prescribed in this Regulations;
 - 2) submit a copy of Citizenship Identity Card or any form of identification documents issued by Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs for the Bhutanese Nationals and Passport/recognized identification documents for Non-Bhutanese as proof of identity, age and eligibility;
 - 3) submit import declaration and commercial invoice issued by manufacturer/principal company duly endorsed by DRC at the point of entry, original invoice of dealer and emission compliance certificate;
 - 4) report to Authority with the vehicle for physical verification;
 - 5) pay the fee specified in Schedule-I of the Regulations; and
 - 6) produce certificate of incorporation for registration in name of registered company;
 - 7) certificate of registration or authorization from relevant authority for registration in the name of any entity established under the law;
 - 8) in case of a vehicle on “import quota”, entitled as per vehicle import quota rules, a letter (import authorization) to this effect, along with a copy of Tax clearance certificate;
 - 9) letter from the Ministry of Finance for allotment of BG registration number; and
 - 10) in the case of a vehicle purchased from other countries by the owner directly without involving local dealer(s), the vehicle shall be registered based on the Department of Revenue and Customs certified documents

Category of motor vehicle

12. For the purpose of registration, motor vehicles are categorized as:
 - 1) **Heavy Vehicle:**
 - a) Motor vehicle exceeding 10-18.5 tons gross vehicle weight;
 - b) Motor vehicle exceeding 18.5 tons of gross vehicle weight;
 - c) Bus with 25 and more passenger seats (including driver);
 - d) Heavy mounted vehicles designed for freight transport; and
 - e) Electric vehicle which is deemed to fall under heavy category by the Authority

- 2) **Medium Vehicle**
 - a) Motor vehicle exceeding 3 tons gross vehicle weight but not exceeding 10 tons gross vehicle weight;
 - b) Medium mounted vehicles designed for freight transport;
 - c) Bus with 13 to 24 passenger seats (including driver);
 - d) Tractor above 20 horse power; and
 - e) Electric vehicle which is deemed to fall under medium category by the Authority
- 3) **Light Vehicle**
 - a) Any vehicle with 796 CC and above or weighing not more than 3 tons gross vehicle weight and not exceeding 12 seats (including driver);
 - b) Electric vehicle which is deemed to fall under light category by the Authority
 - c) Tractor below 20 horse power; and
- 4) **Equipment**
 - a) Road Roller;
 - b) Bull-dozer;
 - c) Mobile crane;
 - d) Pay loaders;
 - e) Excavators;
 - f) Road Pavers;
 - g) Backhoe loader;
 - h) Hagg loader;
 - i) Fork lift;
 - j) Jumbo drill;
 - k) Short crete machine;
 - l) Self-loading concrete mixer; and
 - m) Any other equipment (earth-moving/mounted construction or industrial equipment which are mobile by design)
- 5) **Farm Machinery**
 - a) Power tiller; and
 - b) Any other machineries used for farming purpose
- 6) **Two Wheeler including electric, and**
- 7) **Any other category of vehicle proposed to be driven by the persons with disabilities, which does not fall under the categories mentioned above.**

Pre-requisites for initial registration of a motor vehicle

13. Before registering a motor vehicle, the Authority shall ensure that the vehicle:
 - 1) is minimum of four-stroke engine in case of two wheeler Internal Combustion Engine and equivalent to four stroke engine in watt motor power in case of electric two-wheeler;
 - 2) is at least 796 or more cubic capacity (cc) for light vehicle;
 - 3) windshield and front door window glasses of the vehicle are not tinted dark to obstruct visibility; and/or
 - 4) damaged while on transit and auctioned by an insurance company may be accepted upon certification of roadworthiness by the Authority
14. The Authority shall refuse to register a motor vehicle if the above requirements are not fulfilled.

Offence:

Failure to register motor vehicle within 15 days

Penalty:

2 Units for every day of delay shall be applied

Procedures for vehicle registration

15. An applicant for registration of a vehicle shall produce the vehicle for physical inspection to an authorised person during the time of registration.
16. The vehicle registration shall be done in whose name the vehicle is purchased.
17. If more than one person owns a vehicle, an application for registration shall be made by one of the owners nominated by the other owner (s).
18. No commercial vehicle shall be registered in the name of a Foreigner, except two wheeler or light vehicle for a personal use, provided further that:
 - 1) if a person has managerial & professional employment in Bhutan; or
 - 2) has valid trader card/business Licence issued by Ministry of Economic Affairs
19. A Bhutanese holding other form of identification documents issued by the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, shall only be allowed to register two wheeler or light vehicles for personal use.
20. Upon submission of an application for motor vehicle registration, if the Authority is satisfied that all requirements have been complied with, it shall:

- 1) enter the particulars of the applicant and the vehicle;
- 2) enter any other information the Authority considers necessary, for its records;
- 3) collect fee as set out in schedule-I of this Regulations; and
- 4) assign vehicle registration number in the system; or
- 5) issue a certificate of registration to the registered owner if they opt for a physical document

Validity of Registration Certificate

21. A validity of a certificate of registration for different category of vehicle shall be:
 - 1) six months or one year for commercial vehicle (Heavy/Medium vehicle and Taxi);
 - 2) one year for bus;
 - 3) ten years for power tiller; and
 - 4) one to five years for all other categories of vehicle, upon payment of applicable fees as per Schedule-I of this Regulations
22. No person shall drive a vehicle without a valid certificate of registration.
23. Notwithstanding Section 22 of this Regulations, a digital copy of the vehicle document available through the Authority's online platform shall be accepted in lieu of the hard copy.
24. The Authority shall deny registration of new vehicles in the name of an applicant, if he has any outstanding dues against his name with the Authority.

Offence:

Driving a vehicle with an invalid registration certificate

Penalty:

15 Units

Information recorded in Registration Certificate

25. A Registration Certificate of a vehicle shall contain sufficient information concerning:
 - 1) identity of the vehicle;
 - 2) details of registered owner;
 - 3) period of validity of its registration;
 - 4) seating capacity (including driver);
 - 5) gross vehicle weight (GVW); and
 - 6) any other information the Authority may consider necessary

26. For the purpose of assigning seating capacity for a vehicle, the Authority shall follow the provision prescribed in Schedule-II of this Regulations.

Vehicle Identification Number for registration

27. The Authority while registering a motor vehicle shall record vehicle chassis number, engine number or any other prescribed identification number clearly in the system and shall reflect in the Registration Certificate thereto.
28. A vehicle imported into Bhutan shall display the temporary registration/identification number assigned to it by the authorized dealer or the Department of Revenue Customs. The temporary number shall be replaced by a permanent registration number within 15 days of taking delivery of the vehicle from the authorized dealer or cleared by the Department of Revenue and Customs.

Offence:

Failure to display temporary registration number

Penalty:

30 Units

29. The registered owner shall affix the registration number allotted by the Authority in accordance with Schedule-III of this Regulations.
30. A vehicle shall be affixed with two registration number plates, one to the front and one to the rear. The size of the registration number plate, letters and colour scheme shall conform to the standard prescribed by the Authority under schedule III of this Regulations which may be subject to change from time to time.
31. A person who uses a motor vehicle on roads shall be liable for penalty, if:
 - 1) the vehicle does not have number plates fixed to it in accordance with this Regulations; or
 - 2) the registration number on the number plate fixed to the vehicle is wholly or partly obscured; and
 - 3) the registration number on the number plate fixed is not visible from 20 meters away

Offence:

Number plates obscured, not clearly visible, altered, defaced or not fixed

Penalty:

15 Units

Country Diplomat Registration

32. The Authority shall register a motor vehicle as Country Diplomat as per the approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
33. The numbering pattern and other information shall be assigned as per the Standard Operating Procedure on Allotment of Country Diplomat Number-2020 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or amendments thereto.
34. A vehicle imported in the country by a diplomat of the Royal Government of Bhutan shall be required to convert to private vehicle within 15 days from the date of import.
35. For the purpose of conversion of vehicle imported by a Bhutanese diplomat to a private number, the individual shall submit to the Authority:
 - 1) relieving order from Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - 2) invoice;
 - 3) import authorization; and
 - 4) a copy of vehicle registration certificate issued from the country of foreign posting

Offence:

Failing to convert within 15 days

Penalty:

2 Units per day after 15 days

Exemption to register

36. A motor vehicle belonging to and registered in the name of the Armed Forces shall be exempted from registration with the Authority.

Exemption from payment of registration and annual renewal fee

37. The Authority may exempt initial registration and annual renewal fee for the following vehicle:
 - 1) CD vehicle registered in the country;
 - 2) a vehicle allotted “BHT” registration number or belonging to the members of the Royal Family; or

- 3) a vehicle belonging to a project under special arrangement between the Government and the donor agency, for which a copy of relevant clause in the signed project documents and tax exemption certificate from Ministry of Finance shall be submitted; and
 - 4) Power tiller
38. Notwithstanding Section 37, a motor vehicle specified in Section 37 (1) and (4) shall pay the cost of the registration certificate
39. A motor vehicle specified in Section 37 (3) shall be liable to pay the annual renewal fee upon selling or handing over the vehicle to the Government.

Renewal of Registration

40. The owner of a motor vehicle shall renew the registration certificate on or before the date of expiry of its validity.

Offence:

Failure to renew registration certificate

Penalty:

Nu. 10 per day from date of expiry up to a maximum of Nu. 3000 for a period of three years

41. If a motor vehicle belongs to a project under the special arrangement between the Government and the donor agency, the letter of ownership from the concerned agency shall be produced during the time of renewal.
42. The registration certificate shall stand renewed from the date of its expiry, if the annual renewal fee and penalty, where applicable is paid.
43. In addition to the exemptions granted under Section 37, the Authority may exempt the vehicle from payment of late renewal fee if:
 - 1) a vehicle requires major repair and the owner informs the Authority in writing at the time of taking the vehicle for repair, and furnishes authentic evidence or a certificate from the concerned workshop after the repairs have been completed, specifying the duration of repair.
 - 2) an owner was out of the country for which supporting documents shall be provided;
 - 3) an owner was undergoing medical treatment within or outside the country for which documents shall be provided;
 - 4) the vehicle was subject to court case; or

- 5) the owner was serving a prison term
44. Notwithstanding Section 43, the Authority shall deny exemption of late renewal fee if the vehicle document is expired prior to any of the conditions specified under section 43.

Renewal of Road Worthiness Certificate

45. The Authority may outsource the motor vehicle roadworthiness testing system.
46. The Authority shall inspect a motor vehicle for renewal of roadworthiness certificate as per the standard prescribed by the Authority:
 - 1) twice every year for commercial vehicles including taxis, and
 - 2) once every 1 year for all other categories of vehicles including two-wheelers
47. All earth moving/construction equipment and power tillers shall be exempted from fitness inspection requirements.
48. A person shall pay roadworthiness certificate fee as specified in Schedule-I of this Regulations.
49. A person shall not drive a motor vehicle without a valid roadworthiness certificate.

Offence:

Failure to renew roadworthiness certificate

Penalty:

1 Unit per day up to a maximum of 15 Units

Offence:

Driving a motor vehicle without a valid certificate of road worthiness

Penalty:

15 Units

50. A motor vehicle owner failing to renew roadworthiness certificate shall be liable for Penalty unless the vehicle owner can provide sufficient documentary evidence to prove that the vehicle is failed to produce for inspection within the required period:
 - 1) due to sickness;
 - 2) out of the country;

- 3) awaiting a court decision for a vehicle that is subject to dispute; or
- 4) the vehicle was off road or in a workshop undergoing repair, and the owner furnish authentic evidence or certificate from the workshop after the repair had been completed, specifying the duration of repair and provided further that the owner informed the Authority in writing in advance prior taking for repair

Replacement of Registration Certificate

51. The Authority may issue a replacement of the registration certificate to the registered owner who opt for physical copy of registration certificate and upon payment of applicable fees prescribed in Schedule-I of this Regulations, if:
 - 1) the registration certificate is lost, damaged or destroyed as certified by the Authority; or
 - 2) a registered owner surrender the original registration certificate, if damaged or fully utilized
52. Notwithstanding provisions contained in Section 51, no fee shall be levied by the Authority to the registered owner for issuance of replacement card if the Registration Certificate is being fully utilized.
53. If any vehicle document is found to be seized by the Traffic Police, after a replacement is issued by the Authority, the registered owner shall be liable for false declaration.

Use of Parliament Logo

54. Registration plates of a vehicle belonging to the Members of Parliament shall be allowed to display the parliament logo as approved by the Government.
55. A Member of Parliament shall remove the parliament logo within 15 days from the date of completion of their tenure of office.

Offence:

Failure to remove Logo

Penalty:

2 Units per day after 15 days

Deregistration of Motor Vehicle Registration

56. A motor vehicle failing to renew registration for three consecutive years shall be deregistered from the registry of vehicles of the Authority.

57. Notwithstanding Section 56, revival of registration of deregistered vehicle that is proposed to be driven on the road shall be permitted upon providing reasonable justification with documentary proof and on payment of renewal fees along with a Penalty of Nu.10 per day from the date of expiry.
58. A motor vehicle which is scrapped and declared not to be driven on the road, that has been deregistered from the registry for failing to renew within three consecutive years, shall be liable to pay three years' renewal fee and a lump sum penalty of:
 - 1) Nu. 3000 for equipment, medium and heavy vehicle;
 - 2) Nu. 2000 for light vehicle; and
 - 3) Nu. 1000 for two wheelers

Suspension of registration of a vehicle being un-roadworthy

59. The Authority shall suspend the registration of a vehicle if it is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the vehicle is unsafe for use on a road.
60. The Authority shall not withdraw a suspension of registration imposed against the vehicle until the defect is remedied.
61. A motor vehicle under suspension shall not be driven or allowed to drive on the road.

Offence:

Driving un-roadworthy vehicle

Penalty:

15 Units

62. Suspension of a motor vehicle under this Regulations shall not alter the expiry date of registration of a vehicle.

Cancellation of motor vehicle registration

63. The Authority shall cancel the registration of a motor vehicle:
 - 1) at the written request of a registered owner to cancel registration;
 - 2) the Authority, upon physical verification, found the motor vehicle in un-roadworthy condition; or
 - 3) the cancellation is deemed necessary for the purpose of road safety

64. The owner shall produce Central Registry Secured Transaction (CRST) Report prior to cancellation of motor vehicles referred to in Section 63 (1) (2) and (3) and surrender the registration certificate to the Authority.

Alteration and modification of a motor vehicle

65. A registered vehicle owner shall obtain prior approval for making any alteration or modification to a motor vehicle.
66. The Authority may approve the vehicle alteration or modification only after conducting detailed study concerning safety and any other reasons deemed appropriate.
67. The owner of a registered vehicle shall notify in writing to the Authority for the substitution of the vehicle's engine and the engine number of both the former and substitute engine within 15 days of the substitution.
68. If a registered vehicle is altered (either in design or appearance) so that the description in registration certificate is different from its altered description, the registered owner of the vehicle shall, within 15 days after the alteration is made:
- 1) present the vehicle to the Authority for an inspection; and
 - 2) surrender old registration certificate to the authority
69. If upon inspection, a vehicle alteration is approved, the Authority shall make following changes in:
- 1) the registration certificate of the vehicle;
 - 2) amend its records accordingly; and
 - 3) issue new registration certificate to the registered owner of the vehicle
70. Notwithstanding Sections 65-68, the alteration in vehicle design leading to category change of the vehicle shall not be allowed after its initial registration.
71. An act of unlawful modification to a vehicle shall be considered, if a person:
- 1) changes the colour of the vehicle without informing the Authority;
 - 2) use tinted glass on any of the car windows;
 - 3) use tinted lighting system in a vehicle;
 - 4) affix additional features of lights in a vehicle that are unsafe for other road users, other than those fixed by manufacturing company;
 - 5) extend the size of the vehicle beyond what is specified by the manufacturer;
 - 6) modifies horn with an intention to produce excessive noise; and

- 7) any alteration which is deemed inappropriate as per this Regulations or as may be determined by the Authority.
72. The Authority shall mandate the owner of a motor vehicle to remove alterations specified in Section 71 within 1 week and report to the Authority for inspection. In addition, the Authority shall levy a penalty for an unauthorized alteration/modification of the vehicle.

Offence:

Unlawful alteration of vehicles

Penalty:

12 Units

CHAPTER III

VEHICLE OWNERSHIP TRANSFER AND TAXES

Transfer of Ownership

73. A person selling a vehicle shall, within 15 days of sale, apply for ownership transfer of the vehicle in the name of the person buying the vehicle.
74. An application for transfer of ownership of a vehicle shall be accompanied by:
 - 1) a deed of sale which includes the sale price of the vehicle and the signature of the seller and buyer, signed across a legal stamp and a witness from each party;
 - 2) Central Registry Secured Transaction for verification of hypothecation status by the Authority;
 - 3) copy of Citizenship Identity Card of buyer;
 - 4) recent passport size photograph of buyer;
 - 5) the registration certificate of the vehicle; and
 - 6) property transfers tax and, other fees or charges for change of ownership, specified in Schedule-I of this Regulations, unless otherwise granted exemption under this Regulations;
 - 7) certificate of incorporation for registration in the name of registered company in addition to other requirements;
 - 8) death certificate or certified letter from competent authority along with no objection from family members and family tree for transfer of vehicle from a deceased registered owner to the next of kin;
 - 9) death certificate and marriage certificate or certification from competent authority in case of ownership transfer from the deceased registered owner to his/her spouse;
 - 10) clearance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in case of CD vehicle; or
 - 11) Letter of handing-taking or letter from Ministry of Finance in case of BG registered vehicle
75. The requirement of Deed of Sale prescribed in Section 74 (1) shall not apply in the cases referred to in Section 74 (7) (8) (9) (10) (11).

