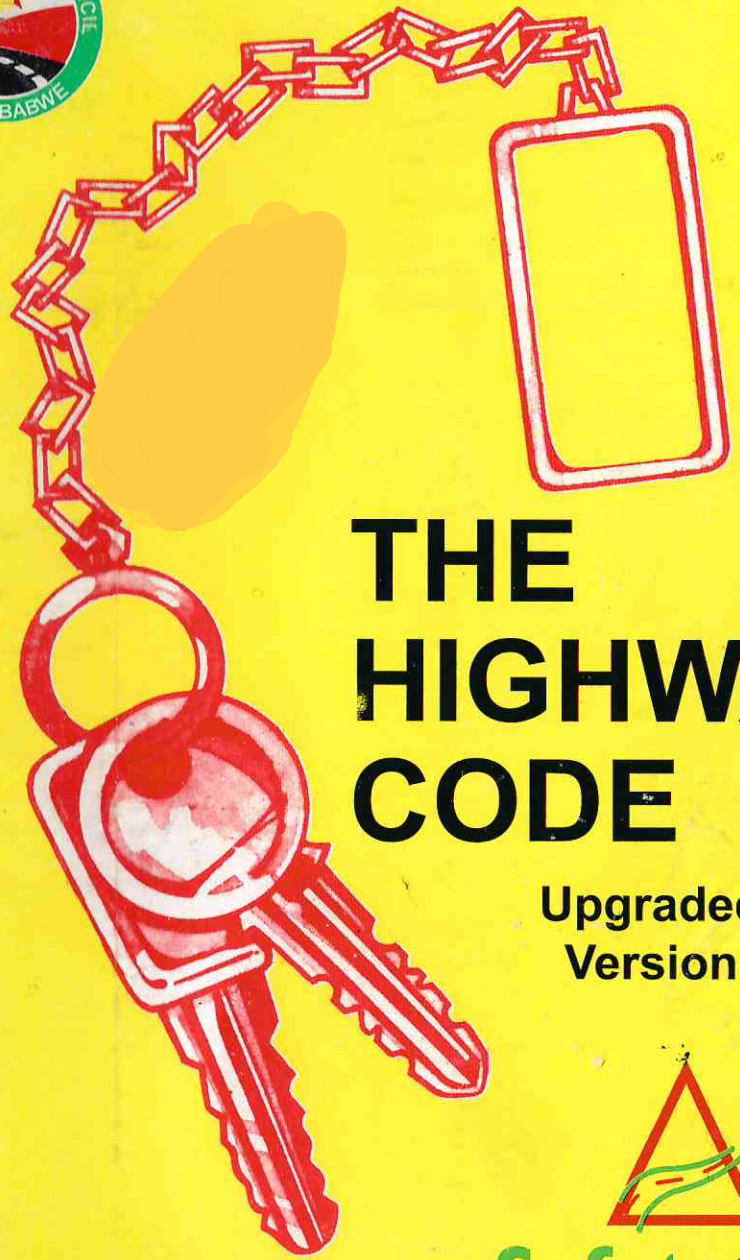
UHC 115007

TRAFFIC SAFETY COUNCIL OF ZIMBABWE



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REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE

FOREWORD

In the year 2016 thirty eight thousand six hundred and twenty (**38 620**) road accidents were reported, in which **1 720** people were killed and **11 379** injured, some sustaining permanent disabilities. An analysis of these statistics has shown that most of these accidents are attributable to human error.

A vehicle is a good means of transport, but a dangerous weapon in the hands of reckless people.

The country cannot afford this continuous loss of lives and property. Remember, a road traffic accident can happen to you and me, people with family responsibilities, or young people in the prime of their lives, who have no wish to kill or to be killed. But this is happening daily, and the cost in terms of human suffering and material loss continues to escalate unabated.

This is a very sad state of affairs which each and everyone of us should try to deal with through better driving habits and greater courtesy towards other road users.

The Highway Code has a message for all road users who include:—

- Pedestrians
- Cyclists, and
- Motorists

I hope you will make the best possible use of this Highway Code.

Zimbabwe requires all its resources, human, material and financial, in order to fulfil its development goals. Please accept the responsibility of being a safe road user and help promote a spirit of courtesy and consideration for other road users. Together, we can significantly reduce unwarranted and wanton carnage on our roads. After all, many countries experience much lower accident rates.

Thank you for your sincere co-operation.

Hon. Minister Architect Joel B. Matiza
Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Greater safety on our roads, for Zimbabwean citizens and visitors alike, is the constant concern of the representatives of the people, who annually allocate large sums for:

- road works;
- traffic management;
- traffic control; and
- enforcement of traffic laws.

This Highway Code (Code) aims to help you use the road safely as a motorist, cyclist, pedestrian, passenger, animal rider or drover, and to equip you with information on how to conduct yourself appropriately and responsibly, for the general good of all road-users.

You are required to know your traffic laws. To disobey them is a betrayal of the trust that Society placed in you when you were authorised to share the roads with others. Obeying laws is not in itself sufficient to ensure good or safe road behaviour. There is need for a great sense of responsibility and a constant awareness of the ever-present possibility of road traffic collisions/crashes.

The Code suggests numerous ways which can help you ensure your own safety and that of others. Do not merely read it; STUDY and apply it, because being involved in killing or maiming someone may haunt you for the rest of your life. Avoid this by behaving as the Code requires you to.

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1. INTRODUCTION

To make for easier reference, much of the subject matter in this Code has been grouped under headings relating to different classes of road-users. This does not, of course, offer a short-cut to studying this Code, since nothing less than an intimate knowledge of the Code in its entirety is required of all road-users.

The Code is not a traffic law manual, although some of the measures contained herein are prescribed by law. Others are dictated by good sense and courtesy. No one category is more important than the other.

In Zimbabwe, vehicular traffic is required to "**Keep to the LEFT**" of the road, and the Code has been compiled on this basis. Visitors from countries where the "Keep to the RIGHT" rule applies are urged to be on their guard, for what might be the correct procedure to follow in their country could be highly dangerous here, where we keep to the left.

In responsible hands, the motor vehicle contributes much to a better way of living; in reckless hands, it contributes much to a violent way of dying.

2. ROAD TRAFFIC SYSTEM

The road traffic system consists of the following four elements:

- road users – drivers of motorised and non-motorised vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists, passengers, animal riders and drovers;
- the traffic environment – the road and its surroundings;
- vehicles – cars, trucks, buses, tractors, animal-drawn vehicles; and
- rules of the road and road traffic signs– as defined in the Road Traffic Act and regulations — regulating and controlling the interaction of road-users, vehicles and the environment.

As you move around in this system, you have to pay closer attention to the road and the information given by markings, signs and the signals on and along the road. You have to observe and take into consideration the behaviour of other road users, just as they have to observe and take yours into consideration. In this way, you influence each other's behaviour as you interact on the road.

This part of the Code deals with road safety considerations of a more or less general nature and is, therefore, relevant to all road users. Remember that very few people can successfully do two things at the same time, and no one can use the road safely unless all their faculties are consciously directed towards doing so.

Keep this in mind and assist others by avoiding (doing or saying) anything that may distract their attention.

No one should be using the road if they are in a temper, excited or upset. Try, therefore, to develop in yourself and others a calm frame of mind conducive to safe behaviour on the road.

Do not make unnecessary noise or do anything else which may irritate others. When someone else appears to be behaving recklessly or inappropriately, control yourself and never retaliate; it is both degrading and dangerous.

Vehicles displaying **"L"** plates are in the charge of learners and inexperienced drivers and riders; be wary of them, and give them a chance. Be patient with old people, the blind and the infirm and assist them where possible, for they have a special problem in negotiating traffic.

If you are not fit, do not venture into complicated traffic situations. Narcotic drugs and alcohol impair your judgment. Stay off the roads if you are under their influence.

NEVER VENTURE WHERE YOU CANNOT SEE.

W308 – Children sign

Children sign: COLOURS: Triangle: Red retro-reflective Symbol: Black semi-matt Background: White retro-reflective This sign warns a road user of the possible presence of children near schools, playgrounds, sports fields or other places ahead.	**W308**

Children on the road are particularly vulnerable; they need your protection and guidance in practising safe road behaviour. Do for every child what you would for your own. When you are walking with your children, set them a good and safe example. Encourage them to be careful, especially when crossing and walking along the road.

See that children leave for school in good time so that they do not have to hurry, and are not tempted to take risks.

Ensure that they play in safe places, and not on the road or on the pavement.

Never wait for your children on the far side of the road. In their excitement at seeing you, they may run across the road without checking for traffic.

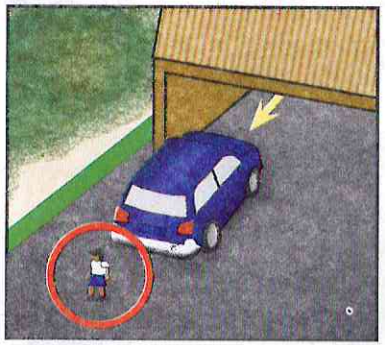
2.1 FOR ROAD USERS ON WHEELS

These road-users are the drivers or riders, as the case may be, of motor-cars, trucks, heavy motor vehicles, buses, motor-cycles, and power or pedal-propelled bicycles and tricycles. Whilst the principles of good road behaviour are basically the same for them all, it does not follow that the proper negotiation of all traffic situations is likewise so.

