

WHEN AND HOW TO CHANGE LANE

142. The following explains general road behaviour and fundamentals of lane changing.

ROAD HOGGING

143. Road-Hogging is driving at an unreasonably slow speed on the road especially on the right-hand or along the centre of the road. Road-Hogging hinders the flow of traffic behind and may cause other vehicles to pass dangerously on the left. Motorists who travel at a slow speed should keep to the left side of the road; this applies especially to small capacity motorcycles, goods vehicles and lorries. You should only use the right-hand lane when overtaking or when you are about to turn right or make a U-turn.

THE KEEP LEFT RULE

144. When driving along two-way streets, keep well to the left and as near as practicable to the boundary of the road, except when you intend to overtake or turn right. Do not hog the middle of the road. This applies to dual- carriageways as well.

You must not cross the centre line at bends, near the crest of a rise or anywhere else where you cannot clearly see the road ahead.

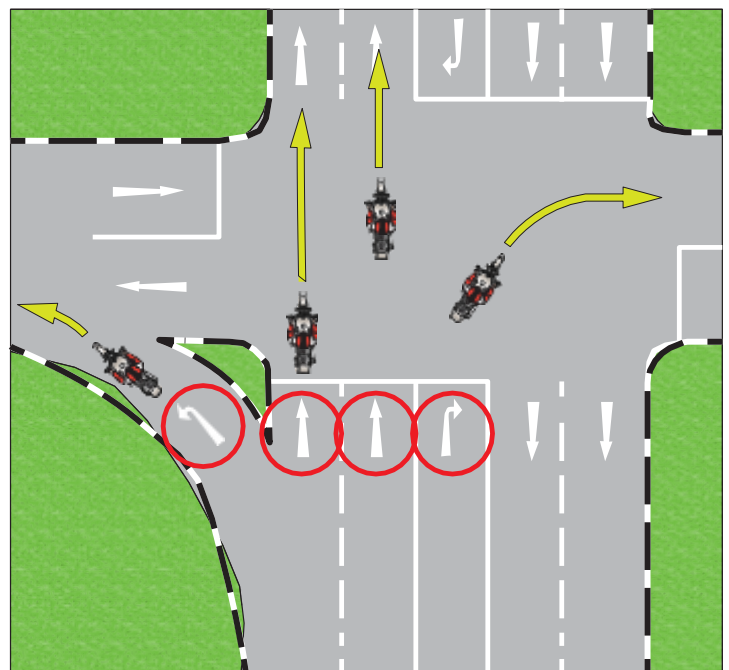
Sometimes your path of travel may be obstructed by road works, parked vehicles etc. In such circumstances, to avoid the obstruction, take extra care to ensure that your intended path is safe and clear before you move to the right. You may cross the centre line if the roads are narrow.

LANE DISCIPLINE

145. You must obey the directions indicated by arrows marked in the lanes. See illustration on the right. You must not change lanes suddenly as you may inconvenience or endanger other motorists. When changing lanes, give sufficient warning of your intention. Always signal at least 3 seconds in advance. Failure to do so could cause an accident.

Well before you reach a junction, make sure that you get into the correct lane for whichever direction you wish to take.

In traffic hold-ups, do not “jump the queue”. Trying to get ahead of others by squeezing between lanes and overtaking recklessly is courting disaster. Always be patient and have consideration for other road users.



EMERGENCY VEHICLES

146. Ambulances ferry the sick and injured to hospitals. Fire Engines help put out fires, and Police Vehicles carry police personnel whose presence is much needed in an emergency. Obstructing the passage of any such vehicle could mean the difference between life and death for someone. If you encounter any of them on the road with sirens and/or seeing the flashing beacon lights, give way by pulling in to the left or right side of the road depending on the circumstances.