Payment of transfer tax

76. The responsibility for payment of property transfer tax shall be as per the Deed of Sale executed between the Seller and the Buyer.

77. If in the opinion of the Authority, the sale value has been understated in the deed of sale, the Authority is empowered to carry out the revaluation of the vehicle using the Formula under Section 78.
78. For the purpose of charging 1% (or as may be amended from time to time) vehicle ownership transfer tax, the Authority shall apply depreciation at the following rates on the initial purchase price (on production of original invoice/bill or similar records maintained by the Authority) or the current market value of a similar type vehicle, using the diminishing balance method as specified below, whichever is higher:
- 1) @ 10% per annum for first and second year
 - 2) @ 15% per annum for third, fourth, fifth and sixth year, and
 - 3) A motor vehicle shall be valued at 10% of the initial purchase price (as indicated in the original invoice/bill or similar records maintained by the Authority) or the current purchase price (of a new vehicle) of the same or similar description, after the sixth year.
79. If a vehicle is seized and auctioned by the financial institution to recover its loan, a buyer shall pay applicable tax rate on the minimum reserve price of the vehicle.
80. In case of a vehicle sold as scrap, the owner shall not be liable for transfer tax on the sale value of the scrap. However, the owner shall surrender the registration certificate to the Authority for the cancellation of registration.

Exemption from payment of property transfer tax

81. The payment of property transfer tax is exempted if a vehicle ownership is transferred:
- 1) between immediate family members: immediate family members shall refer to parent, children and spouse;
 - 2) from grandparents to grandchildren;
 - 3) from a sibling who is the legal custodian of the inherited property to other biological or legally adopted siblings;
 - 4) returned to the main house after the death of the person;
 - 5) split as one's share of property under joint ownership;
 - 6) shared under a divorce settlement agreement as per the Marriage Act of Kingdom of Bhutan;
 - 7) to registered Religious Organizations and registered public benefit organization registered under Chhoedey Lhentshog and Civil Society Organizations respectively;
 - 8) between exempt international organization;
 - 9) from children to the parents;

- 10) to Zhung Dratshang or Dratshang Lhentshog;
- 11) between members registered under the same census record; and
- 12) between Government Agencies

Refusal to transfer ownership

82. The Authority may refuse to transfer ownership of a motor vehicle if the requirements under this chapter are not fulfilled.

Sale of vehicle to a person outside Bhutan

83. The registered owner of a vehicle upon selling his vehicle to a person residing outside Bhutan shall within 15 days, surrender the registration certificate to the Authority and obtain no-objection certificate from the Authority to that effect upon payment of fee prescribed in Schedule-I of this Regulations.
84. The Authority may issue no-objection-certificate for a vehicle imported from a third country subject to a clearance issued by the Ministry of Finance, *except* for the scrapped vehicle.
85. The Authority shall conduct physical verification of the vehicle to be declared as scrapped and thereafter cancel registration of those vehicles from the vehicle information system of the Authority.

Conversion of registration number

86. The Authority shall charge fee in schedule-I of this Regulations for conversion of registration number from government to private or vice versa. Conversion of registration from taxi to private shall be permitted and conversion from private registration to taxi shall not be permitted.
87. Notwithstanding section 86, conversion of registration number from government to private or vice versa shall be subject to a clearance from the Ministry of Finance.
88. The Authority shall not charge fee for conversion of registration number from taxi to private, upon completion of prescribed life of taxi.

Restriction on purchase and sale of imported, second hand or reconditioned vehicle

89. The Authority shall neither permit nor register a second hand/reconditioned vehicle imported into the country.

90. Notwithstanding Section 89, an expatriate may bring a used vehicle on posting in Bhutan with a condition that the vehicle shall be re-exported upon completion of term of employment in the country.
91. For the purpose of import, transfer or re-export of a motor vehicle of third country origin, the provision of the Bhutan Foreign Vehicles Allotment Rules 1994 shall apply.

Sale and Transfer of ownership of duty and tax free vehicles imported by privileged personnel

92. In accordance with the Sale Tax, Customs and Excise Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2000, the following Sections shall apply in the case of sale and transfer of ownership of Duty and Tax-free vehicles imported by the privileged personnel.

Sale and Transfer of Duty Exempt Vehicles

93. Transfer of ownership of a vehicle (by sale or gift) imported or acquired without payment of customs duty and taxes to the non-privileged shall be subject to payment of Customs duty, taxes and charges.
94. Transfer of ownership of vehicle shall be effected only upon payment of duty, taxes and other charges to the Department of Revenue and Customs. No new registration of new vehicles or transfer of ownership of any vehicle shall be effected by the Authority without the clearance from the Department of Revenue and Customs.
95. The buyer shall be liable to pay the Customs and Sales tax.
96. No customs duty and Sales Tax shall be levied if a vehicle is sold after a period of five years from the date of its registration.

Disposal of tax/duty exempt vehicles by officials of Diplomatic Mission, International Organizations and Experts on Completion of their Assignment in Bhutan

97. They can re-export their imported vehicles on completion of their assignments in Bhutan.
98. It can be sold on duty and tax-exempt basis to another privileged person serving in Bhutan with clearance from the Department of Revenue and Customs provided the buyer has not already imported or placed an order for importation of a vehicle.

99. It can be sold on duty and tax exempt basis to a Bhutanese holding vehicle allotment quota.
100. It can be sold in the open market subject to clearance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Revenue & Customs.
101. Used vehicles brought on their posting to Bhutan shall not be permitted to be sold or transferred to any Bhutanese or privileged persons by sale or gift and shall have to be re-exported on repatriation. Such vehicles if left in Bhutan shall be confiscated.
102. Where vehicles other than the used vehicles mentioned in Section 97 are disposed off in Bhutan, transfer of ownership whether by sale or gift shall be completed prior to the departure of the owner.

Disposal of official Vehicles of Diplomatic Missions and International Organizations

103. Vehicles of the Diplomatic Missions and International organizations, if purchased by a non-privileged or is not a Government organization authorized by the Ministry of Finance, shall be subject to clearance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Revenue & Customs.

CHAPTER IV: DRIVING LICENSING

104. For the purpose of this Regulations, driving license is categorised as:
- 1) Learner Driving Licence;
 - 2) Ordinary Driving Licence; and
 - 3) Professional Driving Licence

Procedure for obtaining a Learner Licence

105. Authority shall require an applicant for a learner licence to:
- 1) be 17 years of age or more;
 - 2) produce Citizenship Identity Card or other forms of identification documents issued by Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs for Bhutanese Nationals, and passport or other form of identification document in case of non-Bhutanese in professional and managerial level;
 - 3) produce latest passport-size photograph in national dress for Bhutanese;
 - 4) produce a medical screening certificate duly sealed and signed by a certified medical doctor within the country;
 - 5) submit a duly filled application Form-I; and
 - 6) pay fees as prescribed in Schedule-I of this Regulations

Refusal to grant a learner licence

106. The Authority may refuse to grant a learner licence if:
- 1) the applicant failed to comply with the procedures or requirements under this Regulations or the Act; or
 - 2) the Authority is of the opinion that the refusal is in the interest of the general public
107. An applicant with a record of three counts of underage driving offence shall be refused with issuance of learner licence for a period of 12 months from the date of application for learner licence.

Exemptions

108. A person may be exempt from obtaining a learner licence if a person has:
- 1) attended training course given by Agriculture Machinery Centre (AMC) for power tillers and tractors;
 - 2) valid armed force driving licence; or
 - 3) valid international driving licence or driving licence of another country

Requirements for a learner while learning to drive

109. A person learning to drive shall be in possession of a valid hard or digital copy of Learner Licence at all times while learning to drive.

Offence:

Learning to drive without a valid Learner permit/Licence

Penalty:

15 Units

110. A learner driver while learning to drive shall not drive a motor vehicle unless an "L" Sign is clearly displayed on the front and rear of the vehicle, and in case of two-wheeler, the "L" plate shall be displayed at the rear side.

Offence:

Fail to display "L" sign while learning to drive

Penalty:

20 Units

111. A learner shall not drive a motor vehicle unless accompanied by a driver with a minimum of three years of experience holding a valid driving licence of a particular drive type.

Offence:

Learning to driver without experienced driver

Penalty

20 Units

112. If a person is found driving without learner license or invalid learner licence, the person's citizenship identity card number or other forms of identity issued by Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs shall be recorded to impose penalty.

Offence:

Unlicensed driving

Penalty:

35 Units

113. A person shall not be allowed to learn driving along highways and in built-up areas for the first two months from the date of issuance of learner license.

Offence:

Learning to drive along highways and built-up areas before two months maturity of learner licence

Penalty:

30 Units

114. A person shall only be allowed to learn driving in areas designated and publicly notified by respective local authorities.

115. No passengers, *except* the trainer shall be allowed to carry while learning to drive a motor vehicle.

Offence:

Carrying passenger while learning to drive

Penalty:

20 Units

Driving Licence

116. A person shall not drive a motor vehicle on a road unless he holds a valid driving licence issued by the Authority, authorizing him to drive the particular category of vehicle specified in the licence.

Offence:

Unlicensed Driving

Penalty:

35 Units

Category of motor vehicles allowed under each driving licence

117. The categories of motor vehicle allowed under each driving licence shall be as follows:

1) **Ordinary driving licence**

- a) Two-wheeler;
- b) Light vehicle;

- c) Medium vehicle;
- d) Heavy vehicle;
- e) Auto-transmission vehicle;
- f) Equipment;
- g) Bulldozer;
- h) Excavator;
- i) Pay Loader;
- j) Backhoe;
- k) Road roller;
- l) Agriculture and farm machinery;
- m) Tractor;
- n) Power tiller;
- o) Special purpose machinery;
- p) Drill jumbo machine;
- q) Hagg Loader;
- r) Crane;
- s) Industries/factories machinery;
- t) Fork-Lift; and
- u) Others (machines/vehicles not specified above)

2) Professional Driving licence

- a) Medium Bus;
- b) Heavy Bus; and
- c) Taxi

Procedure for obtaining ordinary driving licence

118. A person applying for an Ordinary Driving Licence shall:

- 1) report to the Authority in person;
- 2) be 18 years of age or more at the time of applying for a light, two-wheeler and other categories of driving licence;
- 3) a person applying for medium, heavy and equipment licence shall be 21 years of age or more;
- 4) have held a Learner's Licence for at least six months for general public and three months for trainees passed out from Driving Training Institutes;
- 5) produce certificate of one day introductory course conducted by driving training institute or certificate of having attended road safety awareness provided by the Authority;

- 6) have undergone both theoretical and practical tests and achieved the minimum pass score set in the ‘Evaluation Form-I for Driving Test (Evaluation Form-I for Driving Test);
 - 7) produce a copy of the latest passport-size photograph in national dress for Bhutanese;
 - 8) produce Citizenship Identity Card or other forms of identification documents for Bhutanese Nationals, and passport or other identification cards in case of foreigners; and
 - 9) pay fee as prescribed in Schedule I of this Regulations
119. Upon fulfilling the requirements prescribed in Section 118, the Authority shall issue the driving licence as per the name reflected in the National Citizenship Identity Card or any other Forms of identification documents for Bhutanese, and passport or other identification cards in case of foreigners.
120. A person who has undergone the driving test through a vehicle with auto transmission shall be allowed to drive only an auto transmission vehicle.
121. The Authority may issue an ordinary driving licence to a person with disability/(ies) subject to an authentic medical certificate provided by a competent medical doctor in the country.

Application requirements for power tiller and farm tractor driving licence

122. The applicant shall produce:
- 1) training completion certificate issued by the authorized training institutes;
 - 2) duly filled application Form-I;
 - 3) one latest passport-size photograph in national dress; and
 - 4) a copy of citizenship Identity Card or other forms of identification documents issued by Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs

Application requirements for a Professional Driving Licence:

123. An applicant for a Professional Driving Licence shall:
- 1) report to the Authority in person;
 - 2) have held an Ordinary Licence for the same category of vehicle for at least three years;
 - 3) produce a copy of the latest passport size photograph in national dress;
 - 4) produce Citizenship Identity Card;
 - 5) be a minimum of 21 years of age for taxis and 25 years for buses and a maximum age of 60 years at the time of applying after which a person shall be required to

- produce a medical certificate for renewing the licence annually till completion of 65 years of age to drive a taxi and 63 years of age to drive buses;
- 6) produce a certificate as a testimony of having completed the professional driving course issued by Department of Occupational Standard, Ministry of Labour and Human Resources;
 - 7) produce drug free certificate issued by Bhutan Narcotic Control Authority;
 - 8) fill in the prescribed application Form-I; and
 - 9) pay fee as prescribed in Schedule I of this Regulations
124. The professional driving licence may be issued to a person with disabilities subject to fulfilment of requirements prescribed by the Authority on a case-by-case basis.
125. A person with other forms of identification documents *except* the Citizenship Identity Card, shall not be eligible for Professional Driving Licence.

Driving Test Committee

- 126. For the purpose of carrying out fair and just driving tests for all the drivers in the country, the Authority shall constitute a Driving Test Committee comprising at least three officials headed by Regional Transport Officer or Senior Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Authority.
- 127. The Authority may change the committee members from time to time and require each member to declare conflict of interest.
- 128. The Committee shall conduct both theoretical and practical driving tests without nepotism, favouritism, fear or favour.
- 129. The Committee shall comply with the Terms of Reference developed for the conduct of driving tests.

Driving Instructor Certificate

130. For the purpose of this Regulations, the driving Instructor Licence shall be issued in the form of a certificate.
131. An applicant for a Driving Instructor Certificate shall:
- 1) report to the Authority in person, or submit application online as may be decided by the Authority from time to time;
 - 2) be between 21 to 65 years of age;
 - 3) should be a driving licence holder for at least three years;

- 4) have attended Training of Trainers conducted by the Authority or Department of Occupational Standards or both;
- 5) pass both theoretical and practical competency test designed and conducted by the Authority;
- 6) produce drug free certificate issued by Bhutan Narcotic Control Authority; and
- 7) be valid for three years subject to renewal

Driving Licence validity

132. The Learner licence is valid for a period of one year and required to renew annually.
133. For the purpose of ordinary licence, the renewal shall be as follows:
 - 1) two wheeler and light vehicle licence are valid for five or ten years until a person attains age of 70 years. Upon 70 years of age, renewal shall be done after every three years subject to certification by a medical doctor;
 - 2) medium and heavy vehicle licence are valid for five or ten years until a person attains age of 60 years. Upon 60 years of age, annual renewal shall be carried out until a person attains age of 65 subject to certification by a medical doctor; and
 - 3) validity of the ordinary driving licence issued to a person with other forms of identification shall be as per the validity of the identification document issued by the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
134. The professional driving Licence:
 - 1) shall be valid for three years; and
 - 2) validity of professional driving licence renewal issued to a person with other forms of identification documents shall be as per the validity of the identification document issued by the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
135. If a person fails to renew his licence before the expiry, late Penalty of Nu. 10 per day shall be imposed for late renewal up to a maximum limit of Nu. 3000.
136. Notwithstanding anything contained in Section 135, the Authority may waive off late penalty for the renewal of licence, if a person prior to expiry of his licence, can prove with sufficient documentary evidence that:
 - 1) he was out of country;
 - 2) he was under medical treatment within or outside the country;
 - 3) his licence is confiscated by the court or any other lawful authority; and
 - 4) he is serving a prison term

Replacement of Driving Licence (Duplicate)

137. If a person's driving licence is lost, damaged or destroyed, the Authority may issue a replacement of driving licence on payment of the fee as prescribed in Schedule-I of the Regulations.

Renewal of Driving Licence

138. The Authority may require a person applying for a renewal of licence to:
- 1) provide one latest passport size photograph;
 - 2) provide any additional Information (including any evidence that the Authority may reasonably require as to those particulars); and
 - 3) pay fee as prescribed in Schedule-I of the Regulations

Refusal to renew a driving licence

139. The Authority may refuse to renew a driving licence or grant licence endorsement if a person:
- 1) has not complied with a procedure or requirements under the Act and this Regulations;
 - 2) has any outstanding dues against the vehicle or driving licence in his name; or
 - 3) if in the opinion of the Authority, renewal of applicant's licence shall cause adverse impact to the driver himself or other road users

Endorsement of driving licence

140. The Authority shall provide driving license endorsement or variations as per the process mentioned under Schedule-IX of this Regulations. For the purpose of applying for endorsement of the driving licence, a person shall:
- 1) fill in an application Form-I;
 - 2) hold valid foreign or national driving licence;
 - 3) fulfil the test requirement for licence endorsement;
 - 4) provide one recent passport size photograph in national dress; and
 - 5) pay fee as prescribed in Schedule-I of the Regulations

Requirement for Issuance or endorsement of Foreign Driving Licence

141. A foreigner with professional and managerial position wishing to endorse their licence to drive in Bhutan shall:
- 1) report to the nearest office of the Authority;
 - 2) produce a valid work permit or visa;

- 3) valid original driving licence for verification;
 - 4) pay fees as prescribed in Schedule-I of the Regulations; and
 - 5) produce a verification letter from the company or owner confirming employment with the company or business; or
 - 6) valid Trader's card/business licence issued by the Ministry of Economic Affairs in case of foreigner running business in Bhutan
142. Notwithstanding Section 141, an endorsement may be granted for driving the category of vehicle registered in the name of the applicant with a foreign Registration Certificate and Registration Plate.

Exemption for endorsement of Foreign Driving Licence

143. The Authority may exempt a person from obtaining an endorsement of a driving license for a period of three months or less, if a person holds a valid driving license issued in another country or valid international driving license.

Driving by a minor (Underage)

144. A person below the age of 18 years shall not drive a motor vehicle *except* while learning to drive a motor vehicle with a valid learner licence.
145. The Authority may inform the parents or guardian of the minor found driving and impose penalty for the offence on the parents or the guardians as prescribed in Schedule-VI of the Regulations.