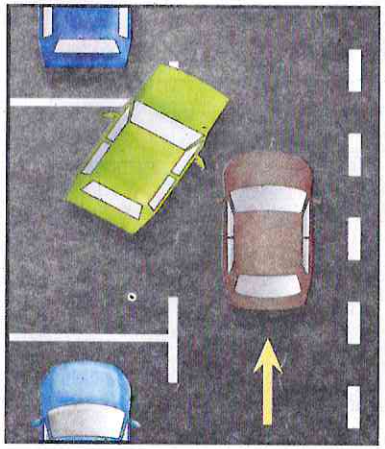
The self-propelled vehicle is the most lethal of those using our roads, and therefore its driver has a special responsibility in respect of the comparatively unprotected cyclist or pedestrian.

Although the mere thought of killing is abhorrent to you, the country's road death toll is evidence that thousands of drivers, with feelings no different from yours, are haunted by memories of traffic deaths in which they have been involved. Study this Code and reduce the risk of a similar predicament.

2.2 YOUR EVERYDAY DRIVING



Make it a habit never to set your vehicle in motion until you have looked around and under it for children and animals.



Do not move your vehicle from a parking place until the road is clear, or you are certain that you can do so safely without causing danger to other vehicles.

Keep to your side, the left side of the road

Once on the road, keep as near to the left of it as possible, especially if you are driving slowly, unless, of course, you are about to OVERTAKE or TURN RIGHT.

Never drive on the crown of the road.

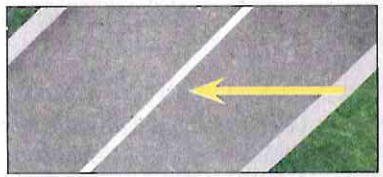
Never travel on the wrong side of the road.

R103 – Keep left sign

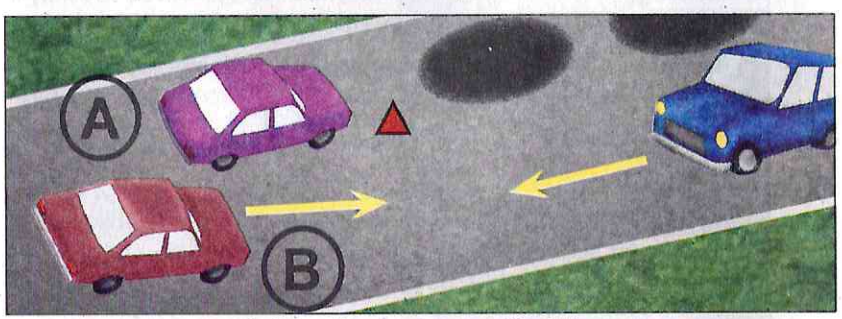
Keep left sign:	**R103**
COLOURS:	
Border and arrow: White retro-reflective	
Background: Blue retro-reflective	
This sign indicates to the driver of a vehicle to pass to the left-hand side only, of an obstacle on the roadway on which such sign has been placed, as indicated by the arrow.	

Unless the police, road markings or other traffic controls specially require you to do so, never cross from your side so as to encroach on the opposite side of the road:

(i) in violation of road markings or other traffic control devices;



Do not cross this continuous line.



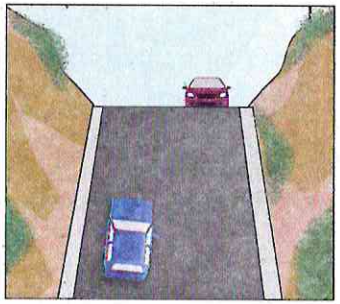
Do not behave like **B**, give way like **A** has.

(ii) in the face of oncoming traffic;

(iii) by making a right-hand turn or U-turn in front of oncoming traffic;

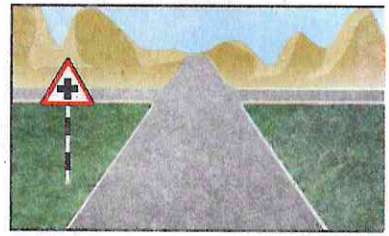
(iv) when you cannot see enough of the road ahead to be sure that you have ample time to return to your correct "well left" position if traffic should suddenly appear;

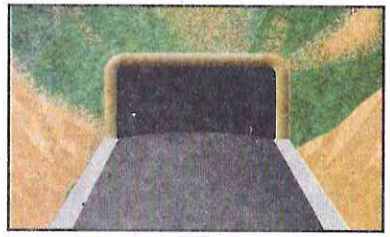
Do not cut the blind corners.



Keep well left on blind rises.

(v) at or on approaching any road intersection, railway level crossing, bridge, tunnel, etc.



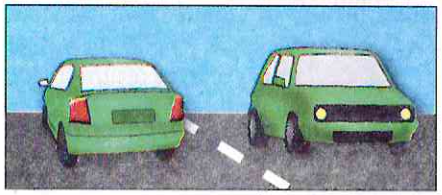


W101 – Crossroad sign

Crossroad sign:	**W101**
COLOURS:	
Triangle: Red retro-reflective	
Symbol: Black semi-matt	
Background: White retro-reflective	
This sign warns a road user that there is a crossroad ahead.	

2.3 MEETING OTHER VEHICLES

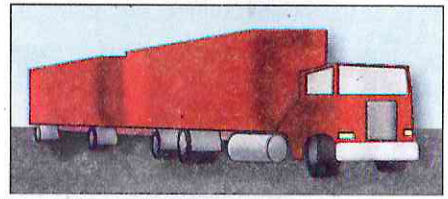
When you meet oncoming vehicles, keep well to your side of the road.



On strip roads your offside (right-hand) wheels should be on the left-hand strip. Motor cyclists are entitled to use of one strip.

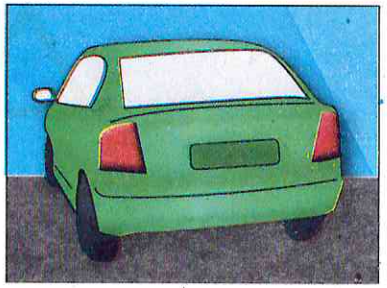
On single lane (narrow) tarmac roads, move sufficiently far to your left to allow the other vehicle room to pass safely. As there is not enough room on these narrow surfaces for two cars, your nearside (left-hand) wheels should be well on the gravel verges of the road.

A heavy vehicle might be drawing a trailer. Keep well clear until the whole train has passed.



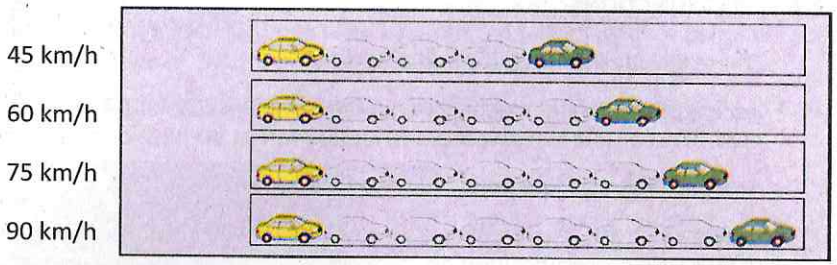
2.4 TRAVELLING BEHIND OTHER VEHICLES

The risk of collisions or the need to take necessary preventive action will be substantially reduced if you try to anticipate what the driver in front is going to do. Keep a safe following distance and a sharp look-out for any hand, mechanical or light signals he or she may make to indicate his or her intention to slow down or turn.



Watch the stop-light.

Remember that the higher the speed your vehicle is travelling, the greater the distance before you can stop. For every 15km/h (10 miles per hour) of your vehicle's speed, allow a gap of at least one vehicle length between your vehicle and the one in front:



Increase these gaps in bad light and on wet or dirt roads.

2.5 KEEP TO YOUR LANE

If your side of the road is divided into traffic lanes by road markings, choose the proper lane for your route and stay in it until you have good reason to move to another.

Do not cut in from one lane to another, even if the traffic in your lane has slowed down.

Changing your position on the road (changing lane)

Before you move right or left from the lane or the stream of traffic you are in:

(i) make sure that it is safe to do so, and will not inconvenience other traffic;

(ii) check on the position of the following traffic, give the signal: "I am going to move over to the left" or "I am going to move over to the right", and be sure that your signal has been understood before you move over; and

(iii) ensure that you always check your blind spot before you do so.

2.6 WHEN VEHICLES WISH TO OVERTAKE YOU

If you have been watching the road behind you, by frequently glancing in your rear-view mirror, as you always should, you will be aware if there is a vehicle behind wanting to overtake you.

Give the driver the opportunity to do so by moving carefully over to the left. If the way ahead is clear, and there is sufficient space in front of you for the overtaking vehicle to move back to the left after passing you, you may signal that you are ready to be overtaken.

Never accelerate while you are being overtaken, as you will cause the other driver to misjudge distances, mistime his or her operation, and expose both of you to serious danger.

2.7 ROAD JUNCTIONS

(These include intersections and access points).

Incorrect behaviour at road junctions often results in collisions. Therefore, never make or act on last-minute decisions; rather overrun the junction and return to it.

Approaching road junctions

Decide what you intend doing at the junction ahead in sufficient time for you to take your correct position on the road.

Your correct position for a LEFT TURN is as far to the LEFT of the road as possible, and for a RIGHT TURN as far to the RIGHT of your side of the road as possible.

If your side of the road has been divided by markings, your correct lane is as shown under "Other Road Markings".

Moving into position at road junctions

Do not deviate from the lane or stream of traffic you are in to move into your correct position before you have taken all the steps and precautions given for "changing lane".

Since traffic movement at junctions is more complicated, it is particularly important to anticipate the course of both traffic ahead of and behind you, so keep a sharp lookout for signals indicating intention.

Even when you are in your correct positions for negotiating the junctions, signal your intention if you intend to turn by giving the signal: "I am going to turn right".

Before entering a junction, SLOW DOWN, and even stop if necessary, so as to give precedence to traffic that enjoys the right of way.

Entering and negotiating junctions

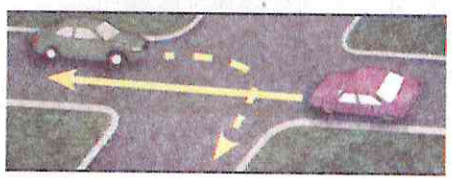
Do not enter a junction unless you are satisfied not only that you have the right to enter it, but also that it is safe to do so.

It is always dangerous to overtake at a junction, as your vision is usually partly obscured. In fact, it is an offence to overtake at a junction unless:

(i) the side road is controlled by a stop or yield sign AND your road has more than two traffic lanes; or

(ii) the traffic is being controlled by a normal traffic signal or police officer; or

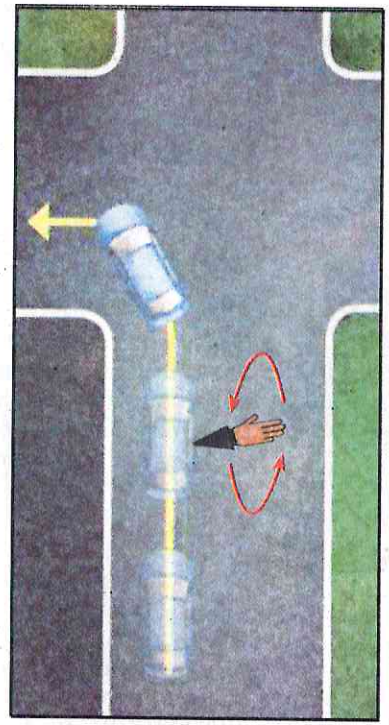
(iii) the driver of the other vehicle has indicated his or her intention to turn.



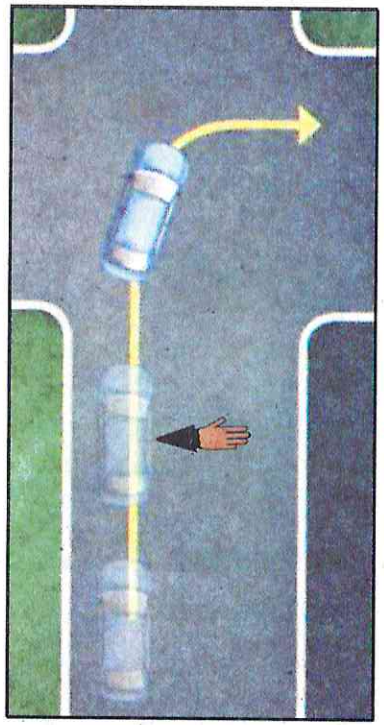
NEVER TURN RIGHT in front of ONCOMING traffic.

How to turn

If you wish to make either a left turn or a right turn, here is how you do it:



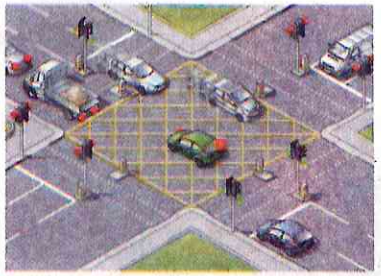
Left Turn

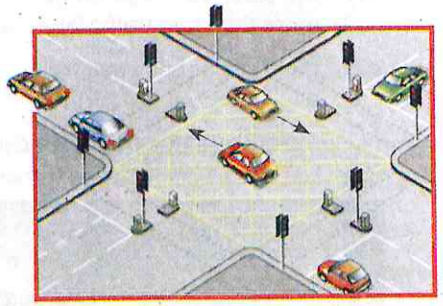


Right Turn

Box Junctions

At box junctions, you MUST NOT enter the box until your exit road or lane is clear.

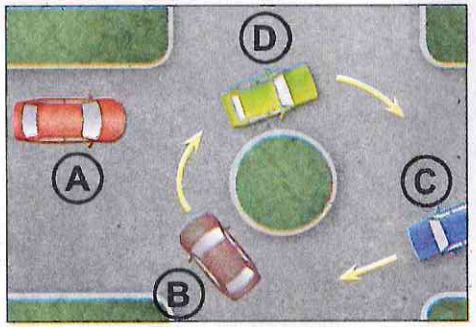




Traffic circles

When you come to a traffic circle around which traffic is already circulating, you must always give precedence to such traffic. It has absolute priority. This does not mean that before entering the traffic circle you must necessarily wait for all the circulating traffic to exit the intersection. You may enter the circle ahead of vehicles already circulating, provided that you can do so without getting in their way, or causing any of the drivers of these vehicles to brake to take avoiding action.

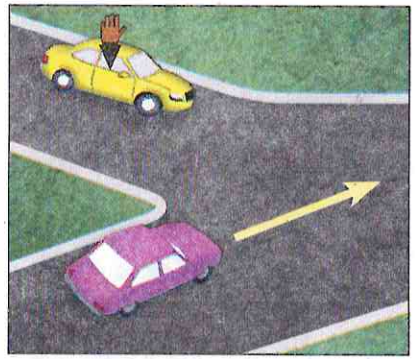
As the movement in a traffic circle is necessarily complex, inevitably entailing a certain degree of "weaving" to enable drivers to make their way to their intended exit points, a high degree of alertness and consideration for other drivers in the circle is required and imperative.

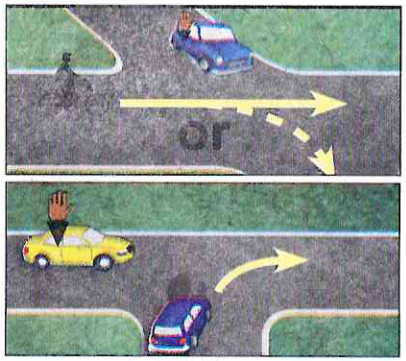


C may enter as he or she has sufficient room to do so without interfering with **D**. **A** must not enter circle as he or she will interfere with **B**.

2.8 YIELDING PRECEDENCE

Upon approaching an intersection, you must give precedence to vehicles (including cycles) approaching you on a road to your right, unless the intersection is controlled by a STOP or YIELD signs, TRAFFIC LIGHTS, or a police officer.

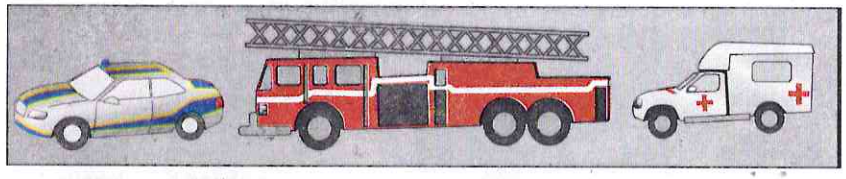




When you enter a major road from a minor one, give precedence to all cross traffic.

It is dangerous to assume that because another road-user should yield precedence to you, he or she will necessarily do so.

Remember, a red light, yield or stop sign does not give anyone a right of way - it only takes away certain rights from traffic facing them.



A fire-engine, ambulance or police vehicle sounding its special warning device or operating its flashing beacon takes precedence over all other traffic; move out of its course and stop. Remain stationary until it has passed.

2.9 OVERTAKING OTHER VEHICLES

R214 – Overtaking prohibited sign

Overtaking prohibited sign:		**R214**
COLOURS:		
Border and diagonal:	Red retro-reflective	
Symbol:	Black semi-matt	
Background:	White retro-reflective	
This sign:		
(a)	indicates to the driver of a vehicle that he or she shall not overtake another vehicle travelling in the same direction.	
(b)	the prohibition on overtaking is effective for a distance of 500 metres beyond such sign.	

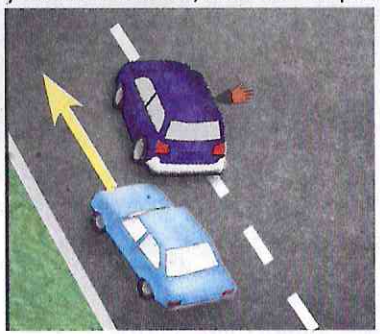
R215 – Overtaking by goods vehicle prohibited sign

Overtaking by goods vehicle prohibited sign:	**R215**
COLOURS: Border and diagonal: Red retro-reflective Symbol: Black semi-matt Background: White retro-reflective This sign: (a) indicates to the driver of a goods vehicle that he or she shall not overtake another goods vehicle travelling in the same direction; and (b) the prohibition on overtaking is effective for a distance of 500 metres beyond such sign.	

The desire to overtake for the sake of it can become an obsession. FIGHT IT.

If you have a good reason to overtake another vehicle, pass it only on its RIGHT.

Provided that you are absolutely certain you can do so without endangering yourself or others, this rule for passing may be relaxed, for instance:



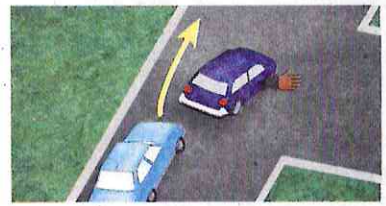
if your side of the road has two or more traffic lanes;

or

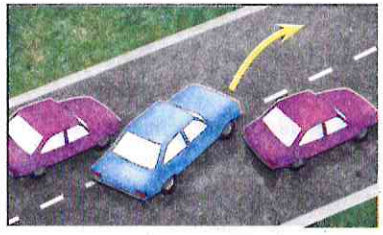
if the driver ahead has signalled that he or she is turning right.

if, under these permissive circumstances you intend passing on the LEFT, be warned:

- that you should not do so if it means encroaching on the shoulder of the road, or if the full width of the traffic lane on your left is not clear, so that you have to encroach on an occupied lane; and
- that none of these circumstances in any way exempts you from the rules governing your approach to road junctions and entry into them.