Offence:

Underage Driving

Penalty:

35 Units

Suspension of driving licence

146. The Authority may suspend the driving licence if:
- 1) a person has not fulfilled the criteria for issuance of new driving licence or endorsement of driving licence;
 - 2) a person is not able to drive a motor vehicle safely on road because of illness, incapacity or medication;
 - 3) it is required by the court of law; or
 - 4) in the opinion of the Authority that the suspension is for the best interest of the licence holder and other road users

147. The Authority shall process for the re-issuance of a suspended driving licence after completion of suspension period as provisioned under this Regulations.

Offence:

Driving while Driving License is suspended

Penalty:

35 Units

Cancellation of driving licence

148. The Authority may cancel driving licence if:

- 1) a person has acquired licence without undergoing required test by the Authority;
- 2) a person is found incompetent to drive a motor vehicle safely on road because of continuous illness or disabilities;
- 3) a person has acquired the driving licence through fraudulent practices;
- 4) the verdict of the court of law adjudge the licence to be cancelled;
- 5) in the opinion of the Authority the licence cancellation is in the best interest of the licence holder and other road users;
- 6) a licence holder submits the written request for the cancellation voluntarily; and
- 7) upon demise of the licence holder

149. A licence holder may only be eligible to apply for issuance of a new licence after the period of three years from the date of cancellation of his licence in case of section 148 (1) (2) (3) and (4) only.

150. A licence holder whose licence got cancelled under section 148 (1) (2) (3) and (4) shall be required to fulfil all the requirements for obtaining the driving licence.

Offence:

Driving while Driving License is cancelled

Penalty:

35 Units

Driving Licence Suspension, Demerit point and Reinstatement

151. The Authority shall suspend or reflect demerit point(s) on the driving licence as per Schedule-X of this Regulations.

152. The Authority shall provide the reinstatement of the driving licence either to withdraw the demerit point(s) or suspension.
153. The Authority shall review and impose penalties including demerit point(s) on the driving licence, suspension or cancellation as per the Schedule-X of this Regulations.
154. The period of suspension of a driving licence shall be for a minimum period of six months or as may be determined by the Court of Law for cases referred to the Court.
155. The Authority shall review the cases received for appeals and may alter or overrule any earlier decisions taken thereof.
156. The Authority may reinstate a suspended driving licence or driving licence with demerit points upon submission of application by the licence holder and in furtherance to fulfilling the following conditions:
 - 1) a person has not committed any traffic violation during the review period or;
 - 2) a person has successfully attained road safety educational program as and when conducted by the Authority
157. A License shall remain suspended for a minimum period of 12 months after which it may be reinstated. The reinstatement shall be permitted for a maximum of three times only.

Notification on changes of personal Information

158. A licence holder who change their name or address shall within 15 days after the change:
 - 1) notify the Authority of the change; and
 - 2) surrender the licence to the Authority for amendment

Power of the Issuing Authority

159. The powers to issue, endorse, renew, de-merit, suspend and cancel all types of driving licences shall vest with the Authority.

CHAPTER V **COMMERCIAL VEHICLE**

Requirement of a permit to carry passengers for commercial purpose

160. A person desiring to operate a commercial vehicle shall be required to apply for an operation permit to the Authority.

161. The Authority may issue permits for ferrying passengers for a vehicle on hire or in the course of business upon fulfilling the conditions set forth in this chapter.

Offence:

Ferrying passenger without a permit

Penalty:

35 Units

162. The Authority shall regulate the passenger transport services in accordance with the contractual agreement executed between the Authority and the passenger bus operator (s).

163. For the purpose of passenger bus operations, the Authority shall prescribe requirements, and fines and penalties in the Contractual Agreement.

164. The Authority shall not issue the permit to the vehicles constructed to carry goods to ferry passengers unless the Authority provides special exemption under this Regulations.

Offence:

Ferry passenger without a permit

Penalty:

35 Units

Category of Vehicles to carry passenger for commercial purposes

165. A vehicle to be used for ferrying passenger for commercial purpose with a permit is categorised as:
 - 1) passenger bus on contract with the Authority;
 - 2) school, institutional and tourist bus used for other than the intended purpose;
 - 3) taxis; and

- 4) the medium and heavy freight vehicle that may be allowed to ferry passengers under any other circumstances as may be deemed appropriate by the Authority

Procedure for applying for a Permit

166. An applicant for a commercial passenger carrying permit shall:
 - 1) submit an application;
 - 2) submit copy of a valid trade licence;
 - 3) provide the Authority with personal particulars (including any evidence that the Authority may reasonably require about those particulars);
 - 4) provide details of the vehicle intended to be used for the purpose;
 - 5) produce valid copies of registration certificate and roadworthiness certificate;
 - 6) submit copy of insurance certificate;
 - 7) submit copy of ordinary or professional driving licence whichever applicable; and
 - 8) produce the vehicle for physical inspection

Validity of a permit

167. A commercial passenger vehicle permit remains valid for six months from the date of issuance for passenger buses which are in contract with the authority, and the validity of a permit for other commercial vehicles shall be as may be specified in the permit.

Refusal to grant or renew a permit

168. The Authority shall refuse to grant or renew a commercial passenger vehicle permit if:
 - 1) an applicant fails to comply with the procedures or requirements under the Act or Regulations;
 - 2) in the opinion of the Authority that granting or renewal of permit may jeopardise public interest or cause safety issues;
 - 3) the vehicle is found ferrying passengers beyond the seating capacity specified in the vehicle registration certificate more than three times; or
 - 4) Any other reasons as may be deemed appropriate by the Authority
169. If the Authority decides not to grant or renew a permit, it shall give the permit holder a reasonable opportunity to be heard about such a decision.

Permit Holder

170. The Authority shall not grant or renew a commercial passenger vehicle permit in the name of more than one individual.

171. Notwithstanding Section 170, a commercial passenger vehicle permit may be granted or issued in the name of a company.

Conditions of Commercial Passenger Vehicle

172. A commercial passenger vehicle shall:

- 1) have a driver possessing driving licence for the category of vehicle being driven and certified by the Authority;
- 2) have a conductor, in the case of a vehicle carrying more than 20 passengers;
- 3) not carry load in excess of loading capacity specified by the Authority in the registration certificate; and
- 4) not carry passengers in excess of the number specified in the registration certificate

173. A commercial passenger vehicle permit shall be issued to a person holding a valid Citizenship Identity Card.

Lifespan of Passenger Bus in Contract with the authority

174. The lifespan of a Passenger Bus in Contract with the Authority shall be as follows:

- 1) Coaster bus 14 years; and
- 2) Other Buses 9 years

Transportation rate

175. For the purpose of transfer entitlement claims for the civil servants, the transportation rate shall be determined by the Authority.

Restriction of freight vehicle entry in built up areas

176. The local government shall fix entry timing for freight vehicles in built up areas, in consultation with the Authority.

Parking for freight vehicles

177. The Local Government Authorities shall be required to provide a designated parking area for the freight vehicle entering into the built up areas.

Safety of loads and weight limit

178. Loads carried by freight vehicles shall be securely tied and shall not exceed the loading capacity as prescribed in the Registration Certificate.

Offence:

Insecure load

Penalty:

20 Units

Offence:

Overloading

Penalty:

30 Units per excess tons

179. A person shall ensure that there is no spillage of materials along the road while transporting materials such as sand, stones, stone aggregates, gravels or any other materials.

Offence:

Spillage of loads on the road

Penalty:

20 Units

180. A person shall be liable for any accident leading to death, injury, disability or damage to property caused due to spillage of materials from his freight transport.
181. A person shall be required to display a red flag (1sq. metres) for protruding goods exceeding the vehicle body at the rear end, which is visible from 20m distances.
182. Notwithstanding the permissible load specified in Section 178, the protruding goods shall not exceed 30 percent length of the rear cabin of the vehicle.

Offence:

Failure to display safety flag (Red Coloured) on the rear end of the vehicle and protruding goods exceeding permissible length

Penalty:

20 Units

183. The Authority or an authorized person shall instruct the driver to offload the excess load carried in a vehicle or stop the vehicle from plying.
184. In case of any damage occurred to the vehicle or offloaded load due to an action of the Authority or the authorized person referred in Section 183, the Authority or the authorized person shall not be held liable for such damage.

Certification of Driver and conductor

185. The driver and conductor of the passenger bus services shall not be allowed to carry out duties without obtaining a certificate from the Authority.
186. The Authority upon completion of refresher course may certify the driver and the conductor.
187. The certificate shall be valid for a period of 3 years and shall be renewed subject to traffic disciplinary record of the driver and the conductor.
188. In case a driver or conductor is found to have breached the duties, the Authority shall cancel the certificate, and shall only be allowed to carry out duties upon production of a new certificate.
189. The Authority shall require the operator to submit the list of drivers and conductors to the Authority with the name of the transport company for the issuance of identification cards.
190. The identification card shall be issued by the Authority upon payment of applicable fees.
191. A person shall not drive a passenger bus unless he carries a valid driver identification card issued by the Authority.

Offence:

Driving /performing duties without identification card

Penalty:

35 Units

192. Section 191 shall not apply if a person is driving a passenger vehicle:
 - 1) solely for private use;

- 2) to carry out test of the vehicle;
 - 3) while learning to drive; and
 - 4) when there are no passengers being carried in the vehicle for hire
193. The operator shall not employ a person as a conductor without certification by the authority.
194. The operator shall be required to submit the list of conductors to the Authority with the letter of intent to employ under him.

Offence:

Employment of non-certified conductor

Penalty:

25 Units

Standards for certification of driver and conductor

195. The Authority shall certify the drivers and the conductors as per the standards prescribed by the Authority therein.

Cancellation or Suspension

196. The Authority may suspend or cancel the driver or conductor certificate:
- 1) if warrants under the order of the court;
 - 2) if the certificate holder is convicted for an offence of driving under the influence of alcohol and psychotropic substances as prescribed in Schedule-X of the Regulations;
 - 3) in case of suspension or cancellation of the driving licence;
 - 4) in case of a death of driver or conductor; or
 - 5) if the certificate holder fails to comply with any condition set forth in this Chapter or any other conditions as may be specified by the Authority from time to time
197. A driver or conductor certificate shall be in possession at all times while a person is on duty and shall be produced as and when demanded by the authority/authorized personnel.
198. A driver or conductor shall surrender the suspended or cancelled certificate to the Authority.

Change of address

199. If a certificate holder changes the address as may be reflected in the certificate as the holder's address; the holder shall within (fifteen) 15 days:
- 1) notify the details of the change to the Authority; and
 - 2) surrender the certificate to the Authority

Replacement of Certificate

200. In case if a certificate is lost or damaged, a certificate holder shall report to Authority within 5 working days for replacement of the certificate.
201. A certificate holder applying for replacement shall be required to pay applicable fees as may be determined by the Authority.

Commercial Passenger Vehicle Specification

202. A permit holder shall ensure that the vehicle intended to be used as a commercial vehicle shall comply with the specifications prescribed under sections 203 to 205 of this Regulations.
203. **For the safety of the passengers, a vehicle shall:**
- 1) be constructed and equipped so as to carry the maximum number of passengers allowed at all speeds permitted;
 - 2) be constructed and maintained so as to avoid making undue noise or vibration during its operation;
 - 3) have seats fitted, that have cushions that are suitably padded or contoured, and are firmly and securely attached to the vehicle structure;
 - 4) have seats, interior fittings and trimmings that are properly constructed, fixed and finished;
 - 5) have a suitable number of handholds for the safety and convenience of passengers; and
 - 6) have all electric wiring properly insulated and protected from damage and located in a manner that does not cause danger to the passengers
204. **For the comfort of the passengers, a vehicle shall:**
- 1) have the body constructed and maintained so as to provide appropriate protection to passengers under all weather conditions;
 - 2) have seats fitted which have backs constructed so as to provide reasonable support for passengers;
 - 3) have floors of sound construction finished and maintained with skid resistant surface and sealed so as to prevent fumes and dust from entering the vehicle;

- 4) have interior lamps adequate for the reasonable convenience of passengers;
- 5) have every window properly fitted and each moveable window equipped with a suitable opening device;
- 6) Have an engine compartment:
 - i. that does not contain flammable soundproofing material or material capable of being impregnated with fuel or lubricant;
 - ii. that has drainage holes or that is otherwise designed to prevent the accumulation of fuel or lubricant; and
 - iii. other sources of heat separated from the remainder of the vehicle by heat resisting material;
- 7) Have a vehicle fuel filter pipe:
 - i. that is designed so that any overflow or leakage cannot accumulate;
 - ii. that does not project beyond the overall width of the bodywork;
 - iii. that is not located in the engine compartment; and
 - iv. have its fuel filler pipe opening on an external surface;
- 8) Have its fuel tank, or any part of it:
 - i. not less than 1.2 meters from the front of the vehicle;
 - ii. not projecting beyond the overall width of the bodywork;
 - iii. not located in the engine compartment;
 - iv. have its fuel system fittings designed so that any leaking fuel flows freely to the ground without contacting the exhaust system or any electrical equipment; and
 - v. have no flammable material located within 100 millimetres of the exhaust system unless that material is effectively shielded

Additional specifications for commercial passenger vehicles

205. In addition to the requirement specified in section 203 and 204, a passenger transport vehicle shall meet the following requirements:
- 1) a vehicle shall be fitted with a device or be equipped with an appliance or other means to enable the drivers to remove condensation from the windscreens;
 - 2) a vehicle shall not have exposed bars protruding above or behind the seat back other than to provide corner handholds;
 - 3) a vehicle shall have a mirror (s), which provide the driver with a view of any passenger;
 - 4) passenger bus shall have emergency exit door/windows clearly designated as “Emergency Exit”;
 - 5) a passenger bus shall have a luggage rack on both the left and right side of the length of passenger compartment:
 - a) to minimize the possibility of injury to any passenger; and

- b) so that the vertical distance between the rack and the seat surface (measured at the centre of the seating position) is not less than 950 millimetres
- 6) a vehicle shall have a first aid kit;
- 7) a vehicle shall have at least one spare tyre (not a resoled tyre) with a safe amount of tread;
- 8) a vehicle shall have a set of tools sufficient to effect emergency repairs;
- 9) a vehicle shall be fitted with fire extinguishers in working condition; and
- 10) a vehicle if fitted with a luggage rack on the roof, it shall not extend for $\frac{3}{4}$ of the length of the bus and shall not be loaded more than 75 cm high

Offence:

Non-compliance with the vehicle specifications

Penalty:

30 Units

Inspection of commercial passenger vehicle

- 206. The Authority or an authorised person shall inspect the commercial passenger vehicle as per the prescribed standard of the Authority and require a permit holder or vehicle driver to produce the vehicle for inspection as and when required.
- 207. In case a vehicle does not comply with the standards and prescribed specifications, or a condition of its permit, the authorised person shall require the permit holder or the driver to carry out necessary rectification until which the vehicle shall not be allowed to ply on the road.
- 208. If a passenger bus sustains damage to its steering, suspension, braking systems or body or is damaged by fire, the permit holder or vehicle driver shall not allow the vehicle to be used for carrying passengers for hire or reward until the vehicle is in a fit and safe condition, and subsequent certification by the Authority.

Offence:

Ferrying passenger in the event of major breakdown

Penalty:

100 Units

209. The Authority shall issue the prescribed vehicle inspection certificate as evidence to prove that the vehicle is inspected and found to be fit to ply as passenger ferrying bus for commercial purpose.
210. A passenger vehicle shall not be allowed to pick up excess passenger en-route and the liability and risks associated for the passengers picked en-route shall lie upon the driver and the operator.

Offence:

Carrying excess passenger

Penalty:

20 Units per extra passenger

Charge of fare for minor

211. A child under the age of 5 years shall not be counted as a passenger unless he has opted to occupy a seat by paying full fare.

Books of Record

212. The operator of the commercial passenger vehicle shall:

- 1) maintain name, address, driver licence number and driver certificate number of a person driving the vehicle in order to ascertain the identity of the driver;
- 2) maintain any other books of accounts or records that the permit holder is required to maintain as prescribed in the permit or the Contractual Agreement;
- 3) maintain the books of accounts and records for a period of at least 5 years from the date of the records or last entries in the books;
- 4) maintain detailed passenger manifest as per the requirement prescribed under this Regulations;
- 5) submit the vehicle operating costs to the nearest Road Safety and Transport Authority office on six-monthly basis;
- 6) make the books and records available for inspection upon demand by the Authority or an authorized person; and
- 7) attach to the vehicle any signs, symbol, notices and labels as may be required by the Authority

Offence:

Fail to display signs and any other labels required by the authority

Penalty:

15 Units

213. The operator shall ensure that an origin and destination sign is displayed at the front of the vehicle while operating on any route specified in the permit or under a contract with the Authority.

Offence:

Fail to display origin & destination board

Penalty:

15 Units

214. A person shall not smoke or use a substance that is likely to cause intoxication, while in a passenger vehicle.

Offence:

Smoking in the passenger transport vehicle (per occasion)

Penalty:

10 Units

215. The operator shall ensure that a ‘No Smoking’ sign is displayed in the Vehicle. The sign shall:

- 1) be legible;
- 2) be displayed in a prominent place in the vehicle; and
- 3) be visible to every passenger boarding the vehicle

Offence:

Fail to display “No smoking” sign

Penalty:

Shall be levied as per the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act of Bhutan, 2014

Property found in vehicle

216. A person finding an abandoned property in a vehicle shall hand over the property to the vehicle driver, and the driver shall accordingly hand over to the owner who claims to be the lawful owner.

217. In case if the property has remained unclaimed, the driver shall hand over the abandoned property to the nearest Road Safety and Transport Authority office or the Police Station.