Do not overtake on the road shoulders.



Do not "jump" lanes. Make sure the road is clear.

Do NOT move either to the right or left from your lane or stream of traffic, in anticipation of overtaking, BEFORE:

- you have seen that the road ahead is clear of traffic;
- you have taken all the precautions for changing lanes;
- you have warned the driver ahead that you want to pass him or her; and
- you have checked his or her speed and satisfied yourself that you can successfully overtake without resorting to excessive speed and causing danger to others.

You must not assume that the driver ahead will slow down.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you overtake safely. Encouraging or reassuring signals given by others in no way relieves you of this responsibility.

When it is safe to overtake, the first step is to move gradually into the proper position well before you actually start to overtake whilst also checking your rear view mirror. In this way, you can reassure yourself that the road behind and ahead is still clear.

If it is, check your blind spot, signal right, move into the right lane, accelerate and pass. Get ahead and then ease gently back to the left. If you really have cause to overtake a vehicle, you will now get away and not "hog" the road ahead of it.

If it is not, you will have left yourself enough room to return to your position on the left.

Never overtake:

- in the face of oncoming traffic;
- where road markings or some other traffic control forbid it;
- when visibility is bad (in dust, rain, mist, smoke), and on or approaching blind corners or blind rises. (If you can't see, do not attempt to overtake);
- another vehicle that has slowed down or stopped to let pedestrians or other traffic pass;
- on or approaching restrictions to traffic flow, such as bridges, flyovers, tunnels, etc.;
- on or approaching level crossings; and
- at pedestrian crossings.

2.10 SPEED

Speed limits are the MAXIMUM speeds allowed by law. They are not necessarily safe speeds at all times.

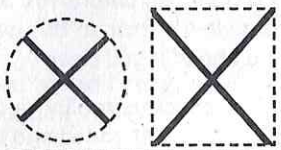
Speed limits in Zimbabwe are expressed in kilometres per hour (km/hr). The signs do not have to remind you of this unit of speed.

R201 – Speed limit sign

Speed limit sign: COLOURS: Border: Red retro-reflective Figures: Black semi-matt Background: White retro-reflective This sign indicates to the driver of a vehicle that the speed limit beyond such sign is the speed indicated in kilometres per hour, by means of a number on such sign, and that he or she shall not exceed such speed limit.	**R201**

The speed limit on the section of road beyond this sign is 100 kilometres per hour.

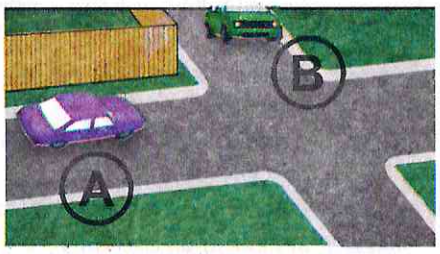
(R)600 – De-restriction Signs

De-restriction Signs: (a) A de-restriction sign indicates to the driver of a vehicle that he or she no longer has to comply with the regulatory message displayed under the red cancellation cross on the sign.	**(R)600** 
(b) Examples of de-restriction signs are shown opposite.	

Obligations and Precautionary Measures by Drivers or Riders of all Classes of Vehicles

For safety reasons, you must adjust your speed to suit the weather, light, road, traffic conditions and your ability to control the vehicle.

Reduce Speed



A cannot see **B**. Reduce Speed.

- at night and dusk;
- in rain, mist, smoke, windy weather or dust;
- if dazzled by bright sunlight;

- as you approach an intersection;
- at a level crossing or bridge;
- on narrow, winding roads, even if you know them well, for you never know what may be round the corner;
- when you meet another vehicle on a narrow or strip road;
- when approaching school entrances and exits, and be on the lookout for school children;
- as you approach a pedestrain crossing; and
- when you meet animals or there is the possibility of meeting them.

At high speed, you need more room to stop. In an emergency, high speed increases the chances of skids, roll-overs and serious injury, and reduces your chances of negotiation and escape.

Upon registering danger, it takes the average driver about half of a second to start applying brakes. Thereafter, the greater the speed, the further the vehicle travels. This means that with efficient brakes, the following distance will have been covered before the vehicle can be brought to a stop:

km/h	Reaction distance	Braking distance
40 km/h	5,6 m	12,4 m
60 km/h	8,3 m	27,7 m
120 km/h	16,7 m	113,3 m

2.11 REFUELLING

If you stop to refuel, switch off your engine and do not strike matches or smoke while at the petrol pumps. Do not use cellular phones while at a filling station.

Pushing other vehicles

The law does not permit you to push other vehicles with your vehicle.

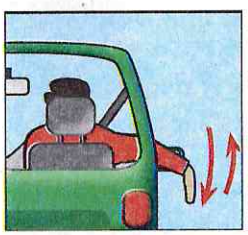
What has been said thus far in this part of the Code concerns all road users on wheels. What follows deals with the obligations and precautionary measures peculiar to the driver or rider of specific classes of vehicles.

2.12 SIGNALS BY OTHER ROAD-USERS

Let others know what you intend to do by giving clear and correct signals—do not just dangle your arm or hand out of the window. Remember, however, that signalling alone does not necessarily give you the right to carry out your intention; you must be sure that it is safe to do so.

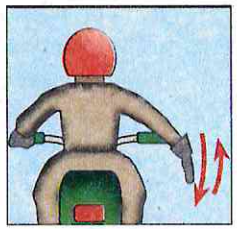
As a general rule, signal well before you brake. **NB:** Remember, it is no use signalling what you are already doing, you should signal what you are actually going to do.

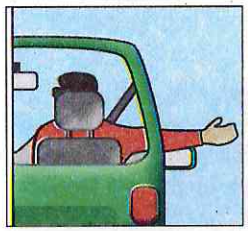
Here are the hand signals to be used by all road users on wheels:



"I am going to slow down".

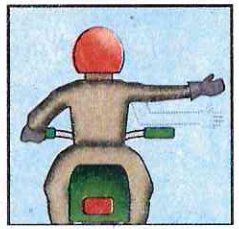
To signal your intention to slow down, extend the right arm with the palm of the hand turned downwards, and move the arm slowly up and down keeping the wrist loose.

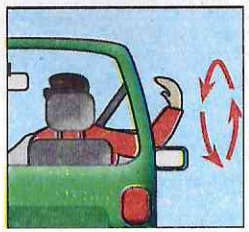




"I am going to turn right".

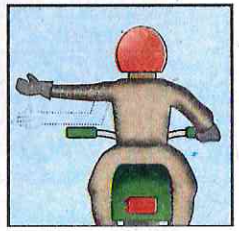
To signal your intention to turn to the right, extend the right arm with the palm of the hand turned to the front and hold them rigid in a horizontal position straight out from the offside of the vehicle.

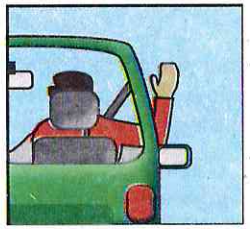




"I am going to turn left".

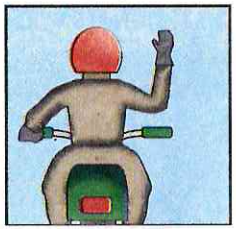
To indicate/signal your intention to turn left, extend the right arm and rotate it from the shoulder in an anti-clockwise direction. If you are riding a two-wheeled vehicle, you may signal your intention to turn left by extending the left arm horizontally with the palm of the hand facing forward, or with your upper arm in the downward position and the forearm in the horizontal position. The right arm should be used for right turns.





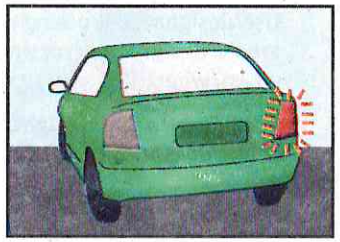
"I am going to stop".

To indicate your intention to stop, extend the right arm with the forearm and hand in a vertical position, and with the palm of the hand turned to the front.



You may indicate to the following traffic that it may overtake you on the right by extending the right arm and hand below shoulder level and moving them backwards and forward.

If your vehicle has direction indicators, you may signal with these, but make sure they are in good working order and that they return to neutral when your turn is complete.



Signal at least 50 metres before you turn in ordinary city traffic and 100 metres before you turn when travelling at high speed on a main road.

3. USING THE ROAD

3.1 LICENCES AND INSURANCE

You must have a valid Zimbabwean or other recognised driver's licence. You may take out a learner driver's licence, which allows you to drive on public roads to gain experience before undergoing the test for your full driver's licence. The learner's licence is only issued after you have passed a test on the rules of the road and the traffic signs and signals.

When you drive on a learner's licence, a fully-licensed driver must always accompany you, except on certain motor vehicles that only have a seat for the driver. **YOU MAY/NOT CARRY A PASSENGER ON AN AUTO-CYCLE OR A MOTOR CYCLE.**

Remember, though, that even when you become a fully-licensed driver, you still have much to learn. Apply yourself, therefore, to the task of becoming an accomplished driver, being particularly careful while you are gaining experience.

Your vehicle must be registered and licensed.

You must be covered by insurance against death and injury to third parties.

4. SPECIFIC RULES FOR PEDESTRIANS

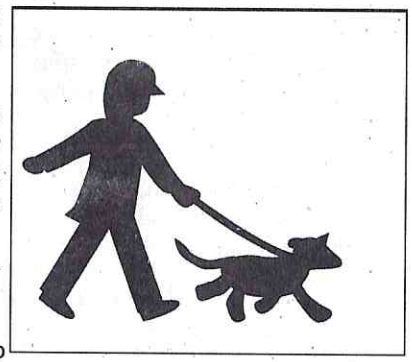
- Where there is a pavement or suitable verge, pedestrians should use it.
- If there is no pavement or suitable verge, walk on the right side of the road facing on-coming traffic.
- Be prepared to walk in a single file, especially on narrow roads or in poor light.
- Use designated crossing points, where these are provided. Where there are no designated crossing points, cross at straight stretches of the road when/where it is safe to do so. **Always yield to vehicular traffic.**
- At night or in failing light, make yourself more visible by wearing bright coloured clothing or reflective material.
- Do not allow young children onto the road on their own. Accompany them, hold their hands firmly, and ensure that you keep between them and traffic.
- Avoid crossing the road in front of any stationary vehicle or behind any reversing vehicle.

- It is very dangerous to cross a road in front of a bus. It is equally dangerous to cross from too close behind a bus.
- Passengers disembarking from a bus should wait for the bus to move off before crossing the road.
- Avoid distractions of any kind, including using cellphones when crossing or walking along the road.
- Do not get onto or hold on to a moving vehicle.
- Do not venture onto the road if you are not in the right frame of mind.
- Beware of turning traffic.

5. SPECIFIC RULES ABOUT ANIMALS

- Animal-drawn vehicles should not obstruct other traffic and should keep left unless when turning right.
- Animal-drawn vehicles should have two white retro-reflectors on the front and red retro-reflectors on the rear. Drivers of these vehicles should always wear reflectors.
- Animal riders and the ridden animals should always wear reflectors.

- Herded animals should be kept under control at all times. It is safer not to move animals after dark. If you do, then wear reflective clothing.
- When leading and herding animals, always fly the red warning flags. It is advisable for adults to lead and herd animals.
- Do not let dogs out onto the road on their own. Keep all dogs on a leash while walking them on the road.

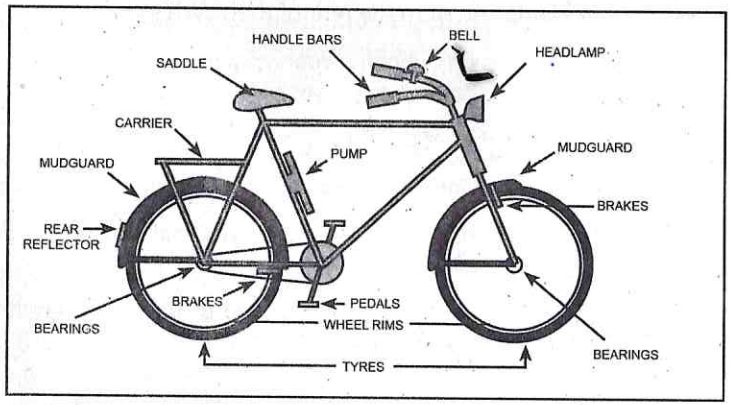


- When transporting animals, make sure that they are adequately restrained, so that they do not distract or injure you, themselves or other road-users.
- Animal-drawn vehicles MUST NOT be driven on cycle tracks.
- Animals MUST NOT be permitted to graze on any road with a bituminous surface of 6 metres or more in width.
- Animals MUST NOT be allowed to stray on any road.
- Animal-drawn vehicles MUST always have reins and a leader.
- Animal-drawn vehicles MUST NOT be left unattended.

6. RULES FOR CYCLISTS

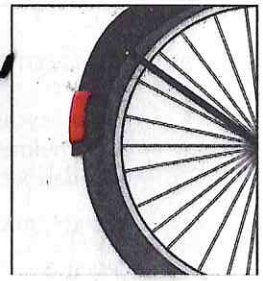
6.1 RULES FOR PEDAL CYCLISTS

- All cyclists are especially vulnerable on the road since they have little protection and, unlike pedestrians, share the road with larger vehicles.
- As cyclists, it is in your interest to behave judiciously to avoid causing or being involved in collisions.



- If your side of the road is divided into lanes by road markings, your correct position is on the left side of the appropriate lane.
- If no lanes are marked, you should ride on the left side of motor traffic.
- Keep a regular course and do not "weave" in and out of traffic.
- When traffic becomes congested, do not endanger yourself and others by riding down the space between stationary vehicles in order to gain a forward position.
- Never ride more than two abreast—SINGLE FILE IS MUCH SAFER.
- Do not risk injuring pedestrians and children by riding your machine out of a gate and across a sidewalk—wheel it on to the road before you mount.
- Do not hold on to the other cyclists or vehicles.
- Avoid towing or being towed.
- Sit only on the saddle of your cycle.
- If you are wearing long trousers, cycle-clips will prevent them from catching on projecting parts of the machine.
- In windy weather, be prepared for sudden gusts that may cause you to swerve.
- Where a cycle track is provided you are required to use it and forbidden to use the road.
- Always wear a crash helmet of the correct size that is fastened securely.
- Cyclists MUST wear appropriate reflective clothing for safety and visibility.
- At night, cyclists MUST have a white front light lit and may have one or more red lamps fitted to the rear of their cycles.
- Keep both hands on the handle bars except when signalling or changing gear.
- Always keep both feet on the pedals.
- Keep a safe following distance when riding behind another vehicle.
- Do not carry anything which will affect your balance or may get tangled up with your wheels or chain.
- Pedal cyclists MUST NOT carry any load or passenger greater than 40 kilogrammes in mass on their cycles.

- Cyclists under the age of 16 MUST NOT carry passengers.
- Cyclists MUST NOT carry loads that project more than 60 centimetres in front or more than 90 centimetres to the rear of the wheels of their cycle or more than 30 centimetres on either side of the wheels of their cycle.
- Where provided, cycle tracks MUST always be used.
- Always be aware of traffic coming up behind you.
- The bell should be in good working order and placed in such a way that you can sound it and brake at the same time. It is the only warning device you are allowed to carry.
- You are required to display red reflective material on the rear mudguard as near to the bottom as possible. This is to make you to be visible at night. **It is dangerous to disobey this rule.**



- An additional red tail-light is strongly recommended.
- The reflective material must be at least 35mm wide and of such length that not less than 4000 square millimetres of uninterrupted reflective surface is visible.
- Pedal cycles having only one rear wheel must be equipped with two brakes which operate on the rear and front wheels.

R111 – Pedal cycles only sign

Pedal cycles only sign:	**R111**
COLOURS: Border and symbol: White retro-reflective Background: Blue retro-reflective This indicates that the public road or a portion of the public road is set aside for use by pedal cyclists, and that a pedal cyclist shall only use such public road or portion of such public road.	

R112, R113, R114 and R115 – Pedal cycles and pedestrians only sign

Pedal cycles and pedestrians only sign:	**R112, R113, R114 and R115**
COLOURS: Border and symbol: White retro-reflective Background: Blue retro-reflective This indicates that the public road or a portion of the public road is set aside for use by pedal cyclists and pedestrians, and that pedal cyclists and pedestrians shall only use such public road or portion of such public road.	

6.2 RULES FOR MOTOR CYCLISTS

- Motor cyclists and their passengers MUST always wear protective crash helmets. Helmets MUST comply with regulations and should be fastened securely.
- At night, always wear reflective clothing for visibility.
- Passengers should be carried only in the side car or astride the pillion. A maximum of two passengers can be carried in a side car, and only one passenger can be carried on the pillion and foot rests are necessary.
- A motorcyclist MUST ensure that his or her motorcycle is fitted with not more than two headlamps and at least one tail lamp and one rear stop light. A side car MUST be fitted with at least one tail lamp.
- Have effective silencers and avoid causing distraction or offence by noisy acceleration.
- Failure to keep a motor cycle in good condition can have very serious consequences for the unprotected rider. These are the items to which you should pay particular attention:

  (i) The brakes must work properly and be effective.

  (ii) The bearings should not be slack.

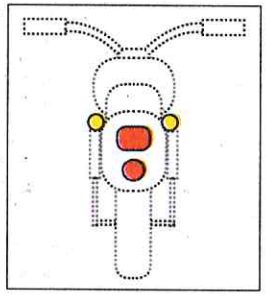
  (iii) Wheels should be properly aligned and straight, with no spokes missing or loose.

  (iv) The tyres should be in good condition and properly inflated.

  (v) Mudguards should be firmly secured.

  (vi) The chain should be sufficiently taut.

  (vii) The pedals or foot-rests should be secure.



(viii) The pillion or carrier should be firmly fixed in position.

(ix) The saddle should be properly adjusted to suit you.

(x) The handlebars should be properly adjusted and secure.

(xi) A motor cycle must have indicators, a stop light and a red reflex reflector.

(xii) A motor cycle with an engine capacity of 350 cubic centimetres or more must be fitted with crash bars.

(xiii) A red tail light is necessary at night.

(xiv) A white light in front is also necessary at night.