218. A vehicle driver or a conductor, upon arriving at the destination shall ensure that there is no property/item left in the vehicle.

Offence:

Failure to hand-over abandoned property to the Authority

Penalty:

15 Units

219. If an abandoned property (non-perishable) remains unclaimed for more than 28 days, the Authority shall ensure that the property is promptly delivered to the nearest Police Station. Further, any perishable property remaining unclaimed for more than 10 days shall be disposed off by the Authority.

Passenger bus Schedule and fares

220. The bus operator, including city bus operator shall submit periodic report of accounts in a prescribed form to the Authority.
221. The Authority may set special fares for passenger services operating on unpaved and farm roads considering the operating cost and condition of roads.
222. The Authority shall approve schedules and fares for commercial passenger vehicles. Fares shall be reviewed and revised on six monthly basis in February and August of every year using the fare computation model in Schedule-VIII of the Regulations.
223. The revision of public transport fares shall be effected if the fare assessment warrants 5 percent and more, upward increase or downward change from the existing fares.
224. The operator shall ensure that relevant operating schedules and fares are displayed or made available in a vehicle, in the manner and format required by the Authority.

Luggage

225. A passenger travelling by passenger bus shall only be allowed to carry 20 kilogram of luggage free of charge as an accompanied luggage.
226. The rate for luggage exceeding 20 kilogram per passenger shall be fixed by the Authority from time to time considering the operational and other associated costs.

227. A passenger bus shall not be allowed to engage in transportation of commercial consignments that cause inconvenience to the passengers.
228. The maximum permissible luggage weight in passenger buses shall be 1000 kilograms for medium bus and 1500 kilograms for heavy bus.
229. The passenger transport services shall be prohibited from transporting inflammable products, firearms, tobacco and other psychotropic substances, or any other things which are deemed to be illegal or unethical, unless otherwise granted by any other law in force.

Ticket requirement

230. The operator shall ensure that every passenger shall be issued a ticket for the journey.
231. A ticket in paper or electronic form issued to a passenger shall be in a format prescribed by the Authority.

Offence:

Fail to issue ticket to the passengers

Penalty:

20 Units

232. A passenger boarding a vehicle, shall be in possession of a valid ticket, being the fare for the journey intended to be taken or shall pay fare for the journey, in case of a ticket issued inside the vehicle.
233. A passenger shall be required to produce the ticket on demand by the driver, conductor or an authorized person.
234. A vehicle driver or a conductor of a vehicle may ask a passenger, who has not paid fare to pay fare or leave the vehicle.
235. A passenger shall comply with a request specified in Section 234.
236. The permit holder shall ensure that any person employed under him shall not charge fare beyond the permissible limit prescribed by the Authority, either for the whole or part of the journey.

237. A passenger disembarking from mid-way journey and booking the seat en-route shall be charged with the fare applicable from that point until the destination.

Offence:

Charging excess fare

Penalty:

20 Units for excess fare charged on each passenger, and the operator shall be required to refund the excess fare collected from the passengers.

Fare refund for Ticket cancellation

238. In case of ticket cancellation, fare refund shall be implemented as below:

Period	Cancellation charge (% of applicable fare)
24 hours or earlier before scheduled departure time	full refund
12-24 hours before scheduled departure time	5%
5-12 hours before scheduled departure time	10%
1-5 hours before scheduled departure time	20%
Half an hour-1 hour before scheduled departure time	25%
Within half an hour before departure time	No refund

Offence:

Failure to refund fare for the ticket cancellation as per the format prescribed in Section 238

Penalty:

20 Units

Registration of taxis

239. A person intending to operate a taxi in the country shall be required to register with the Authority.

240. A Taxi shall be registered in name of a person who:

- 1) is a Bhutanese Citizenship Identity Card holder;
- 2) has reached a minimum age of 21 years;
- 3) possess a professional driving licence (light); and
- 4) upon payment of applicable fee set in Schedule-I of the Regulations

241. In addition to the requirements prescribed in Section 240, a taxi registration in the name of the employees working in any public agencies shall be determined based on the guidelines adopted by the respective agencies.
242. A taxi registration shall not be allowed in the name of a person holding other forms of identification document issued by the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs.
243. The Authority shall design, and issue Taxi Information cards during the time of registration.
244. The Authority shall not allow a person to register or own more than one taxi.
245. The colour of the taxi shall be in accordance with the taxi standard prescribed by the Authority under this Regulations.

Taxi Standards

246. The Authority while registering a Taxi shall consider the following standards:
 - 1) a vehicle shall have engine capacity of 796 CC and above for registration as taxi;
 - 2) the minimum number of seats in a taxi to be 5 persons and maximum 12 persons including the driver;
 - 3) only New vehicles shall be allowed to register as taxi;
 - 4) rear seats fixed face to face shall not be allowed for registration as taxi;
 - 5) a vehicle shall have comfortable seats for the passengers, based on the approved seating capacity specified in the registration certificate;
 - 6) a vehicle to be either with red body and yellow top or white body with yellow top to register as taxi; and
 - 7) display a sign “TAXI” outside of the vehicle and straight above the driver’s seat with visibility even at night; or
 - 8) in case of electric taxi, it can be of any colour with “Yellow Top”; and
 - 9) an electric taxi shall display a sign “TAXI” outside of the vehicle and straight above the driver’s seat with visibility even at night

Replacement of taxi

247. In case a taxi has reached the maximum lifespan of twelve (12) years, replacement may be granted only upon conversion of the old taxi into a private registration.
248. A replacement may be granted only to the person who possesses a valid professional driving licence.

249. Taxi owned by a regular civil servant shall not be eligible for replacement after the old taxi completes maximum life span.
250. In case a taxi is sold without transferring the ownership, a person who purchased the taxi shall only be provided a replacement after transferring the ownership of the old taxi in his name by payment of 1% Ownership Transfer Tax and other fees and charges as per the provisions of the ownership transfer.
251. The Authority shall cancel the taxi registration if a false information was submitted during the initial registration.
252. In the event that the professional driving licence of a person gets cancelled, the Authority shall cancel the taxi registration availed against his professional driving licence.
253. The Authority may grant replacement of taxi registration under any of the reasons deemed just and appropriate by the authority.

Refusal to Grant or renew taxi registration

254. The Authority shall not grant or renew a taxi registration certificate if it does not comply with the prescribed taxi standards, vehicle specifications and any other requirements prescribed by the authority.

Taxi Fare

255. The Authority shall determine and fix taxi fare for short and long distance operation, based on operating costs and seating capacity using the fare computation model prescribed in Schedule-VIII of the Regulations.
256. The fare may be subject to revision by the Authority from time to time.
257. It is mandatory for all taxis to display fare charts inside the vehicle and shall be produced on demand by commuters or an authorised person.
258. The Driver or owner of the Taxi shall not charge fare in excess of the fare prescribed by the Authority.

Offence:

Charging excess fare

Penalty:

20 Units plus refund of excess fare collected

Operational Lifespan of taxi

259. The operational lifespan of a taxi shall be 12 years from the date of registration and thereafter the taxi shall be converted to private registration.

Taxi ranks

260. The Authority shall require Local Government or any other relevant agencies to establish standard taxi ranks to pick up and drop passengers wherever required.

261. Taxis shall be required to park at designated parking areas only.

262. The following conditions shall apply to drivers of taxis in taxi ranks:

- 1) a taxi shall not stand or park at the taxi ranks unless it is intended to pick up passengers;
- 2) taxi shall form an orderly line along the length of the rank and the first taxi on the rank shall take the first hirer;
- 3) a taxi shall not be double parked at a rank unless it is provided for in the rank; and
- 4) a taxi driver shall not tout for business at a rank

Offence:

Not following taxi ranking

Penalty:

20 Units

Offence:

Touting for passenger

Penalty:

20 Units

Hire of taxi

263. A taxi driver shall ply as per the first hirer and give preference to the first hirer for which the hirer shall pay the full amount of fare for the complete journey.

264. The first hirer of a taxi shall reserve the right to solely use the taxi for the whole journey by himself or consent to carry other passengers' en-route.
265. In case if the first hirer consents to pick up additional passengers from mid-way, the taxi fare shall either be shared with the passengers on board or waive fare as per the wish of the first hirer.
266. No fare shall be charged against the other passengers by a taxi driver from other people on board without the consent of the first hirer who reserved the trip.

Offence:

Carrying passenger without the consent of first hirer

Penalty:

20 Units

Driving public transport without professional driving licence

267. A driver or an owner of a public transport shall not allow or knowingly permit a vehicle owned by him or under his control to be driven by a person who does not possess a valid professional driving licence of a particular drive type.

Offence:

Letting unlicensed driver to drive the public transport vehicle

Penalty:

70 Units

268. A driver or an owner of a public transport shall not drive when his ability or alertness is impaired by illness or fatigue or any other causes, making driving unsafe.
269. A driver or an owner of a public transport shall produce any vehicle document or the vehicle itself for inspection upon demand by the authorised person.

Operating school, institutional, tourist or other buses

270. The Authority may register a vehicle as tourist/school/institutional/other bus if the following requirements are fulfilled:
 - 1) submit duly filled application Form-I; and
 - 2) produce the vehicle for physical inspection;
 - 3) produce a trade or business licence copy for private schools/institutes; or

- 4) produce official letters for the government schools/institutes

Additional requirements

271. In addition to the vehicle specification prescribed for commercial passenger vehicles in contract with the authority, school/institute bus shall:
- 1) have the name of the school, institution, tourist or company painted on both sides of the vehicle's body displaying the 'NAME OF THE SCHOOL, INSTITUTION, TOURIST OR NAME OF THE COMPANY'; and
 - 2) be driven by a driver holding a professional driving licence for the specified category of bus

Restriction

272. A school, institution, tourist and other bus shall not:
- 1) be used for ferrying passenger for commercial purpose;
 - 2) carry passengers other than the students and staff of the school/institute;
 - 3) carry public without obtaining special permit from the Authority; and
 - 4) be allowed to carry extra passengers

Lifespan of school, institution, tourist or other bus

273. The buses to be used for school, institution, tourism sector or other purposes shall be subject to six monthly roadworthiness test by the Authority, upon completion of 14 years for coaster bus and 9 years for other buses.

Offence:

Driving without valid roadworthiness certificate

Penalty:

15 Units

Duties and responsibilities of public transport drivers including taxi

274. A driver of a public transport shall:
- 1) not drive a vehicle in neutral gear or engine switched off;
 - 2) not drive a vehicle without a valid professional driving licence and other motor vehicle documents;
 - 3) not drive a vehicle with any concentration of alcohol in the blood;
 - 4) not drive a vehicle using rethreaded tyres at the front and with inadequate amount of tread at all times;
 - 5) not carry passengers or load beyond permissible limit specified in the registration certificate;
 - 6) not carry passengers travelling unlawfully and contraband goods;

- 7) not leave a vehicle at all times unless he:
 - i. is helping passengers to enter or leave the vehicle;
 - ii. is picking up or delivering goods; or
 - iii. has a reasonable cause to leave a vehicle
 - 8) ensure that the doors of the vehicle are closed when the vehicle is in motion;
 - 9) not bring or allow an animal to be brought into the passenger compartment;
 - 10) stop the vehicle at the side of the highway as far as possible, in order to pick or drop the passenger, or at the places designated to pick and drop passengers by local Authority;
 - 11) not interfere with the orderly while taking up or setting down of passenger or movement of vehicles;
 - 12) not drive under the influence (DUI);
 - 13) not carry illegal goods and drugs, and passenger without permit from concerned Authorities;
 - 14) not charge excess fare;
 - 15) indulge in eve-teasing or harass passengers and passers-by;
 - 16) not shout or tout and rush for passengers;
 - 17) not splash water from the puddles on pedestrians;
 - 18) not stop abruptly in the middle of road other than the designated stand;
 - 19) wear national dress neat and clean while on duty;
 - 20) not play music at unreasonably high volume or cause undue noise at taxi ranks, parking or while on road;
 - 21) not enter an intersection that is blocked or likely to become blocked; and
 - 22) perform periodic maintenance of the vehicle
275. A driver shall be levied penalties as per Schedule-VI and X of the Regulations for violating any of the conditions laid down in Section 274.
276. A vehicle driver or a conductor may refuse to carry a person in the vehicle if in the opinion of the driver/conductor, that a:
- 1) person is so intoxicated that he may annoy/harass other passengers;
 - 2) person is violent, noisy or annoying other passengers;
 - 3) person is so filthy or offensive that he may annoy other passengers;
 - 4) person is carrying any goods or personal effects that could endanger other passengers or interfere with the normal movement of passengers in the vehicle; and
 - 5) vehicle does not have a vacant seat (in excess of the permitted number of seats) for the passenger to occupy

Hours of Driving

277. The hours of driving shall apply to a person driving a commercial passenger vehicle in contract with the authority.

278. The maximum hour of driving for a commercial passenger vehicle shall be 8 hours of continuous driving without a night halt in between the journey en-route.
279. The commercial passenger vehicle plying along the routes requiring the continuous driving hours of more than 8 hours shall have a substitute driver to complete the journey.

Offence:

Failed to recruit substitute drivers for journey more than 8 hours

Penalty:

30 Units

280. The Authority shall require the change in the driver from the mid-way journey for the routes requiring more than 8 hours of continuous driving.

Offence:

Single driver driving continuously for more than 8 hours

Penalty:

30 Units

CHAPTER VI

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

281. The Authority shall require the general road users to abide by the traffic Regulations prescribed herein for smooth flow of traffic and shall apply to all the vehicles plying in the country.
282. For the safety of all the road users, the Authority shall require the Department of Roads, Thromde, Local Government or any other relevant agency to maintain road and associated transport infrastructure in a safe and reliable manner at all times.
283. In addition to the requirement prescribed in Section 282, the Department of Roads, Thromde, Local Government or any other relevant agency shall, as far as possible, ensure smooth movement of traffic during peak hours.

Direction by an authorised person

284. An authorised person may give a reasonable direction related to the safe and efficient movement of traffic, if the authorised person is in uniform, or produces evidence of his or her identity.

Offence:

Not following traffic instruction

Penalty:

14 Units

Visiting motor vehicles

285. The Authority shall allow a motor vehicle registered in other countries to ply temporarily in Bhutan based on the provisions of the bi-lateral/multilateral/regional transport agreement and any other arrangements allowed by the government upon payment of applicable fees.
286. The Authority shall not allow a motor vehicle registered in other countries to operate commercial transport services or carry paid passengers from one point to another point in Bhutan.
287. The Authority shall require all the vehicles of other countries visiting or plying in Bhutan to abide by the prevailing transport laws, rules and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

288. The Authority shall not allow vehicle rallies by any group from outside Bhutan unless permitted by special government arrangements.
289. The foreign registered vehicle belonging to managerial and professional foreign employees plying for more than three months in Bhutan shall endorse motor vehicle documents upon payment of applicable fees prescribed in Schedule-I of the Regulations.
290. The Authority shall deny issuing route permits for a foreign registered vehicle if it does not fulfil the roadworthiness requirement prescribed in this Regulations.
291. No foreign registered caravan vehicle shall be allowed to ply in the country.
292. Notwithstanding Section 291, foreign registered recreational vehicles may be allowed to ply in the country on a case-by-case basis.

Offence:

In relation to visiting motor vehicle

Penalty:

35 Units

293. Notwithstanding the requirements of payment of fees under this Regulations, vehicles belonging to the Government of India are exempted from payment of fees.

Exemption for unobstructed movement of a Vehicle

294. A vehicle belonging to the Authority or police may be allowed to be driven without following traffic rules, in the event of carrying out duties under emergency situations.
295. The vehicle referred in Section 294 shall use a siren and blue flashing light or red flashing light indicating the state of emergency.

Emergency vehicle

296. The Authority may, by written notice, declare a vehicle to be an emergency vehicle for the purpose of carrying out emergency duties under the directives of the Government.

Exemption

297. A vehicle belonging to the Authority, police or any other emergency vehicle shall be allowed to park or stop at any part of road to carry out duties under this Regulations or as may be directed by the Authority.

Speed Limit

298. A person shall not drive a motor vehicle on a road or part of a road at a speed greater than the speed limit that applies to the road or part thereof.
299. The speed limit for a road or part of a road is the number of kilometres per hour indicated on a speed limit sign as prescribed under Schedule-VII of this Regulations.
300. A person shall drive a vehicle at a speed of 30 KM/hour in the built-up area where there is no speed limit sign applying to all or part of a road.
301. Where there is no speed limit sign applying to a road or a part of a road outside a built up area:
- 1) 50 km/h in case of light vehicles and two wheelers;
 - 2) 35 km/h in case of medium and heavy vehicles; or
 - 3) As may be set by the Authority from time to time

Offence:

Over-speeding

Penalty:

35 Units

302. The speed limit on a speed limit sign applies between the sign and:
- 1) another speed limit sign that is facing drivers using that part of the road and that indicates a different speed limit; or
 - 2) the end of the road

Making left turn

303. If a person turns a vehicle towards left at the intersection, it shall be done from a position as near as practicable to the left edge of the part of the road used by the main body of moving vehicles.

Offence:

Unsafe left turn

Penalty:

12 Units

Turning right while entering intersections

304. A person turning right on a road wherein the vehicles are permitted to travel in both directions shall approach and enter the intersection from a position to the left, parallel to, and as near as practicable to the dividing line, or if there is no dividing line, the centre of the road.
305. A person turning right on a road on which all traffic is required to travel in the same direction shall approach and enter the intersection from a position as near as practicable to the right edge of the part of the road used by the main body of moving vehicles.

Offence:

Unsafe right turn while entering intersection

Penalty:

12 Units

Making right turn

306. A person turning right at an intersection shall turn right so that the vehicle you are driving passes as near as practicable to the right of the centre of the intersection.