7. RULES FOR DRIVERS

- You MUST be in possession of a valid Zimbabwean or other recognised Driver's Licence.
- You MUST be at least 16 years of age to obtain a Zimbabwean Driver's Licence.
- Public Service Vehicle (PSV) drivers need to meet certain additional requirements. If you want to drive a PSV, you MUST make sure that you meet these requirements.
- If you do not have a Driver's Licence and want to drive, you MUST acquire a Learner's Driver's Licence that allows you to drive under the supervision of a fully-licensed driver until you obtain a full Driver's Licence. You are exempt from driving under supervision on certain vehicles which only have a seat for the driver.
- If you are driving on a Learner's Driver's Licence, your vehicle MUST display a visible L-Plate of the dimensions and colours prescribed by the law.
- Your vehicle MUST be registered, licensed, and insured against death and injury to third parties.
- Ensure that your vehicle is roadworthy.
- Do not drive if you feel physically and/or mentally unfit.
- Do not drive under the influence of alcohol and/or any other drugs that may impair your judgement.
- Never set your vehicle in motion until you look around and under it for any obstruction, particularly children and small animals/pets.

- You MUST always obey all road rules and regulations.
- You MUST always wear your seatbelt at all times, and you should ensure that your passengers are wearing their seatbelts, where available.
- Do not drive on to the road until it is clear of traffic or you are certain that you can do so safely, without causing danger to other vehicles.
- Drive on the LEFT side of the road.
- Never drive on the wrong side of the road unless the police, road markings or other traffic controls specifically require you to do so.
- Do not cut corners.
- Do not cross continuous lines.
- Keep well left on blind rises.
- When meeting oncoming vehicles, slow down and keep well to your side of the road. On strip roads, your right-hand wheels should be on the left-hand strip. On narrow mat roads, your left-hand wheels should be on the left-hand gravelled shoulder of the road.
- When travelling behind other vehicles, maintain a safe following distance by using the 2-second rule, and keep a sharp lookout for any hand, mechanical or light signals that may indicate the intention of the driver ahead to slow down, stop or turn.
- When your side of the road is divided into traffic lanes by road markings, choose the proper lane for your route and stay in it until you have good reason to move to another.
- When changing lanes, make sure that it is safe to do so, and that it will not inconvenience other traffic. Check on the position of traffic behind you/following traffic, give appropriate signals and make sure that your signal has been understood. The changing lane drill is Mirror - Blind Spot – Signal - Manoeuvre.
- On a road with two or more lanes going in the same direction, keep left and move to the right only when overtaking or when you want to turn right.
- When other vehicles wish to overtake you, give them the opportunity to do so by moving carefully over to the left within your lane. Maintain a constant speed while you are being overtaken.
- When approaching road junctions, decide what you intend to do at the junction ahead in sufficient time for you to take up your correct position on the road.
- Do not enter a junction unless you are satisfied that it is safe to do so.
- At a 4 Way or 3 Way Stop-controlled junction, STOP until every vehicle that has stopped at the junction before you has cleared the junction.

Only then can you proceed. The vehicle that stopped first MUST proceed first.

- At uncontrolled intersections, you MUST give precedence to vehicles approaching you from the road to your RIGHT.
- If traffic at the junction you are approaching is controlled by traffic light signals, the instruction conveyed by these devices overrides all others, except those of a police officer controlling traffic. You MUST STOP on the RED and AMBER and may GO on the GREEN.
- You MUST NOT turn RIGHT in front of oncoming traffic.
- You MUST NOT overtake at a junction.
- Exercise the intersection defensive driving technique: Know, Slow, Show and Go.
- Approach every intersection with extreme caution, knowing that there is no right of way.
- At a traffic circle, you must give precedence to traffic already circulating in it.
- Always exercise a high degree of alertness and consideration for the drivers in the circle.
- In a traffic circle, signal left just after you pass the exit before the one you want to turn.
- If you have a good reason to overtake, do so on the right only when it is safe to do so. There are exceptions to this rule:
  - (i) if the road has two or more traffic lanes, that rule does not apply; and
  - (ii) if a driver ahead has signalled that he or she is turning right.
- Do not overtake on the road shoulders.
- Do not "jump" lanes. Make sure the road is clear.
- When you intend to overtake, do not move either to the right or to the left from your lane or stream of traffic before:
  - (i) you have seen that the road ahead is clear of traffic;
  - (ii) you have taken all the precautions necessary for changing lanes;
  - (iii) you have warned the driver ahead that you want to pass him or her; and
  - (iv) you have checked their speed and satisfied yourself that you can successfully overtake without resorting to excessive speed and

causing danger to others. You must not assume that the driver ahead will slow down.

- When it is safe to overtake, the first step is to move gradually into the proper position well before actually starting to overtake. If the road ahead is clear, accelerate and pass.
- You MUST NOT overtake :
  - (i) in face of oncoming traffic;
  - (ii) where road markings or some other traffic control forbids it;
  - (iii) when visibility is bad;
  - (iv) when approaching blind curves, blind rises or blind corners;
  - (v) another vehicle that has slowed down or stopped to let pedestrians or other traffic pass;
  - (vi) on or approaching restrictions to traffic flow such as bridges, flyovers, tunnels, etc.
  - (vii) on or approaching railroad level crossings;
  - (viii) where the road narrows;
  - (ix) at pedestrian crossings; or
  - (x) when approaching road junctions.
- Be particularly careful at night and in bad weather.
- Speed limits in Zimbabwe are expressed in kilometres per hour (km/h).
- Speed limits are the maximum speeds allowed by law but are not necessarily safe speeds at all times. For safety reasons, reduce your speed to suit the conditions of weather, light, traffic, vehicle, road and your ability to control the vehicle.
- Avoid reversing as much as possible.
- If you have to reverse, choose an appropriate place to manoeuvre. Do not reverse into a busy road.
- Before reversing, look carefully behind you. You should:
  - (i) use all mirrors;
  - (ii) check the blind spots; and
  - (iii) check for pedestrians, cyclists and other road users or obstructions in the road behind you.
- You may then reverse slowly while:
  - (i) checking all around you;
  - (ii) looking mainly through the rear window; and

  - (iii) being aware that the front of your vehicle will swing out as you turn.
- Get someone reliable to direct you if necessary.

Observe all road signals, signs and other traffic control devices. Take note of the road user hand signals

- at road junctions where pedestrian crossings are demarcated, give the pedestrian a chance to cross the road safely. A vehicle turning LEFT or RIGHT MUST yield precedence to any pedestrian within the crossing.
- where pedestrian crossings are provided at locations other than road junctions, they are called zebra-type (i.e. alternate wide stripes of black and white). At such crossings, STOP and give precedence to any pedestrian crossing or intending to cross the road.

Police Control Signals (refer to page 59)

- You MUST NOT hold any communication device while driving.
- You MUST NOT tow a vehicle with a net mass exceeding the net mass of the towing vehicle, and the distance between the two vehicles MUST NOT exceed 4 metres.
- You should only blow your horn for safety purposes.
- You MUST NOT push a vehicle using another vehicle.
- Driving at night:
  - (i) Avoid night driving as much as possible.
  - (ii) You MUST have your headlights on between 5.30pm and 6.30am.
  - (iii) Do not use anything that obscures your vision at night unless it has been prescribed for night vision.
  - (iv) If dazzled by headlights of oncoming vehicles, cast your eyes slightly to the left. Do not aggravate the situation by retaliating. Slow down or stop, if necessary. You may remind the driver of the other vehicle to dip their lights by quickly flicking your own lights up and down once.
  - (v) Reduce speed so as to be able to stop well within the distance illuminated by your headlamps. It is important to remember that if your lamps are dipped, you cannot see very far ahead.
  - (vi) A single headlight might be a cycle, but it could also be a motor vehicle – KEEP CLEAR.
  - (vii) A vehicle might be pulling a trailer, so keep well clear until the whole train has passed.
  - (viii) Do not dazzle others. Dip your lights before they shine into the eyes of oncoming drivers.

A dip for **B** **B** dip for **C** **C** dip for **A** and **B**

(ix) Always dip your lights:

- for oncoming traffic;
- for the vehicle in front of you;
- for a traffic officer directing traffic; and
- where there is adequate street lighting.

(x) If you have to stop on the open road at night, get right off the road, if possible. If you cannot, pull off as far to the left as you can and use your park lights so that others can see you.

(xi) Avoid long journeys at night, as these can be dangerous due to fatigue. If you begin to feel sleepy, you should pull off the road, stop and rest.

- Driving in adverse weather conditions:

(i) Avoid driving in adverse weather conditions, if possible;

(ii) Use headlights when and where visibility is limited;

(iii) Where available, use fog lights and switch them off when visibility improves;

(iv) Keep a longer following distance than that required for normal conditions; and

(v) In sun-glare conditions, use sun visors and sunglasses. If dazzled by bright sunlight, slow down and if necessary, stop.

Instructions relating to the carriage of passengers:

(a) Ensure proper control of your vehicle by not carrying too many passengers, to avoid cramping the driver and overloading the vehicle.

(b) Do not allow anyone to ride on bumpers, bonnets, mudguards, sides or any other part of the vehicle except the seats.

(c) Generally, passengers may not be carried in goods vehicles, but if you are permitted to carry passengers in an open vehicle, see that they are under strict control and remain seated while the vehicle is in motion.