Offence:

Unsafe right turn

Penalty:

12 Units

Making U-turn

307. A person shall not make a U-turn unless:
 - 1) a person have a clear view in each direction from which traffic may approach; and
 - 2) it is safe to make the turn
308. A person shall not make a U-turn at an intersection or a road where there is a sign with the words “NO U TURN” or a sign prescribed under Schedule-VII of the Regulations relating to the intersection or any part of the road.
309. A person driving a vehicle shall give way to a pedestrian or on-coming traffic, while making a U-turn.

310. A person shall make a U-turn at an intersection from a position as near as practicable to the centre of the road.

Offence:

Unsafe U-turn

Penalty:

12 Units

Reverse

311. A person shall ensure safety of other road users before and when reversing.

Offence:

Unsafe reverse

Penalty:

12 Units

Signals for changing direction of vehicles and entering parking lot

312. A person driving a motor vehicle shall give an appropriate indicator or signals indicating the direction in which a vehicle is moving, as follows:

- 1) right indicator or signal to turn right;
- 2) right indicator or signal to move a vehicle to right;
- 3) left indicator or signal to turn left;
- 4) left indicator or signal to move a vehicle to left;
- 5) relevant indicator or signal to make a U-turn in the direction a vehicle is turning or moving;
- 6) relevant indicator or signal while entering into parking lot in the direction a vehicle is moving; and
- 7) relevant indicator or signal while exiting parking lot in the direction a vehicle is intended to move

313. A person shall give an indicator or signal for changing the direction of a moving vehicle providing reasonable warning to other road users.

Offence:

Fail to give indicator/signal

Penalty:

12 Units

314. Notwithstanding section 313, a person shall not be required to give a change of direction signal if a person is following the direction of the road.

Proper functioning of lights

315. A person driving a vehicle on a road or a part of road shall have the following lights properly functioning at all times:

- 1) brake lights;
- 2) tail/side lamp;
- 3) reverse lights;
- 4) head lamp;
- 5) indicator/hazards/warning lights;
- 6) registration plate lights;
- 7) roof lights where appropriate; and
- 8) fog lights where appropriate

Offence:

Non-functional light

Penalty:

12 Units

Road Markings and Signage

316. The Authority shall require local government or respective agencies to erect signs and road markings along the areas identified by the Authority.
317. The road marking and signs shall be as per the standards approved by a competent authority.
318. In order to ensure safety of all the road users, the following road signs & markings classified under carriage way & object marking shall be followed.

STOP signs and lines

319. A person shall stop a vehicle before or as near as practicable to the stop line while approaching STOP sign or marking.

320. A person shall stop a vehicle as near as practicable to and before the intersection if there is no stop line relating to the sign.
321. A person shall give way to any vehicle travelling on any intersecting road stopping at a STOP sign or line.
322. A person turning at an intersection after stopping at a “STOP” sign or stop line shall give way to any pedestrian crossing the road.
323. A person shall not move beyond a hand-held STOP sign.

Offence:

Fail to obey STOP sign

Penalty:

14 Units

Give Way signs and give way lines

324. A person shall give way to a motor vehicle traveling on an intersecting road while approaching a Give Way sign or line.
325. A person shall give way to a pedestrian crossing the road while approaching a Give Way sign or line related to an intersecting road.
326. A person shall give way to an on-coming motor vehicle while approaching a Give Way sign or line at a bridge or narrow section of road.

Offence:

Fail to give way

Penalty:

14 Units

Bridge Load Limit Sign

327. A person shall not drive a motor vehicle carrying a load more than the load limit sign erected, placed or written on the bridge.
328. In case a motor vehicle is carrying a load in excess of the limit specified on the load limit sign, a person shall find a safe alternative route.

Offence:

Carrying excess load beyond bridge load limit

Penalty:

30 Units per excess ton of load

No Truck and Bus Sign

329. Local Government or relevant agencies shall designate “City Bus Stop” at a safe and convenient location.
330. A person shall not drive a truck or bus beyond the signs specified as “No Truck or Bus”.

Offence:

Fail to obey traffic signs

Penalty:

14 Units

One Way Road

331. A person shall not drive a motor vehicle in the opposite direction of a “One Way Sign”.

Offence:

Not following One-Way rule

Penalty:

14 Units

Obeying Road Marking and Sign

332. A person while driving a motor vehicle shall obey the road marking and sign prescribed under Schedule-VII of the Regulations.

Offence:

Fail to obey traffic signs

Penalty:

14 Units

Lane Changing

333. A person driving a motor vehicle on a double lane road shall:
- 1) always overtake from the right;
 - 2) drive on the left lane at low speed;
 - 3) drive on the right lane at higher speed but not exceeding the prescribed speed limit;
 - 4) use correct indicator light while changing the lane;
 - 5) give way to a motor vehicle indicating to change the lane;
 - 6) not change lane where there is continuous unbroken line drawn on the road; and
 - 7) change the lane where there is broken lines drawn on the centre of the road after giving appropriate indicator light and ensuring safety.

Offence:

Fail to obey lane-changing rule

Penalty:

14 Units

Giving way to a pedestrian on a pedestrian crossing

334. A motor vehicle approaching a pedestrian crossing shall minimize the speed at all times.
335. A person shall give way to pedestrian/s on a pedestrian crossing.
336. No motor vehicle shall be allowed to stop on the pedestrian crossing.
337. A person shall stop a motor vehicle on the stop line to allow pedestrians to cross the road.
338. No motor vehicle shall be allowed to overtake a vehicle at the pedestrian crossing.

Offence:

Fail to obey pedestrian crossing rules

Penalty:

14 Units

Giving way on entering or leaving a road

339. A person driving or riding out of a car park, petrol station, private driveway, or other land adjacent to a road, shall give way to a pedestrian travelling in either direction along the road or a footpath or nature strip.
340. A person making a turn into a car park, petrol station, private driveway, or other land adjacent to a road, shall give way to:
- 1) pedestrian or rider of a bicycle on a footpath; or
 - 2) pedestrian on the road;
341. A person making a turn into a private driveway or other land adjacent to a road shall give way to a vehicle on the road.

Offence:

Fail to give way

Penalty:

14 Units

Right of Way Rule

342. A person driving a motor vehicle shall give way to a vehicle on right while approaching an intersection and roundabout at the same time.

Offence:

Fail to give right of way

Penalty:

14 Units

Giving way to VVIP/VIP, Emergency, Police and Authority Vehicle

343. A person driving a motor vehicle shall give way to, and do everything reasonably practicable to get out of the way of a VVIP/VIP, emergency, and police or authority vehicle giving warning of its approach for emergency duties.

Offence:

Fail to give way to VVIP/VIP, emergency, police and authority

Penalty:

16 Units

Roundabouts

344. The Authority shall require the local government to build roundabouts in the locations identified by the authority in consultation with relevant agencies.
345. The roundabout shall be built as per the specifications approved by the Bhutan Standards Bureau.
346. A person driving a motor vehicle shall keep the central traffic island of the roundabout on the right side at all times.

Offence:

Driving on the central island at the roundabout

Penalty:

14 Units

Keeping Left

347. A motor vehicle shall be driven at the left edge of the road, unless overtaking.
348. A heavy and medium vehicle (passenger and freight transport) shall be driven along the left lane or left side of the road at all times.

Offence:

Not keeping left

Penalty:

12 Units

349. A motor vehicle travelling downhill shall stop to give way to a vehicle that is travelling uphill unless otherwise impracticable.

Offence:

Fail to give way

Penalty:

14 Units

Overtaking

350. A person driving a motor vehicle intending to overtake another motor vehicle shall do so from the right side, unless the vehicle is making or signalling to make a right turn.
351. A person while overtaking the other vehicle shall keep a safe distance and avoid moving directly in front of the vehicle until reaching a safe distance.
352. A person driving a motor vehicle shall not overtake the other moving vehicle from the left side unless required to do so under emergencies.
353. A person driving a motor vehicle shall not overtake another vehicle in the areas where "No Overtaking" sign and marking are in place.
354. A person driving a motor vehicle shall not overtake another vehicle in the built-up areas, bends, bridges and any other places determined by the Authority.

Offence:

Unsafe overtaking

Penalty:

25 Units.

Giving way to overtaking vehicles

355. A person driving a motor vehicle shall slow down the speed when another vehicle is overtaking from the right side until overtaken completely.

Offence:

Speeding while other vehicle is overtaking from the right

Penalty:

12 Units

Tailgating (Following too closely)

356. A person driving a motor vehicle shall keep a safe distance of three meters or more from the motor vehicle moving in the front during normal traffic flow.
357. A person driving a motor vehicle shall maintain a distance of minimum ten meters from the motor vehicle moving in the front during the speeding traffic movement.

Offence:

Tailgating

Penalty:

12 Units

Exemption on Stopping and Parking Vehicle

358. A person driving a motor vehicle may stop the vehicle in the prohibited places if it is to avoid collision, obey other traffic rules or under a mechanical breakdown of the vehicle.

Stopping or Parking Vehicle

359. A person driving a motor vehicle shall not park or stop a vehicle in the places marked with “No Standing” sign as prescribed in Schedule-VII of the Regulations.
360. A person driving a motor vehicle shall not park or stop a vehicle more than the specified time period mentioned in the “Time-bound Parking” sign marked or erected.
361. A person driving a motor vehicle shall not stop or park a vehicle at the road intersection, roundabout, and pedestrian crossing, within ten meters of the edge of intersection or within two meters of pedestrian crossing.
362. No motor vehicle shall be stopped in the areas where the “Loading Zone” sign is marked or erected.
363. Notwithstanding section 362, a person may stop or park a bus or truck to pick and drop passengers or goods, or if authorized by the authorised person or traffic police.
364. The parking duration for the matters mentioned in section 363 shall not be more than thirty minutes or as may be indicated in the sign.
365. No motor vehicles shall be allowed to park in the taxi ranks or in the areas marked as “Taxi Parking” other than taxis.
366. No motor vehicles shall be allowed to park in the bus stand or the areas marked as “Bus Parking” other than buses.
367. A person driving a motor vehicle shall not park or stop a vehicle:
- 1) on a footpath;
 - 2) pedestrian Crossing;

- 3) along Expressway or multiple lanes road;
 - 4) between another vehicle and the centre of road;
 - 5) on the bridge;
 - 6) blind curve;
 - 7) roadside of built-up areas *except* in the designated parking areas; and
 - 8) blocking footpath, lane-way or private driveway
368. A person driving a motor vehicle shall stop or park a vehicle facing the same direction of the traffic, parallel and as near as practicable to the left edge of a two-way road or on the edge of the road on one-way road but not within the edge line marked on the road.
369. A motor vehicle parked or stopped on a road or part of the road shall be at least 1 metre from any vehicle in front or behind.
370. A motor vehicle parked or stopped on a road or part of the road shall not unduly obstruct vehicles travelling along the road.
371. Section 368-370 shall not apply if a motor vehicle is parked or stopped in the areas designated by parking signs and markings.

Offence:

Fail to obey parking rules

Penalty:

12 Units.

372. A motor vehicle parked or stopped in the designated parking area shall be correctly positioned in the designated parking space, following the same direction of the traffic.

Offence:

Wrong Parking

Penalty:

12 Units

373. In case of an accident occurring due to unsafe parking or parking in the prohibited areas, leading to death, injury or property damage, the owner of the vehicle parked wrongly shall be liable for the payment of compensation as per the Road Safety and Transport Act 1999 or as may be determined by the court unless proven otherwise.

Leaving a Motor Vehicle Unattended

374. A person leaving a motor vehicle unattended shall park the vehicle properly, switch off the engine, apply parking brake, and lock the vehicle to ensure safety of other road users.
375. In case of an accident occurring due to unattended vehicles, causing death, injury or property damage, the owner of the vehicle parked unsafely shall be liable for the payment of compensation as per the Road Safety and Transport Act 1999 or as may be determined by the court unless proven otherwise.
376. A motor vehicle may be towed by a competent authority if a vehicle is found to be parked in a place causing traffic obstruction or safety hazard to other road users.
377. A competent authority shall not be liable for any damages occurred to the towed vehicle referred to in Section 376.

Use of lights when driving or riding at night

378. A person driving a motor vehicle or riding a motorcycle at night shall use the following lights in proper function:
 - 1) headlights;
 - 2) tail/side lights;
 - 3) registration number plate lights;
 - 4) brake lights; and
 - 5) indicator lights

Offence:

Fail to use proper lights at night

Penalty:

12 Units

Use of lights on high beam

379. A person driving a motor vehicle or motorcycle at night shall put the headlights of a vehicle to low beam in the event of an on-coming vehicle approaching from 200 meters away, and shall let the vehicle pass completely.
380. A person driving a motor vehicle or riding a motorcycle behind 200 meters of a moving vehicle at night shall put the headlights to low beam position.

381. A person may flash your vehicle's headlights briefly from the low beam position to the high beam position to provide a warning to other moving vehicles.

382. A person shall use the headlights of a motor vehicle always in low beam position in the event of driving in the city, town or built-up areas.

Offence:

Failure to keep lights on low beam wherever necessary

Penalty:

12 Units

Display of dazzling lights on vehicles

383. A person shall not be allowed to fix or use a dazzling light that distracts the visibility of other road users *except* the lights fixed by the manufacturing company.

Offence:

Use of dazzling light

Penalty:

11 Units

Use of lights on stationary vehicle

384. In the event of parking a vehicle on a road at night for emergency purposes, a person shall put on side/tail lamps/hazard lights to indicate the presence.

385. Section 384 shall not apply if the street lighting makes the vehicle visible from at least 200 metres.

Offence:

Fail to display light at night

Penalty:

12 Units

Use of hazard lights

386. A person driving a motor vehicle shall be required to switch on the hazard lights in case a person intends to inform the other road users about the state of emergency and hazard.

387. A hazard light referred in Section 386 shall not be construed as a parking light.

388. No person shall be allowed to use hazard lights unless required to do so under section 386.

Offence:

Fail to switch on hazard lights

Penalty:

12 Units

Use of horns and similar warning devices

389. A person shall not use vehicle horn or a similar warning device except it is deemed required to give warning to other road users.

390. A person while driving on a road shall refrain from creating undue noise either by way of excessive acceleration of the vehicle's engine while in a stationary position or using the horn indiscriminately and repeatedly, in a manner that is likely to disturb others.

Offence:

Use of unnecessary horns

Penalty:

20 Units

391. A person while driving a motor vehicle shall not use a horn when facing a "No Horn" sign or in the areas where "No Horn" signs are erected.

Offence:

Honking in prohibited areas

Penalty:

14 Units

392. A person while driving a motor vehicle shall use horn in the areas and road where "Do Horn" sign is erected.

Offence:

Failure to use horn at "Use Horn Sign"

Penalty:

14 Units

Rules applying to Pedestrian

393. A pedestrian moving along the roads shall:

- 1) not put yourself or anyone else in danger by moving into the path of an oncoming vehicle;
- 2) not cross a road if there is a pedestrian crossing within 20 metres;
- 3) cross the road by the shortest and most direct route practicable;
- 4) not obstruct traffic by unreasonably remaining on a road;
- 5) not travel on a road if there is a footpath that is practicable to use;
- 6) travel as close as is practicable to the edge of the road;
- 7) not travel more than two abreast on a road;
- 8) not attempt to get on a moving vehicle; and
- 9) face the on-coming traffic while walking along the footpaths as far as practicable

Offence:

Not following pedestrian rules

Penalty:

2 Units

Accident due to carelessness of a Pedestrian

394. If a motor vehicle accident is caused due to carelessness of a pedestrian, leading to death, injury or property damage, the pedestrian shall be liable for compensation unless proven otherwise.

395. A person driving a motor vehicle shall not be liable for death or injury of a pedestrian caused by an accident due to the carelessness of the pedestrian himself.

Vehicle Occupants

396. A Passenger travelling in a motor vehicle shall, at all times:

- 1) not put part of body outside a window or door of a motor vehicle that may jeopardize safety of one and others;
- 2) not open or leave the door of a vehicle opened that may cause injury to a person or damage to any vehicle; or
- 3) not get off or get out of a vehicle that may cause injury to a person or damage to any vehicle

Offence:

Not following the rules for vehicle occupants

Penalty:

12 Units

Rules for Two-wheeler Rider and Passenger

397. A person riding two-wheeler or a pillion rider shall:

- 1) wear on your head a securely fitted protective helmet as per the standards set by the authority;
- 2) sit appropriate and practicable;
- 3) not ride two-wheeler unless it is equipped with required features; and
- 4) not carry a child or any loads that may jeopardize the safety of one and other

Offence:

Not following two wheeler rules

Penalty:

15 Units

Control of a Vehicle and Visibility

398. A person shall perform a pre-driving check to ensure proper visibility and control of a vehicle while driving.

399. A person shall not use hand held devices while driving.

Offence:

Using hand held devices while driving

Penalty:

20 Units

Interfering with the driver's control of a vehicle

400. A person travelling in a motor vehicle shall not interfere with the driver's control of the vehicle or unreasonably obstruct the driver's view of the road or traffic.

Offence:

Interfering with the driver's control of a vehicle

Penalty:

12 Units

Duty of a driver, rider and any other road users in the event of an accident

401. In the event of a motor vehicle accident caused by a person driving a motor vehicle leading to death, injury or property damage, shall provide the personal and vehicle details to any family member(s) or legal representative (s).

Offence:

Failure to report accident case

Penalty:

30 Units

402. In the event of a motor vehicle accident leading to death, injury or property damage, a driver shall report the full details of the accident to the nearest police station or the Authority, unless the details are being submitted to the police official present at the accident spot.
403. In the event of a motor vehicle accident, a person driving the motor vehicle shall take all possible steps to evacuate any injured person for medical treatment.
404. A motor vehicle involved in a motor vehicle accident shall not be removed from an accident site until such time an investigation is completed, unless it is felt unavoidable to move the vehicle to save life, protect property or avoid traffic obstruction.