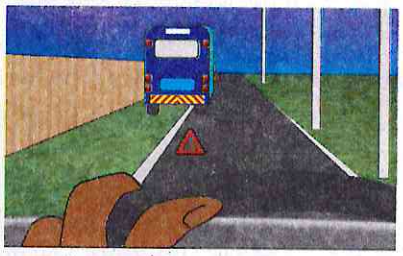
8. RULES FOR PASSENGERS

- You MUST always wear a safety belt in vehicles, if one is fitted. Exemptions are allowed for holders of valid medical exemption certificates.
- Use child restraints, where these are fitted.
- You MUST NOT throw any litter through the window. All litter should be disposed of appropriately upon disembarking.
- Avoid distracting the driver.
- Avoid hanging out of windows.
- Do not take hold of the steering mechanism while the driver is driving the vehicle.
- Do not board a long-distance bus as a standing passenger.
- Do not board public service vehicles at undesignated points.
- Always disembark on the near side (left).
- Do not disembark whilst the vehicle is in motion.

9. RULES FOR DRIVERS OF HEAVY VEHICLES

- The extra mass and length of your vehicle make it more difficult to handle. Therefore, you must leave more space in which to pull up.
- Safety considerations and the law limit your speed.
- Trailers and caravans have a tendency to sway, so keep control and exercise caution when passing or overtaking other vehicles. You MUST NOT tow more than three trailers.
- Loads MUST be secured and MUST NOT stick out dangerously.
- Heavy vehicles or trailers MUST NOT be overloaded. You should not tow a weight greater than that recommended by the law.
- Heavy vehicles towing a drawbar MUST have safety chains fitted.
- Carrying a load or pulling a trailer may require you to adjust the headlights. Weight should be properly distributed to avoid swerving, snaking or loss of control.
- Pick-up trucks and other commercial vehicles MUST display their gross and net mass in kilogrammes.
- Haulage trucks MUST NOT pass through and/or be parked in the CBD unless authorised to do so.
- Heavy vehicles MUST NOT be parked on the verge of the road and in residential areas.
- If they are parked along the highway, they MUST be completely off the road.

- For safety reasons, a broken down vehicle should be attended to as soon as possible.
- All heavy vehicles conveying dangerous goods MUST be appropriately labelled.
- Since a trailer is a vehicle, all rules applicable to other vehicles also apply to it.
- Heavy vehicles need the following reflectors (these are the minimum requirements):
  - (i) a specified red and yellow chevron fitted at the rear;
  - (ii) two specified white reflective strips fitted at the front; and
  - (iii) specified yellow reflective strips fitted at the sides.
- A set of red reflective triangles must be carried on the vehicle for use in the event of a breakdown. The red reflective triangle MUST be placed not less than 30 metres and not more than 50 metres behind and in front of a stationary vehicle. The triangles MUST be on the same side of the road as the vehicle.



- Take note of limits for width, height, length and axle and vehicle loads for heavy vehicles.
- Heavy motor vehicles MUST be fitted with height markers both at the front and at the rear.

10. ABNORMAL LOAD VEHICLE (ALV) AND ITS ESCORT

10.1 ABNORMAL LOAD VEHICLES

- An abnormal load vehicle MUST always be under escort. It MUST NOT be on the road between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- It MUST always be labelled **"ABNORMAL LOAD"** in red and have red flags attached to its front and rear left and right corners. It MUST have flashing amber beacons and its headlamps MUST always be on.
- By virtue of its dimensions, load or a combination of both, the abnormal load vehicle may occupy more than one lane, and is usually driven at the centre of the road, thereby becoming a high risk to other road users.
- Never overtake an ALV, unless the rear escort vehicle signals that you should do so or the road ahead is clear.

- Do not hog the road in front of an ALV at a steep descent, as the vehicle tends to be pushed forward by its load.
- It is not recommended that an ALV travels under adverse conditions.
- When an ALV escort is in sight, pull off the road, let it pass and proceed when it is safe to do so.

10.2 ESCORT VEHICLES

- An escort motor vehicle drives ahead of or behind an abnormal vehicle to flag down, or alert road-users of impending danger, or give timeous warning of the presence of the abnormal vehicle.
- It always displays a board written " ABNORMAL LOAD VEHICLE AHEAD", and bears red flags and an amber beacon.
- Always obey the instructions of the escort vehicle, as the general rules and regulations of the road do not apply to ALVs.
- As soon as you see an escort vehicle on a blind rise or sharp curve, slow down and prepare to pull off the road to avoid a surprise collision with an ALV.

11. PRESIDENTIAL AND STATE MOTORCADE

11.1 IF YOU HEAR THE SIREN OR SEE THE BLUE FLASHING LIGHTS OF THE STATE MOTORCADE APPROACHING:

- where the road has no demarcations, or is demarcated into one traffic lane for your direction of travel, draw your vehicle to a halt at the extreme left of the road; or
- where the road is demarcated into two traffic lanes for your direction of travel, draw your vehicle to a halt in a safe position at the extreme left of the road if you are in the left lane, or adjacent to any vehicle which may be to your left, if you are in the right lane; or
- where the road is demarcated into more than two lanes for your direction of travel, draw your vehicle to a halt in a safe position, which may include a lane reserved for right turning traffic; or
- where your vehicle is stopped in any lane at a controlled intersection, remain stationary and only proceed when instructed to do so by means of the hand signals of the police officer, or when the State Motorcade has passed.

11.2 DO NOT:

- stop in a dangerous position such as a bridge; or
- try to overtake or join in the State Motorcade, and always be sure to indicate your intentions to other road-users both when you slow down to stop for the State Motorcade, and when you resume your journey.

12. OTHER PURPOSE AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES

- Give precedence to a fire engine, ambulance or police vehicle sounding its special warning device and/or operating its flashing beacon. Move out of its course and remain stationary until it has passed.
- When racing, racing vehicles should be confined to a racing circuit.
- On public roads, racing vehicles MUST obey the same traffic rules as other vehicles.

13. PARKING

- Do not stop suddenly, except in an emergency. Always give the stop signal in good time.
- Do not stop or park your vehicle:

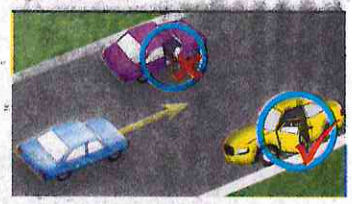
  (i) opposite or along a traffic refuge, road-works, stationary vehicles or other obstacles;

  (ii) on or near an intersection, corner, bridge, subway, blind rise, or the carriageway of any road outside an urban area;

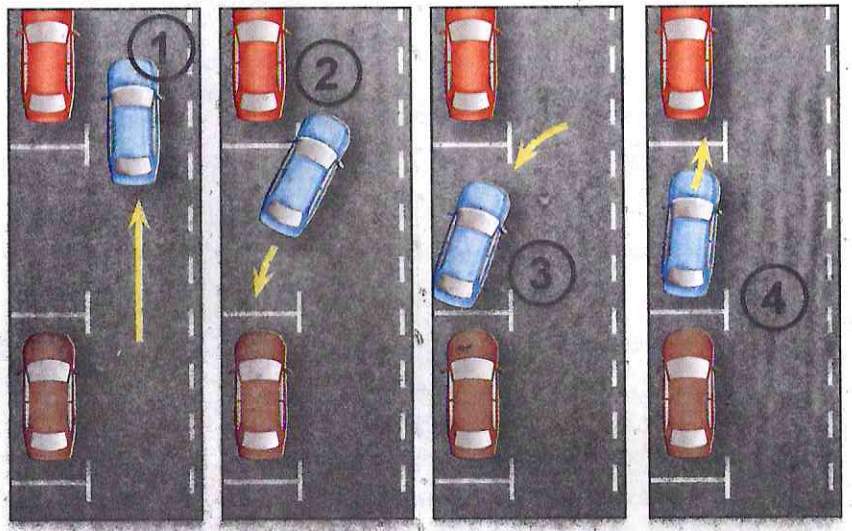
  (iii) at or near a pedestrian crossing or bus stop;

  (iv) where it will obstruct traffic or obscure traffic signs; and

  (v) where stopping or parking is prohibited.
- You MUST NOT leave a parked vehicle unattended with the engine running, or leave a vehicle engine running unnecessarily while that vehicle is stationary on a public road.
- When parking, use your handbrake and take precautions to prevent the vehicle from moving.
- Never get out or even open the door of a vehicle until it is stationary and you have made sure, from the vehicle's position and traffic conditions, that it is safe to do so. Your proper exit is via the nearside doors.



13.1 PARALLEL PARKING



14. BREAKDOWNS AND COLLISIONS

- If you have a breakdown, get your vehicle off the road, if possible.
- Use your hazard warning lights and breakdown warning triangles to warn other traffic.
- When passing the scene of an incident or collision, do not be distracted or slow down unnecessarily.
- The Code seeks to promote safe and responsible behaviour on the road. In spite of this, you may have the misfortune of being involved in a collision. Should this happen, you are obliged to:

  (i) stop immediately;

  (ii) see whether anyone involved in the collision has been killed or injured;

  (iii) if anyone has been injured, give all the help you can;

  (iv) if anyone has been killed, take reasonable steps to guard the corpse;

  (v) give your name and address and those of the owner of the vehicle you are driving to any person who has reasonable grounds for requiring this information;

  (vi) if, for any reason, you do not give these particulars to the person requiring them, you MUST report the accident at a Police Station or to a police officer as soon as reasonably practicable and, in any case, within twenty-four hours.

15. FIRST AID

15.1 FIRST AID ON THE ROAD

DO:

- warm and comfort the casualty or casualties;
- give reassurance.

DO NOT:

- move the casualty or casualties;
- remove motor cyclist/s' helmet/s;
- give them anything to drink or eat.