Offence:

Removal of vehicle from the accident site

Penalty:

20 Units

Hit and Run

405. In the event of a motor vehicle accident caused by a person driving the vehicle, a person shall not flee from the motor vehicle accident spot without informing the police or the Authority.

406. A person referred in Section 405 shall be liable for the penalty prescribed herein under this Regulations, in addition to other penalties prescribed under Section 53 (6) of the Road Safety and Transport Act 1999.

Offence:

Hit and Run

Penalty:

50 Units

Accident Reporting System

407. The Traffic Police shall take the lead role in “Search and Rescue” operation in the event of a motor vehicle accident in the country.

408. Notwithstanding Section 407, in the event of a motor vehicle accident involving a commercial passenger vehicle, joint investigation shall be carried out by the authority and the traffic police.

409. The investigation team shall be required to submit a first-hand accident report to the head of the organisation immediately, and the detailed report within 7 days of the accident or earlier for the matter contained in section 408.

410. Notwithstanding anything contained in Section 408 and 409, the Traffic Division shall submit the monthly motor vehicle accident report to the Authority and as and when desired by the Authority.

Removing Material Dropped from the Vehicle

411. A person driving a motor vehicle shall be required to remove the material dropped from the vehicle on the road as soon as practicable in order not to cause inconveniences to other road users, traffic obstruction, motor vehicle accident or damage to other properties.

Offence:

Leaving materials on the road

Penalty:

20 Units

Towing or Transporting a Vehicle/Machinery

412. A person shall not drive or ride a vehicle that is towing another vehicle if the size, weight, or loading of the towed vehicle affects the safe control of both vehicles.
413. A person shall not tow a motor vehicle unless a person is licensed to drive the towed vehicle and can safely control it.
414. A person shall not tow another motor vehicle connected to the towing vehicle unless the space between the two vehicles is not more than four metres.
415. No person shall ride or be allowed to ride in a vehicle/machinery that is being transported or towed.

Offence:

Riding in a towed vehicle

Penalty:

12 Units

Insecure and Protruding Load

416. A person shall not drive, ride, or tow a vehicle with a load that is not securely tightened, or hanging or projecting in a hazardous manner from the vehicle.

Offence:

Insecure load

Penalty:

20 Units

417. Maximum height of the load in case of medium and heavy vehicle shall be up to cabin level of the vehicle and not exceeding it, subject to loading capacity specified in Schedule-II of the Regulations.
418. The laden and unladen weight for light vehicles shall not exceed the gross vehicle weight and the height of load should not exceed 30 cm above the carrier.
419. The load volume of the pickup shall not exceed 30 cm above the cabin level but within the gross vehicle weight.

420. The Authority or the Traffic Police shall require a motor vehicle to be weighed if it is found to be carrying excess load beyond the prescribed gross vehicle weight.
421. A person shall not drive a motor vehicle carrying the loads protruding outside the body exceeding thirty percent of its length irrespective of loading capacity.

Offence:

Overloading

Penalty:

30 Units per excess ton

Obscene letters and graffiti on vehicle body or part

422. No person shall be allowed to write obscene letters and graffiti on the body of a motor vehicle and shall be required to remove on the spot if found guilty of an offence.

Offence:

Obscene letters and graffiti on the vehicle body

Penalty:

12 Units

Billboards, banners and stickers on vehicle body

423. Display of inappropriate billboard, banners and stickers on the vehicle body shall not be allowed. In exceptional cases, approval of the Authority shall be sought.

Offence:

Display of billboards, banners and stickers without an approval of the Authority

Penalty:

12 Units

Responsibility of people in charge of animals and stray animals

424. The owner of an animal shall not leave or release the animal (s) freely along the roads in built up areas and Highways.

Offence:

Release of animals on roads

Penalty:

20 Units

425. A person driving a motor vehicle shall, as far as practicable, take the safer side of the road to avoid accidents with unattended animal (s) on the road, unless under unavoidable circumstances.
426. Notwithstanding Section 425, in the event of a collision between an unattended animal (s) and a motor vehicle, a driver shall not be liable unless proven otherwise.

Requirement for vehicle carrying hazardous goods

427. A motor vehicle carrying hazardous goods shall only be allowed to enter into the build-up areas, towns and cities as per the time regulated by the Local Government, Traffic Police or the Authority.
428. Separate parking and stopping areas shall be allocated or designated by the Local Government or the relevant agencies, for the vehicles mentioned in Section 427.

Offence:

Non-compliance to the rules set for vehicles carrying hazardous goods

Penalty:

20 Units

Insurance and Compensation

429. The commercial vehicles shall have a comprehensive insurance policy and other vehicles shall at least have a third party insurance policy.

Offence:

No insurance certificate

Penalty:

As per section 50 (2) of the Road Safety and Transport Act 1999

430. The payment of compensation and eligibility thereof shall be as prescribed under Division 6 of the Road Safety and Transport Act 1999.

Motor vehicle for filming purpose

431. A person intending to shoot a movie along the road or using vehicle on road shall obtain an approval from the Authority.
432. The Authority may grant permit to the applicant as per the provisions of this Regulations and any other relevant regulations.

CHAPTER VII: ENFORCEMENT MECHANISM

433. For the purpose of this Regulations, the Authority shall develop strategies and plans to procure appropriate road safety equipment and explore options to enforce the provision (s) of this Regulations for enhancing road safety in the country.

Alcohol Testing Device

434. For the purpose of regulating “Driving under the Influence of Alcohol”, the Authority shall prescribe the use of standard “Alcohol Testing Device” calibrated periodically.
435. The Authority or Traffic Police testing the Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) of a person driving a motor vehicle shall follow the Standard Operating Procedures for BAC testing established by the Authority.
436. The permissible limit of Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) for a person holding an Ordinary Driving Licence with more than 3 years driving experience shall be 0.08g/100ml.
437. Notwithstanding section 436, a person holding an Ordinary Driving Licence with driving experience of less than 3 years and a Professional Driving Licence holder shall not drive with any level of alcohol concentration in the blood.

Offence:

Driving under the influence of alcohol

Penalty:

35 Units

Emission Testing Device

438. A standard Emission Testing Device shall be used by the authorized person/firm to test the level of motor vehicular emission.
439. The testing official or an authorized firm shall follow the Standard Operating Procedures for vehicular emission testing established by the Authority.
440. The permissible vehicular emission level in the country shall be as per the standard prescribed by National Environment Commission.

441. The fees for the vehicular emission test for all categories of motor vehicle shall be as specified in the contractual agreement signed between the Authority and the authorized firm (s), or as may be determined by the Authority from time to time.

Motor Vehicular Emission and Noise

442. The Authority shall conduct or authorize any person to conduct motor vehicular emission tests.

443. A person shall not drive or allow a motor vehicle to be driven on a road, if the vehicle is emitting excessive exhaust smoke.

Offence:

Emitting excessive smoke

Penalty:

20 Units

444. A commercial vehicle shall undergo a test of emission once every six months and other categories of vehicle once every year.

Offence:

Failure to undergo emission test

Penalty:

30 Units

445. The authorized person or traffic police may require a motor vehicle to undergo an emission test if a vehicle is emitting excessive smoke while driven on a road, and shall provide instruction for rectification.

Offence:

Failure to rectify emission level within 30 days

Penalty:

30 Units if the defects are not rectified

Notice prohibiting the use of Motor Vehicles with unacceptable level of emission

446. The Authority or Traffic Police shall serve a notice prohibiting the use of a motor vehicle on a road if the emission test carried out shows an unacceptable level of emission from its exhaust.
447. The owner of a motor vehicle who is issued a notice under Section 446 shall not use or allow the vehicle to be used on a road until the defects are remedied and the level of emission is at an acceptable level.

Offence:

Non-compliance to instructions to rectify emission level

Penalty:

30 Units for the first Offence, 50 Units for second offence and grounding of the vehicle until emission issue is rectified.

Pollution under Control Certificate (PUC)

448. A person driving a motor vehicle shall obtain a “Pollution Under Control Certificate” from an emission testing firm (s) or the Authority, as a documentary proof of a vehicle being tested for vehicular emission.

Offence:

Failure to produce Emission compliance certificate (PUC)

Penalty:

15 Units

Exemptions from requirement to undergo vehicular emission test

449. The following motor vehicles are exempted from the requirement to undergo vehicular emission test:
- 1) power tillers;
 - 2) Equipment;
 - 3) antique vehicles preserved for showcase and not to ply on the roads; and
 - 4) all new vehicles for the initial period of three years counting from the date of initial registration

Excessive Noise

450. A person shall not drive or allow a motor vehicle to be driven on a road, unless the vehicle has a silencing device which:
- 1) is securely fixed to its engine so that all the exhaust gases from the engine pass through the silencing device and prevent undue noise; and
 - 2) does not have attached to it a device capable of producing an open exhaust
451. A person shall not drive or allow a motor vehicle to be driven on a road that produces undue noise or noise beyond the permissible level set by the National Environment Commission.
452. Use of vacuum horns shall not be permitted in any motor vehicle and at all times.

Offence:

Use of vacuum horn

Penalty:

20 Units

Prohibition of washing a vehicle

453. Washing of a vehicle in roadside brooks, rivers and streams shall be prohibited.

Offence:

Washing a vehicle in roadside brooks, rivers and streams

Penalty:

10 Units

Drug Testing Device

454. A standard drug testing kit shall be used by the Authority or an authorized person to test a person driving a motor vehicle for driving under the influence of any psychotropic substance.
455. The Authority or an authorized person conducting the drug test shall follow the Standard Operating Procedures of drug testing established by the Authority.

Vehicular Noise measuring device

456. A standard device designed to measure the vehicular noise shall be used by the Authority or Traffic Police for determining the noise level of a vehicle.
457. The Authority shall not allow a person to drive a vehicle that produces noise beyond the permissible noise level.

Offence:

Excessive Noise

Penalty:

20 Units

Speed Measuring Device

458. A standard and most reliable Speed Measuring Device capable of detecting motor vehicle speed shall be used by the Authority or the Traffic Police.
459. The Authority or Traffic Police shall use speed-measuring devices as per the Standard Operating Procedures established by the Authority.
460. The testing official shall record and retain the results as generated by the device duly signed by the driver as an evidentiary proof of over speeding.

Fixed and Portable Weighing Device

461. The Authority or Traffic Police shall use a standard and most reliable fixed or portable weighing device to detect the loading capacity of a motor vehicle.
462. The Authority or Traffic Police shall use the device mentioned in section 461 as per the Standard Operating Procedures developed by the Authority.
463. The testing official shall keep records of tests generated by the device duly signed by the driver, in the event of violation of permissible loading capacity.

Interference with any Testing Devices

464. A person shall not, wilfully interfere with the mechanism or circuitry of any testing devices used under this Regulations, without proper authority.

Offence:

Interfering with testing devices

Penalty:

30 Units

Traffic Infringement Notice

465. For the purpose of enforcing the provisions under this Regulations, the Authority or a Traffic Police official shall issue Traffic Infringement Notice (TIN) to a person committing any traffic offence (s).
466. The authorised person or a traffic police shall serve traffic infringement notice by personally handing it over to the person committing an offence or fixing a sticker to the vehicle, in case of a parking offence.
467. While serving a notice under section 466, the authorised person or a Traffic Police shall seize the driving licence or the registration certificate from the person committing an offence and release only after the payment of penalty.
468. An authorized person or Traffic Police issuing the Transport Infringement Notice shall update the records in the system within 24 hours from the issuance of the notice.
469. In the event of the Traffic Police not being able to update the Traffic Infringement Notice in the system due to lack of Internet and ICT facilities or any other reasons, the list of Traffic Infringement Notice shall be forwarded to the nearest Authority's office for updation in the system.
470. The responsibility of releasing the seized documents shall fall on the Authority or Traffic Police official subject to who seizes the documents.
471. The unclaimed seized vehicle documents left either with the Authority or the Traffic Police for a period of more than twelve months shall be subject to disposal by the Authority.
472. All the unclaimed seized motor vehicle documents left with the Traffic Police for more than twelve months shall be submitted to the Authority for disposal.
473. The Authority shall not be responsible for misplaced documents which are not claimed within twelve months from the date of seizure.

474. A person approaching the Authority or Traffic Police to get the seized documents after the period specified in Section 471 shall process for new documents upon payment of applicable fees and penalties for any unsettled traffic offences.

Payment of Penalty

475. If the person to whom the Traffic Infringement Notice is issued fails to take action as per the instruction within seven days (grace period) from the date of issue, an additional penalty of 15 Units shall be imposed every week after one-week grace period up to a period of 4 weeks.
476. Notwithstanding Section 475, the Authority shall provide one demerit point on the driving licence if a person holding valid driving license fails to pay the penalty beyond eight weeks from one-week grace period is issued.
477. In the case of a person holding a learner license failing to pay the penalty beyond eight weeks from one-week grace period, the Authority shall defer the issuance of a new driving license for one year from the date of application.

Restriction to drive

478. The Authority or Traffic Police shall not allow a person to drive or restrict a vehicle to be driven on road under the following circumstances:
- 1) unlicensed driving;
 - 2) driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol or psychotropic substance; or
 - 3) any other justifiable reasons requiring restriction
479. Notwithstanding section 478, a driver under the influence of alcohol may be allowed to drive from the point of inspection after the level of BAC reaches to an acceptable level.
480. A person driving a motor vehicle under the influence of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances shall be dealt as per the Standard Operating Procedure established by the Authority.
481. The Authority or Traffic Police shall not be liable for any damages that occur to the vehicle or a driver in the course of performing duties under section 478.

Impounding of Vehicle

482. A motor vehicle driven on road without any record of registration, unless *exempted* from registration, shall be impounded by the Authority.

483. To facilitate provisions set in Section 482, the Authority in collaboration with relevant agencies, shall create vehicle impoundment facilities in the convenient places.
484. The Authority shall surrender the unclaimed vehicle to the relevant agency after six months of its impoundment.

Categorization of major Offences

485. The Traffic Offences specified in Schedule-X of this Regulations shall be categorized as major offences.
486. The demerit point, suspension and cancellation of the driving licence shall be incorporated automatically in the electronic Registration and Licensing Information System (e-RaLIS).

Road Safety Education Programs for Drivers' behavioural Change

487. The Authority shall explore various measures to create road safety awareness and advocacies to promote road safety practices to targeted road users.
488. The Authority may:
 - 1) subject the offenders under this Regulations to undergo road safety educational programs aimed for behavioural improvement; or
 - 2) subject a person (s) with records of major traffic offence to undergo road safety education program;
 - 3) issue a certificate as testimony of attendance to such educational program attendees; and
 - 4) provide Road Safety and Traffic Disciplinary course to traffic police
489. A Certificate of Participation for taking part in the Road Safety Awareness and Education Program shall be accepted in lieu of a one-day introductory course certificate while applying for a driving test.
490. The Authority shall require the traffic offenders to produce a certificate of attendance referred in section 489 as one of the requirements for re-issuance of driving licence, which is either provided with demerit point(s) or suspended.

Standard Road Markings and Traffic Signs

491. The standard road markings and traffic signs to guide any road users in the country shall be as per the standards approved by the designated Authority, as prescribed in Schedule-VII of the Regulations.

492. The road signage and Traffic signs shall be categorized under Sections 493-502 of the Regulations.

Mandatory or Regulatory Signs

493. Regulatory signs shall be used to inform road users of specific traffic laws or Regulations, and indicate the applicability of the legal requirements. They shall usually be circular in shape.
494. Regulatory signs shall be installed at or near where the Regulations apply. The signs shall clearly indicate the requirements imposed by the Regulations and shall be designed and installed to provide adequate visibility and legibility in order to obtain compliance. Regulatory signs shall be retro reflective or illuminated to show the same shape and similar colour during day and night.
495. The mandatory signs or regulatory sign shall be mandatorily followed by the road users and non-compliance shall lead for payment of penalty for traffic offence.

Size of Traffic Signs

496. The sizes and colour for Regulatory, Cautionary, Informatory signs specified in Schedule VII of this regulations and road markings shall be as per the standard approved by the Bhutan Standard Bureau.

Cautionary or Warning Signs

497. The cautionary or warning signs warn of dangerous or unusual conditions ahead such as curve, turn, dip or side road that might call for a reduction of speed or an action in the interest of safety and efficient traffic operations. They are usually triangular-shaped and have a white background with red border and black legend.
498. The use of Warning or Cautionary signs shall be based on an engineering study or engineering judgement. The use of warning signs should be kept to a minimum as the unnecessary use of Warning signs tend to breed disrespect for all signs.

Informatory or Direction Signs

499. The Informatory or direction signs tell about distance, destination and facilities or services along the road.

Driving Training Institute

500. The Authority shall be involved as a key stakeholder with the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources in curriculum development of the Driving Training Institutes to ensure production of quality drivers in the country.
501. The Authority shall conduct the periodic monitoring of the quality of training courses provided by the driving training institutes.
502. The Authority shall require the trainees from the Driving Training Institute to undergo both theoretical and practical driving tests conducted by the Authority.
503. The Authority shall certify the standards of curriculum and infrastructures at Driving Training Institute.
504. The Authority shall verify the lists of trainees undergoing driving training courses through online systems for the purpose of driving assessment.
505. Irregularities in the lists of trainees shall be subjected to following penalties:
 - 1) rejection of conduct of driving test by the Authority
 - 2) Nu.10, 000/- (Ten thousand) for first time;
 - 3) Nu. 20, 000/- (Twenty thousand) for second time;
 - 4) Nu.30, 000/- (Thirty thousand) for third time; and
 - 5) thereafter, matter to be referred to the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources for cancellation of licence.
506. A Driving Training Institute shall be imposed following penalties for employing un-certified driving training instructors:
 - 1) Nu.10,000/- (Ten thousand) for the first time;
 - 2) Nu.20,000/- (Twenty thousand) for the second time;
 - 3) refer the case to the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources for cancellation of Licence

Driving a City Bus

507. Notwithstanding the requirements of driving licence for the drive types contained above, the Authority may allow a person to drive a city bus, provided that a person:
 - 1) has a valid ordinary driving licence
 - 2) be 21 years of age or more, and

- 3) submit a 6-month or more Certificate of Course completion issued by the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources especially designed for driving city buses
508. The Authority shall issue a City Bus Driving Card authorizing a person to drive a city bus, upon fulfilling the requirements prescribed in Section 507.

Offence:

Driving without City Bus Driving Card

Penalty:

35 Units

CHAPTER VIII

ANNEXURES

These schedules shall be updated from time to time.

SCHEDULE-I: FEES AND CHARGES: (in ngultrum per annum unless indicated otherwise)

Sl. No	Description of Fees and Charges	Fees & Charges	Motor Vehicle Tax (MVT)	Total
1	Cost of Registration Certificate (RC)	500		500
2	Replacement of RC Fee	500		500
FEE FOR REGISTRATION				
3	Heavy Vehicles			
i	Motor vehicle exceeding 10-18.5 tons gross vehicle weight	6000	7000	13000
ii	Motor vehicle exceeding 18.5 tons of gross vehicle weight	8000	9000	17000
iii	Bus with 25 and more passenger seats (including driver)	5000		5000
iv	Motor vehicle exceeding 10-18.5 tons gross vehicle weight (BG)	6000		6000
v	Motor vehicle exceeding 18.5 tons of gross vehicle weight (BG)	8000		8000
vi	Bus with 25 and more passenger seats (including driver) (BG)	5000		5000
4	Medium Vehicles			
i	Motor vehicle exceeding 3 tons gross vehicle weight but not exceeding 10 tons gross vehicle weight	3800	5000	8800
ii	Bus with 13 to 24 passenger seats (including driver)	3000		3000
iii	Motor vehicle exceeding 3 tons gross vehicle weight but not exceeding 10 tons gross vehicle weight (BG)	3800		3800
iv	Bus with 13 to 24 passenger seats (including driver) (BG)	3000		3000
5	Tractors			
i	Below 20 hp	1000		1000
ii	Above 20 hp	2000		2000
6	Light Vehicles			

i	2501 CC and above	3000		3000
ii	1501 cc to 2500 cc	2500		2500
iii	1500 CC and below	2000		2000
iv	Government Light Vehicles	1500		1500
v	Electric Light vehicles (Pvt)	2000		2000
vi	Electric Light vehicles (Govt)	1500		1500
7	Taxis (above 796 cc) with following seating capacity			
i	5 seats	1500	1500	3000
ii	6 seats	2000	1500	3500
iii	7 seats	2500	1500	4000
iv	8 seats	3000	1500	4500
v	9 seats	3500	1500	5000
vi	10 seats	4000	1500	5500
vii	11 seats	4500	1500	6000
viii	12 seats	5000	1500	6500
8	Two Wheelers			
i	Two Wheelers	500		500
ii	Two wheelers (Government)	350		350
iii	Electric Two wheelers (Govt)	350		350
iv	Electric Two wheelers	500		500
9	Equipment			
i	Earth-moving and construction equipment.	5000		5000
10	Power-tiller, CD, BHT vehicles	Exempted		Exempted
11	Annual Renewal Fee shall be the same as indicated above against each category			
12	Late Renewal Fee/Penalty: (per day and maximum limit) for Vehicle Registration Certificate	10/day up to a maximum of 3000.		
13	Ownership transfer & Conversion fees			
i	Transfer of ownership	500	1% of the sale/assessed value	

	ii	Conversion of registration from government to private, taxi to private.	500		500
14	Learner licence				
	i	Fee for learner licence	100		100
	ii	Renewal of learner licence (per annum)	100		100
	iii	Replacement of learner licence	100		100
15	Driving Licence				
	i	Fee for driving licence(Per annum)	100		100
	ii	Cost of license card	100		100
16	Fee for conducting driving test (test booking fee)				
	i	Heavy & Medium	100		100
	ii	Light	75		75
	iii	Two Wheelers	50		50
	iv	Equipment	500		500
17	Driving Licence Renewal Fees (All categories, per annum)		100		100
18	Late fee for late renewal of driving licence (per day and maximum limit)		10/day and up to a maximum of 3000		
19	Licence Variation (Each Endorsement)		100		100
20	Replacement Driving Licence (all categories)		100		100
21	Fee for emission test				
	i	Heavy & Medium	As per the emission contract		
	ii	Light	As per the emission contract		
	iii	Two Wheelers	As per the emission contract		
22	Emission Retest Fee				
	i	Heavy & Medium	As per the emission contract		

ii	Light	As per the emission contract		
iii	Two Wheelers	As per the emission contract		
23	Annual Road Worthiness Certificate Renewal			
i	Heavy vehicles	100		100
ii	Medium Vehicles	75		75
iii	Light vehicles	60		60
iv	Tractors (<20hp/>20hp)	60/75		60/75
v	Taxis	50		50
vi	Two Wheelers	40		40
24	Replacement Fee of RWC	100		100
25	Penalty: for late renewal of Road Worthiness Certificate (Per day and maximum limit)	50 and up to a max of 750		
26	Route Permit Fees for visiting vehicles registered in other countries plying temporarily in Bhutan (per day)	100		100
27	Endorsement Fee per month for visiting Foreign vehicles staying in the country for more than three months			
27. Light vehicles (amount per month)				
i	2501 cc and above	250		250
ii	1501 cc to 2500 cc	210		210
iii	1500 cc and below	170		170
iv	Visiting Freight & equipment Vehicles under special government arrangement (amount per day)	100		100
28	Fees for issuance of no objection certificate for sale of a vehicle outside Bhutan:			
i	Earth moving/ construction equipment	7000		7000
ii	Trucks and buses (heavy and medium)	6000		6000
iii	Light vehicles	2500		2500
iv	Tractors	2500		2500
v	Two Wheelers	1000		1000

vi	Power Tillers	1000		1000
29	Permit for chartered passenger services or fee for a truck operating to carry passengers (per day per vehicle)	100		100

SCHEDULE-II: SEATING AND LOADING CAPACITY

Type of vehicle	Maximum number of persons	Loading capacity	Gross Weight
Trucks (single or double cabin): i) Medium ii) Heavy iii) 10 Wheeler trucks	As per manufacturer's seating capacity	As per manufacturer's specifications	GVW=Laden + Unladen Weight
Passenger Buses: i) Medium ii) Heavy	13-24 Above 24	As per manufacturer's specifications	GVW= laden + unladen weight
Taxis: (Any light vehicle)	Upto 12 seats	As per manufacturer's specifications	GVW= laden + unladen weight

SCHEDULE-III: VEHICLE NUMBERING TYPE

1. Numbering Pattern

Number plate standards

Region	Registration Code	Region Code	Registration Number pattern	Ownership/ Type	Colour
Thimphu, Phuentsholing, Gelephu, Samdrupjongkhar & Monggar	BG	1,2,3,4,5	A0001-A9999, B0001-B9999, C0001-C9999,.....	Government	Numbers in yellow with red background
	BP	1,2,3,4,5	A0001-A9999, B0001-B9999, C0001-C9999,.....	Private	Numbers in white with bright red background
	BT	1,2,3,4,5	-do-	Taxi	Numbers in black with yellow background
	BP (with parliament logo)	1,2,3,4,5	-do-	Vehicles of Parliament members	Numbers in white with bright red background and Logo of the Parliament
	BHT		-	Vehicles of the Royal Family	Numbers in yellow with red background
	EV (BP)				Numbers in white color with dark green background
	EV (BT)				Numbers in black color with light green background
	EV(BG)				Numbers in yellow color with dark green background

	EV (BHT)				Numbers in yellow color with dark green background
	EV (CD)				Numbers in white color with dark green background

2) Jurisdiction of the Regions

Region	Dzongkhags under each region
Gelephu	Sarpang, Tsirang, Dagana, Zhemgang, Trongsa and Bumthang
Monggar	Monggar, Lhuentse, Trashigang, Trashiyangtse
Phuentsholing	Chukha and Samtse
Samdrupjongkhar	Samdrupjongkhar and Pemagatshel,
Thimphu	Thimphu, Paro, Haa, Punakha, Wangduephodrang and Gasa

3) Number Plates and Colour Type

Type of Vehicle Ownership	Colour of number plate
Government	Numbers in yellow with red background
Private	Numbers in white with bright red background
Taxi	Numbers in black with yellow background
Country Diplomats (CD)	Numbers in white with sky blue background
Member of Parliament (MP)	Numbers in white with bright red background and Logo of the Parliament
EV-for all type of ownership	As mentioned in Schedule III (1)

4) Number Plate Size

Type of vehicle	Number Plate Size, Lettering and Thickness
Heavy	Plate Size: 18"X 7" Lettering: Dzongkha on the first half and English on the second half of the number plates, both at the front and rear.
Light	Plate Size: 15" X 6"

	Lettering: Dzongkha on the first half and English on the second half of the number plates, both at the front and rear.
Two Wheelers	Plate Size: 9" X 3½" Lettering: Dzongkha on the first half and English on the second half of the number plates, both at the front and rear.

SCHEDULE IV: DRIVING TEST STANDARDS

Type of vehicle	Requirements
(1) Light Vehicles	<p>Online/Written or Oral Test for all categories of vehicles including two wheeler (Multiple choice questions)</p> <p>1) 5 Point Turn Test:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Front in Front Out ii. Reverse in Reverse Out iii. Duration: 3 (Three) minutes for both requirements <p>2) Highway Test</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Pick Up ii. Driving in town/cities iii. General manoeuvring and knowledge about signs and signals
(2) Two Wheelers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Balancing (Three stone) test (to be followed 7 ft marking) ii. One hand drive
(3) Heavy and Medium Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Highway test ii. Pick up and general manoeuvring test
(4) Earth Moving and Construction Equipment	Test at Site

Note: Any risk/mishaps arising during the driving test shall be on the owner of the vehicle/equipment.

SCHEDULE- V: VEHICLE SPECIFICATIONS

Requirements applicable to all commercial passenger vehicles

1. A vehicle shall:

- i. Be constructed and equipped so as to be stable when carrying the maximum number of passengers allowed at all speeds permitted;
- ii. Be constructed and maintained so that no undue noise or vibration arises during its operation
- iii. Have seats fitted, that have cushions that are suitably padded or contoured and are firmly and securely attached to the vehicle structure;
- iv. Have seats, interior fittings and trimmings that are properly constructed, fixed and finished;
- v. Have a suitable number of handholds for the safety and convenience of passengers;
- vi. Have all electric wiring properly insulated and protected from damage and located in a manner that does not cause danger to the passengers.
- vii. Have the body constructed and maintained so as to provide appropriate protection to passengers under all weather conditions;
- viii. Have seats fitted which have backs constructed so as to provide reasonable support for passengers;
- ix. Have floors of sound construction finished and maintained with skid resistant surface and sealed so as to prevent fumes and dust from entering the vehicle;
- x. Have interior lamps adequate for the reasonable convenience of passengers;
- xi. Have every window soundly and properly fitted and each moveable window equipped with a suitable opening device;
- xii. Have notices on or in the vehicle to the satisfaction of the Authority which:
 - a) clearly show in letters at least 25 millimetres high and proportionate width, the maximum number of adult passengers' including any standing passengers, the vehicle is licenced to carry; and
 - b) are displayed on the outside rear only, of vehicles licenced to carry less than 9 passengers, and on the inside and outside rear of any other vehicle
- xiii. Have an engine compartment :
 - a) that does not contain flammable sound proofing material or material capable of being impregnated with fuel or lubricant; and
 - b) that has drainage holes or that is otherwise designed to prevent the accumulation of fuel or lubricant;
 - c) have its engine compartment and other sources of heat separated from the remainder of the vehicle by heat resisting material
- xiv. Have a vehicle fuel filter pipe:
 - a) that is designed so that any overflow or leakage cannot accumulate;
 - b) that does not project beyond the overall width of the body work; and



- c) that is not located in the engine compartment.
- xv. Have its fuel filler pipe opening on an external surface;
- xvi. Have its fuel tank, or any part of it :
 - a) not less than 1.2 meters from the front of the vehicle;
 - b) not projecting beyond the overall width of the bodywork; and
 - c) not located in the engine compartment.
- xvii. Have its fuel system fittings designed so that any leaking fuel flows freely to the ground without contacting the exhaust system or any electrical equipment;
- xviii. Have no flammable material located within 100 millimetres of the exhaust system unless that material is effectively shielded.

4) Additional specifications for passenger transport vehicles

In addition to the requirement specified in section 1, a passenger transport vehicle must meet the following requirements:

- i. It shall be fitted with a device or be equipped with an appliance or other means to enable the drivers to remove condensation from the windscreen;
- ii. It shall not have exposed bars protruding above or behind the seat back other than to provide corner handholds;
- iii. It shall have a mirror or mirrors which provide the driver with a view of any passenger;
- iv. It shall have a luggage rack on both the left and right side of the length of passenger compartment in the bus which is constructed:
 - a) to minimize the possibility of injury to any passenger; and
 - b) so that the vertical distance between the rack and the seat surface (measured at the centre of the seating position) is not less than 950 millimetres.
- v. It shall have a first aid kit approved by the Authority;
- vi. It shall have at least one spare tyre (not a resoled tyre) with a safe amount of tread;
- vii. A set of tools sufficient to effect emergency repairs;
- viii. It shall be fitted with fire extinguishers in working condition;
- ix. If it is fitted with a luggage rack on the roof, it must not extend for $\frac{3}{4}$ of the length of the bus and must not be loaded more than 75 cm high

SCHEDULE-VI: TRANSPORT INFRINGEMENT NOTICE (FINES AND PENALTIES)

SL #	Brief description of offences	Penalty Unit	Penalty Amount (in Nu.)
1	Failure to register motor vehicle within 15 days	2	100 per day
2	Driving a vehicle with an invalid registration certificate	15	750
3	Failure to display temporary registration number	30	1500
4	Number plates obscured, not clearly distinguishable, covered, altered, defaced or not fixed	15	750
5	Failing to convert within 15 days	2 per day after 15 days	100 per day after 15 days
6	Failure to renew registration certificate	Nu. 10 per day from date of expiry up to a maximum of Nu. 3000 for a period of three years	
7	Failure to renew roadworthiness certificate	1 per day up to a maximum of 15 Units	50 per day up to a maximum of 750
8	Driving a motor vehicle without a valid certificate of road worthiness	15	750
9	Failure to remove Logo	2 per day after 15 days	100 per day after 15 days
10	Driving un-roadworthy vehicle	15	750
11	Unlawful alteration of vehicles	12	600
12	Learning to drive without a valid Learner permit/Licence	15	750
13	Fail to display "L" plates while learning to drive	20	1000
14	Learner driver not accompanied by an experienced driver holding a valid license	20	1000
15	Unlicensed driving	35	1750
16	Learning to drive along highways and built-up areas before two months maturity of learner licence	30	Nu. 1500



17	Carrying passenger while learning to drive	20	1000
18	Underage Driving	35	1750
19	Ferrying passenger without a permit	35	1750
20	Insecure load	20	1000
21	Overloading	30 per excess ton of load	1500 per excess tons
22	Spillage of loads on the road/littering	20	1000
23	Failure to display safety flag (Red Coloured) prominently on the rear end of the vehicle and protruding goods exceeding permissible length	20	1000
24	Driving passenger bus without driver identification card	35	1750
25	Employment of non-certified conductor	25	1250
26	Non-compliance with the vehicle specifications	30	1500
27	Ferrying passenger in the event of major breakdown	100	5000
28	Carrying excess passenger	20 per extra passenger	1000 per extra passenger
29	Fail to display signs and any other labels required by the authority	15	750
30	Fail to display origin & destination board	15	750
31	Smoking in the passenger transport vehicle (per occasion)	10	500
32	Fail to display "No smoking" sign	Shall be levied as per the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act of Bhutan, 2014	
33	Failure to hand-over abandoned property to the Authority	15	750
34	Fail to issue ticket to the passengers	20	1000
35	Charging excess fare	20 per excess fare charged on each passenger, and the operator shall be required to refund the excess fare collected from the passengers.	1000 for excess fare charged on each passenger, and the operator shall be required to refund the excess fare collected from the passengers

35	Failure to refund fare for the ticket cancellation as per the format prescribed in Section 238	20	1000
37	Not following taxi ranking	20	1000
38	Touting for passenger	20	1000
39	Carrying passenger without the consent of first hirer	20	1000
40	Letting unlicensed driver to drive the public transport vehicle	70	3500
41	Failed to recruit substitute drivers for journey more than 8 hours	30	1500
42	Single driver driving continuously for more than 8 hours	30	1500
43	Not following traffic instruction	14	700
44	Any offence in relation to visiting motor vehicle	35	1750
45	Over-speeding	35	1750
46	Unsafe left turn	12	600
47	Unsafe right turn while entering intersection	12	600
48	Unsafe right turn	12	600
49	Unsafe U-turn	12	600
50	Unsafe reverse	12	600
51	Fail to give indicator/signal	12	600
52	Non-functional light	12	600
53	Fail to obey STOP sign	14	700
54	Fail to give way	14	700
55	Carrying excess load beyond bridge load limit	30 Units per excess ton of load	1500/excess ton
56	Fail to obey traffic signs	14	700
57	Not following One-Way rule	14	700
58	Fail to obey lane changing rule	14	700
59	Fail to obey pedestrian crossing rules	14	700
60	Fail to give right of way to VVIP, emergency, police and authority	16	800
61	Driving on the central island at the roundabout	14	700



62	Not keeping left	12	600
63	Unsafe overtaking	25	1250
64	Speeding while other vehicle is overtaking from the right	12	600
65	Tailgating	12	600
66	Fail to obey parking rules	12	600
67	Wrong Parking	12	600
68	Fail to use proper lights at night	12	600
69	Failure to keep lights on low beam wherever necessary	12	600
70	Use of dazzling light	11	550
71	Fail to display light at night	12	600
72	Fail to switch on hazard lights	12	600
73	Use of unnecessary horns	20	1000
74	Honking in prohibited areas	14	700
75	Failure to use horn at "Use Horn Sign"	14	700
76	Not following pedestrian rules	2	100
77	Not following the rules for vehicle occupants	12	600
78	Not following two wheeler rules	15	750
79	Using hand held devices while driving	20	1000
80	Interfering with the driver's control of a vehicle	12	600
81	Failure to report accident case	30	1500
82	Removal of vehicle from the accident site	20	1000
83	Hit and Run	50	2500
84	Leaving materials on the road	20	1000
85	Riding in a towed vehicle	12	600
86	Insecure load	20	1000
87	Overloading	30 Units per excess ton	1500/excess ton
88	Obscene letters and graffiti on the vehicle body	12	600
89	Display of billboards, banners and stickers without approval of the Authority	12	600
90	Release of animals on roads	20	1000
91	Non-compliance to the rules set for vehicles carrying hazardous goods	20	1000

92	Driving under the influence of alcohol	35	1750
93	Emitting excessive smoke	20	100
94	Failure to undergo emission test	30	1500
95	Failure to rectify emission level within 30 days	30 Units if the defects are not rectified	1500
96	Non-compliance to instructions to rectify emission level	30 Units for the first Offence, 50 Units for second Offence and grounding of the vehicle until emission issue is rectified	First offence: 1500 Second offence: 2500 grounding of the vehicle until emission issue is rectified
97	Failure to produce Emission compliance certificate (PUC)	15	750
98	Use of vacuum horn	20	
99	Washing a vehicle in roadside brooks, rivers and streams	10	500
100	Producing Excessive Noise	20	1000
101	Interfering with testing devices	30	1500
102	Driving without City Bus Driving Card	35	1750
103	Driving while Driving License is suspended	35	1750
104	Driving while Driving License is cancelled	35	1750

SCHEDULE- VII: TRAFFIC SIGNS

The traffic signs and signals shall include but not limited to the following:

Mandatory Signs



Stop Sign



No 'U' Turn



Speed limit



Give Way



No Trucks allowed



Load (weight) restriction



No buses allowed



One Way



Straight ahead



No left turn



No right turn



No entry



No overtaking



No standing/stopping



Horn prohibited



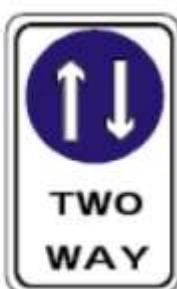
Pedestrian Prohibited



Cycles prohibited



No parking



Cautionary Signs



Left hand curve



Right hand curve



Right hair pin bend



Left hair pin bend



Loose gravel



Narrow Road



Left Reverse Bend



Right Reverse Bend



Series of bends



Side (feeder) road right



Side (feeder) road left



Y – Intersection



Roundabout



T – Junction



Staggered Intersection



Narrow Bridge



Steep Ascent



Steep Descent



Rock Falling



Dangerous Dip



Speed Breaker



Slippery road



Pedestrian crossing



School ahead

Handwritten signatures: "H" and "M"

Informatory signs



Hospital ahead



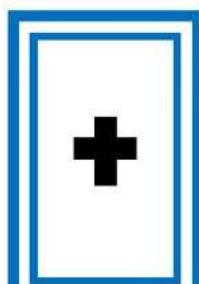
Shops and Restaurant ahead



Bus parking



Fuel station



First Aid post



Speed cameras



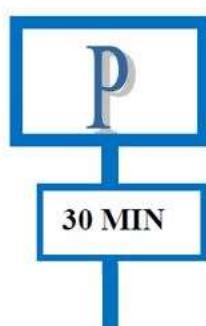
No through road for
traffic in the direction
indicated from junction
ahead



Designated for bus or truck
only for loading and
unloading



No through road for traffic



Time-bound parking



SCHEDULE- VIII: TAXI AND BUS FARE MODEL

Taxi Fare Computation Model

Table – 1: Input costs & expected margin for taxi operations

Capital expenses	
Cost of New Vehicle (Nu.)	
Life assumed in years	
Rate of Interest on capital cost (per annum)	
Annual recurring expenses (fixed costs) in Nu	
Registration & renewal	
Insurance premium	
Fitness test	
Emission test	
Driver's salary	
Variable costs	
Cost of fuel per litre (Nu.)	
Kilo meters per litre of fuel	
Percentage of oil & lubricants cost to fuel cost	
Cost of one tyre with tube (Nu.)	
Tyre life assumed (in kms.)	
Repairs & Maintenance cost per month (Nu.)	
Profit margin assumed (on operating cost)	
Intra-city operations	
Inter-city operations	

Table-1.1: Operating profile of taxi operations

Average daily utilization assumed (in kms.)	
Intra-city operations	
Inter-city operations	
Overall monthly utilization observed as per field surveys used to calculate average "Repairs & Maintenance Cost per Km."	

Table – 1.2 : Cost based fare computation model for taxis

Expenditure Head	NU Per KM

	Intra City	Inter City
1) Fixed Costs		
a) Cost of financing		
b) Registration & renewal		
c) Insurance		
d) Fitness test		
e) Emission test		
f) Driver's salary		
Sub-total (a to g)		
2) Variable Costs		
a) Fuel		
b) Oil & lubricants		
c) Tyre & tubes		
d) Repairs & maintenance		
Sub-total (a to d)		
Total Operating Cost (1 + 2)		
Profit Margin		
COST BASED FARE		

Fare computation model/Formula for passenger buses

Table-2: Input costs & expected margin for buses (Hilly/Plain Terrain)

Expenditure Head	Nu.Per Km			
	Medium 13-24 Seater Bus	Heavy (25 & above) Seater Bus	Luxury/Coaster Bus (Hilly terrain)	58 Seater Bus (Plain Terrain)
Cost of new vehicle				
Life assumed in years				
Rate of Interest on capital cost (in %)				
Salvage value assumed as % to new vehicle cost				
FIXED COSTS				
Registration & renewal annual expenses				

Trade licence fees per annum				
Insurance premium per annum				
Driver's salary per month				
Conductor's salary per month				
Bus staff ratio (driver & conductor) including leave reserve				
Administrative staff cost per month				
Counter/office rental per month				
Printing & Stationary expenses per month				
Telephone & other miscellaneous expenses per month				
VARIABLE COSTS				
Cost of fuel per litre				
Kilometers per litre of fuel				
Oil & Lubricants cost to fuel cost in %				
Cost of one tyre with tube				
Tyre life assumed in kms.				
Repairs & maintenance cost per month including spare-parts and manpower				
PROFIT MARGIN ASSUMED (ON OPERATING COST) In %				

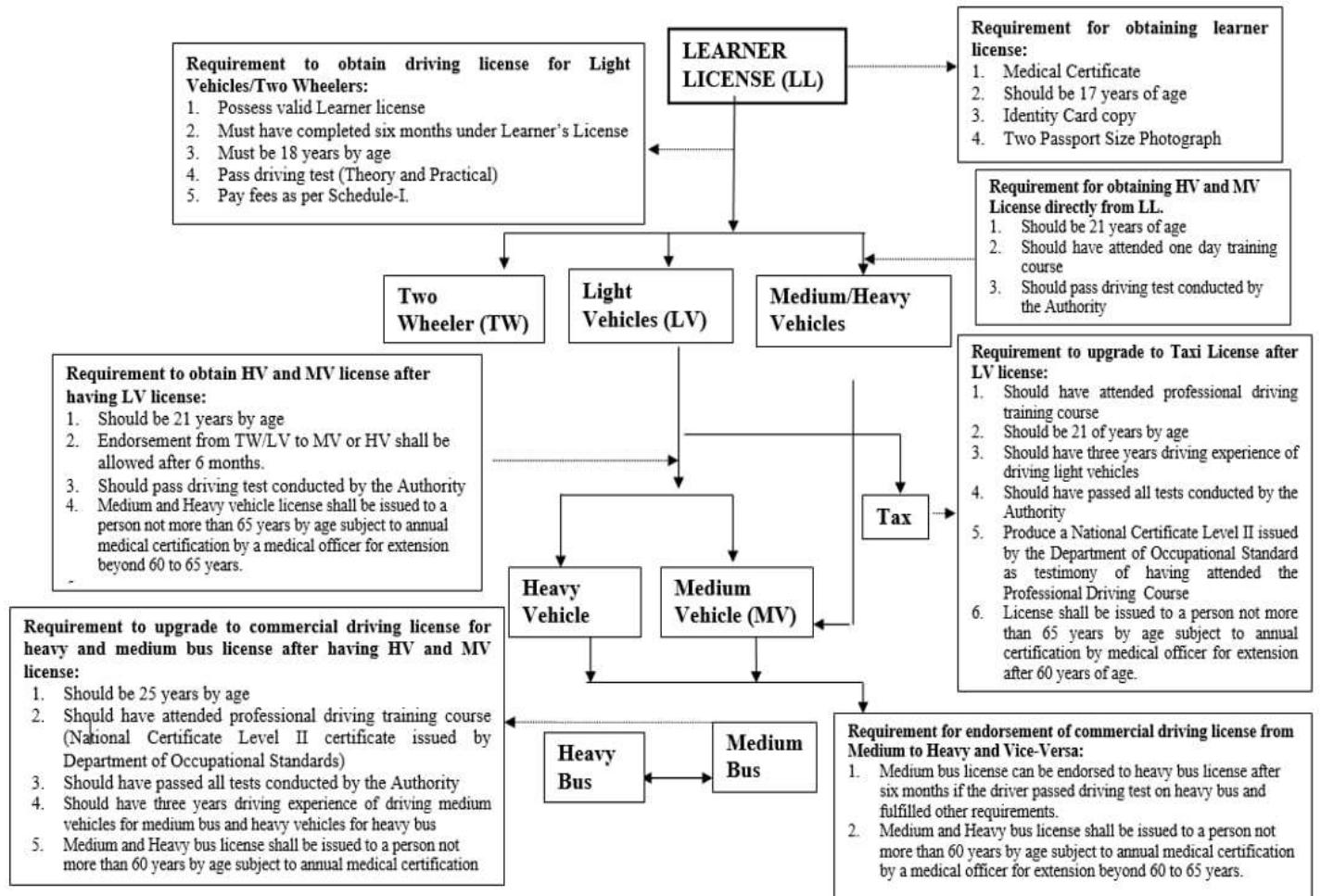
Table-2.1: Operating profile of buses

Parameter	MB (13-24 Seater bus)	HB (25 & above) Seater Bus	Luxury/Coaster bus	58 Seater bus (Plain Terrain)
Average monthly utilisation assumed (in kms.)				
Carrying capacity				
Expected load factor in %				

Table-2.2: Cost based fare computation model for buses

EXPENDITURE HEAD	Nu. Per KM			
	MB 13- 24 Seater Bus	HB (25 & above) Seater Bus	Luxury/ Coaster Bus (Hilly Terrain)	58 Seater Bus (Plain Terrain)
1) Fixed Costs				
a) Cost of financing (repayment + interest)				
b) Registration & renewal annual expenses				
c) Trade licence fees				
d) Insurance premium				
e) Driver's salaries				
f) Conductor's salaries				
g) Administrative staff				
h) Counter/office rentals				
i) Printing & stationary expenses				
j) Telephone & other miscellaneous expenses				
k) Salvage value spread over life span				
Sub-total (a to k)				
2) Variable Costs				
a) Fuel				
b) Oil & lubricants				
c) Tyre & tubes				
d) Repairs & maintenance				
Sub-total (a to d)				
Total Operating Cost (1 + 2)				
Profit margin				
EXPECTED EARNINGS PER BUS KM.				
FARE PER PASSENGER KM.				

SCHEDULE IX: Procedure, Stages and Requirement of Issuance of Driving License



SCHEDULE X: MAJOR OFFENCES

Sl#	Description of Offence:	Penalty in addition to indemnification for the damage caused	
		Ordinary Licence	Professional and or/commercial driving Licence
1	Dangerous/culpable/reckless driving resulting into death or permanent disability	As per Provisions under Penal Code of Bhutan (2001) and suspension of driving licence for minimum of six months.	As per Provisions under Penal Code of Bhutan (2001) and suspension of driving licence for minimum of one year.
2	Dangerous/culpable/reckless driving resulting in damage of private or public property	One Demerit point besides payment of compensation for the damage caused.	One Demerit point besides payment of compensation for the damage caused.
3	Hit and Run resulting in death or permanent disability	As per Provisions under Penal Code of Bhutan (2000) or as determined by the Court of Law or a penalty of 50 units or both.	As per Provisions under Penal Code of Bhutan (2000) or as determined by the Court of Law or a penalty of 50 units or both.
4	Hit and Run resulting in damage to public or private property	One Demerit point besides payment of compensation for the damage caused	One Demerit point besides payment of compensation for the damage caused
Penalty for any Offences from SL # 5 to 13 shall be as follows			
5	Carrying excess load	1st Offence: monetary	
6	Over Speeding	Penalty from Schedule-VI	1st Offence: Monetary
7	Unsafe Over Taking		Penalty Units from Schedule-VI and one Demerit point.
8	Entering a one way traffic in wrong direction.	2nd Offence: One Demerit point and monetary penalty	
9	Straddling a continuous lane-line	3rd Offence: One additional demerit point on driving Licence and monetary Penalty.	2nd Offence: Monetary Penalty and additional Demerit point.
10	Using hand-held devices while driving		

		<p>4th Offence: additional demerit points and suspension of Driving licence for 6 months with Penalty.</p> <p>5th Offence: Cancellation of driving licence and monetary penalty.</p>	<p>3rd Offence: Suspension of licence for 6 months with monetary penalty.</p> <p>4th Offence: cancellation of driving license and monetary penalty.</p>
11	Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol	<p>1st Offence: Monetary Penalty of 35 Units.</p> <p>2nd Offence: Monetary Penalty of 35 Units and One demerit point on the Driving Licence.</p> <p>3rd Offence: One additional demerit point on Driving Licence and monetary Penalty of 35 Units.</p> <p>4th Offence: Monetary Penalty of 35 Units and one additional Offence hole and suspension of driving licence for 6 months.</p> <p>5th Offence: Cancellation of Driving License with monetary penalty of 35 Units.</p>	<p>1st Offence: Monetary Penalty of 35 Units and one demerit point.</p> <p>2nd Offence: Monetary Penalty of 35 Units and One additional demerit point on the Driving Licence.</p> <p>3rd Offence: Suspension of Driving Licence for 6 months and monetary Penalty of 35 Units.</p> <p>4th Offence: Cancellation of Driving License with monetary penalty of 35 Units.</p>
12	Unlicenced driving	<p>1st Offence: Monetary Penalty (35units) from the Schedule of fines and Penalties in the Road Safety and Transport Regulations</p> <p>2nd Offence: penalty 70 units</p>	<p>1st Offence: Monetary Penalty (35units) from the Schedule of fines and Penalties in the Road Safety and Transport Regulations</p> <p>2nd Offence: penalty 70 units</p>

		<p>3rd Offence: penalty 105 units</p> <p>4th Offence: forward case to police for charge sheeting to court</p>	<p>3rd Offence: penalty 105 units</p> <p>4th Offence: forward case to police for charge sheeting to court</p>
13	Driving under influence of psychotropic substance.	Suspension of Driving Licence for a minimum period of 6 months and refer to BNCA.	Suspension of driving licence for 6 months with one demerit point and refer to BNCA.



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Ministry of Information and Communications
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Road Safety and Transport Authority

"For safe, efficient, sustainable and inclusive transport systems."



FORM-I:

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION / LICENSING APPLICATION FORM-I

i. Personal Information:

1. Name of applicant :
2. Gender (male or female):
3. Citizenship identity card no.:
4. Date of birth :
5. Nationality :
6. Blood group :
7. Occupation :
8. Father's name :
9. Mother's name :

ii. Permanent address:

- A. Village :
- B. Gewog :
- C. Dungkhag :
- D. Dzongkhag :
- E. Country :

iii. Present address:

- A. Dzongkhag :
- B. Station address:
- C. Phone no. (office):
- D. Mobile number:
- E. Guardian's contact no. :
- F. Email address :

Documents and other required for motor vehicle registration:	For learner/driving license (DL):
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Copy of Citizenship Identity Card 2. One Recent Passport Size Photograph 3. Original Challan and Invoice 4. Tax Clearance Certificate 5. Emission Compliance Certificate 6. Certificate of Incorporation (for Private Company only). 7. Produce Vehicle for Physical Inspection 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Copy of Citizenship Identity Card 2. One Recent Passport Size Photograph 3. Medical Certificate (for Learner's License) 4. Attend personally for necessary tests (for Driving License) 5. One Day Refresher Course Certificate (for Driving

UNDERTAKING

I, will update/inform the Authority about changes in any Information related to the present address, mobile number etc. immediately, and also I will update documents on time. I will be held responsible and accountable for any lapses as per the Road Safety & Transport Act 1999 and the Regulations for defaulting these undertaking.

I declare that to the best of my knowledge the particulars furnished above are true.

Place:

Date:

Affix Legal
Stamp here and
Signature

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

VERIFIED BY: NAME & DEGSINATION: 	UPDATED BY: NAME & DESIGNATION:
SIGNATURE & DATE	SIGNATURE & DATE



ROAD SAFETY AND TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

Ministry of Information and Communications

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