15.2 PROVIDE EMERGENCY CARE (DRABC)- IF TRAINED IN FIRST AID

- Danger - Check that you are not in danger.
- Response - Check for movements.
- Airway - Check for and remove any obstruction to breathing.
- Breathing - Check breathing for up to 10 seconds.
- Compressions - If there is no pulse, administer chest compressions.

16. ROAD WORKS

- When the "Road Works Ahead" sign is displayed, you will need to be more attentive and look for additional signs providing more specific instructions. Observe all signs, as they are there for your safety, and the safety of road workers.
- You MUST NOT exceed any temporary maximum speed limit.
- Use your mirrors and get into the correct lane for your vehicle in good time and as signs direct.
- Take extra care when driving near cyclists and motorcyclists, as they could skid on grit, mud or other debris at road works.
- Where lanes are restricted due to road works, merge in turn.
- Do not drive through an area marked off by traffic cones.
- Watch out for traffic entering or leaving the works area, but do not be distracted by what is going on there. Concentrate on the road ahead, not the road works.
- Bear in mind that the road ahead may be obstructed by the works or by slow-moving or stationary traffic.
- Keep a safe distance – there could be queues in front.

17. RAILWAY LEVEL CROSSINGS

- Approach and cross a level crossing with due care.
- Always reduce speed and if you have to stop, stop at least 3 metres away from the track or immediately behind the stop line, where this is provided.
- Never drive onto a level crossing until the road is clear.
- Never try to race a train to a level crossing.
- If a train has stopped near a level crossing where there are double or multiple tracks, look and listen for any other train that might be hidden from your sight.
- Watch out for trains where there are double tracks.

W318 – Railway crossing sign

Railway crossing sign:		**W318**
COLOURS:		
Triangle:	Red retro-reflective	
Symbol:	Black semi-matt	
Background:	White retro-reflective	
This sign warns a road user that a railway crossing is ahead.		

18. UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

18.1 ROAD TRAFFIC SIGNS ARE DIVIDED INTO THE FOLLOWING CLASSES:

Class I: Road signs

- Regulatory signs
- Warning signs
- Guidance signs

Class II: Road markings

- Regulatory markings
- Warning markings
- Guidance markings

Class III: Road traffic signals

- Regulatory signals
- Warning signals

The devices prescribed for use in Zimbabwe are illustrated and described in the supplement to this Code on road traffic signs. Study them until you recognize and understand them individually and by class. Be constantly on the lookout for them, and take heed of the message the road authority is trying to convey to you in this way.

18.2 ROAD TRAFFIC SIGNS–SUMMARY OF SYMBOLS AND SIGNS

The following is a short summary of the meaning of symbols in the sign system. It is not exhaustive, and only serves as a short reference to the meaning of the shapes and symbols.

(a) Regulatory signs

Regulatory signs have the following shapes for command, prohibition, reservation and exclusive secondary signs:

R121 – Command signs

Command signs with classes of road-users depicted on them convey two messages: (1) The road-user class depicted on the sign is compelled to use the designated lane; (2) No other road-user is allowed to use the designated lane.	**R121**

R227 – Prohibition signs

Prohibition signs prohibit the road-user to go beyond the sign.	**R227**

R301 – Reservation signs

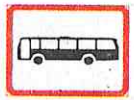
Reservation signs reserve a lane or a parking area for the road-user depicted on the sign. All other road-users are prohibited from using this lane or parking area.	**R301**

(R)560 – Exclusive secondary signs

Exclusive secondary signs are only used with primary signs. An exclusive secondary sign qualifies the meaning of the primary sign.	**(R)560**

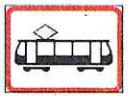
These symbols are used in all the regulatory sign classes.

TIME	06:00–09:00
DAYTIME	
NIGHTTIME	
DIRECTION	
PAY AND DISPLAY	
GROSS VEHICLE MASS OR GROSS COMBINATION MASS	16t
ENGINE SIZE	up to 125 cc

LOCAL ACCESS	
DISTANCE	
NUMBER OF VEHICLES	
BUS – A MOTOR VEHICLE DESIGNED OR ADAPTED TO CARRY MORE THAN 16 PERSONS INCLUDING THE DRIVER	
PEDAL CYCLE	
MOTOR CYCLE	
MOTOR CAR – A MOTOR VEHICLE DESIGNED OR ADAPTED TO CARRY UP TO 9 PERSONS	
TAXI – MOTOR CAR TAXI – MAXIMUM 9 PERSONS – OPERATE FOR REWARD	
MINIBUS – A MOTOR VEHICLE DESIGNED OR ADAPTED TO CARRY MORE THAN 9, BUT NOT MORE THAN 16 PERSONS, INCLUDING THE DRIVER	

MIDI BUS – A BUS DESIGNED OR ADAPTED TO CARRY UP TO 35 PERSONS (MORE THAN 16 BUT NOT MORE THAN 35)	
DELIVERY VEHICLE – A GOODS VEHICLE IN THE PROCESS OF LOADING OR DELIVERING GOODS	
A GOODS VEHICLE IS A MOTOR VEHICLE DESIGNED OR ADAPTED TO CARRY GOODS. GOODS IS ANY MOVABLE PROPERTY	
GOODS VEHICLE WITH A MASS LIMIT	
AXLE MASSLOAD – GROSS AXLE MASSLOAD OR GROSS AXLE UNIT MASSLOAD	
CONSTRUCTION VEHICLE	
DANGEROUS GOODS VEHICLE	
ABNORMAL VEHICLE – A VEHICLE THAT OPERATES UNDER A PERMIT	
RICKSHAWS	

TOUR BUS	
HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE	
EMERGENCY VEHICLE	
POLICE SERVICE	
VEHICLE CONVEYING DISABLED PERSONS	
AUTHORISED VEHICLE	
AGRICULTURAL VEHICLE	
ANIMAL-DRAWN VEHICLE	
TOWED VEHICLE	

TRAM – A TRAM OPERATES ON RAILS WITHIN A PUBLIC ROAD	
TOLL ROAD	
HEAD LAMP	
HAWKERS	
HEIGHT RESTRICTION	
LENGTH RESTRICTION	
WIDTH RESTRICTION	
NOISE	

HITCH-HIKING	
DUAL CARRIAGE WAY FREEWAY	
SINGLE CARRIAGE FREEWAY	
RESIDENTIAL AREA	

(b) Warning signs

Most warning signs are triangular in shape and warn road-users about the layout of the road, and about specific dangers and regulatory signs ahead in the road. A few specific signs such as the chevron sign warn users of junctions, etc.

W302 – Traffic control "STOP" Ahead Sign

Traffic control "STOP" Ahead sign: COLOURS: Triangle: Red retro-reflective Symbol: White and red retro-reflective Background: White retro-reflective This sign warns a road-user of the presence of a stop sign R1 ahead.	**W302**

W303 – Traffic control "YIELD" Ahead Sign

Traffic control "YIELD" ahead sign: COLOURS: Triangle: Red retro-reflective Symbol: White and red retro-reflective Background: White retro-reflective This sign warns a road user of the presence of a yield sign R2 ahead.	**W303**

W339 – General warning sign

General warning sign: COLOURS: Triangle: Red retro-reflective Symbol: Black semi-matt Background: White retro-reflective This sign warns a road user that there is a hazard of a general, random or variable nature on the roadway ahead.	**W339**

(c) Guidance and Informative signs

These signs show you destinations and other useful information.

GL1 HARARE DRIVE	**GL2** ENTUMBANE
GL3 RUSAPE	**GL5** BOTSWANA BORDER
GL7 FIGTREE T	

GD1 RURAL	GD1 URBAN 1 CROSS STREET NAME
GD1 URBAN 2 CROSS STREET NAMES	

- **Specific road traffic signs**

(i) Stop Sign

If your entry into a junction is controlled by a STOP sign, you must stop immediately behind the "stop" line, if one is marked on the road surface.

If there is no line, stop your vehicle so that it will not interfere with traffic coming from any direction other than your own. Give precedence to all other traffic until you can proceed safely.

R1 – Stop sign

Stop Sign: COLOURS: Border and symbol: White retro-reflective Background: Red retro-reflective Back of sign: White semi-matt (a) This sign indicates to the driver of a vehicle that he or she shall stop his or her vehicle with its front end in line with such sign, or if "stop" line RTM1 is used in conjunction with such sign, immediately behind such "stop" line, and that such driver shall not proceed until it is safe to do so. (b) This sign shall also be used for the purpose of the scholar patrol and shall— (i) in addition to its ordinary significance indicate, while it is suspended over the roadway at right angles to the kerb line by a member of a scholar patrol, that the driver of a vehicle shall stop such vehicle in front thereof or immediately behind the yield line RTM2 in conjunction with which such sign is used, and remain stationary until the sign is no longer suspended; (ii) be portable and so suspended on a lightweight pole, that there is a stop sign R1 displayed in both directions; and (iii) display two signs, one on each side of the roadway. (c) This sign may be used at a railway crossing and, when so used, shall be used in conjunction with the appropriate railway warning sign W403 or W404, or in conjunction with a red flashing signal and sign W403 or W404. (d) This sign may be used in conjunction with a supplementary plate sign IN11 if the driver of a vehicle is required to stop for a traffic officer or customs official, and shall in addition to its ordinary significance, indicate that the driver of a vehicle shall not proceed until directed to do so by a traffic officer or a customs official.	R1

(ii) Yield Sign

If your entry into a junction is controlled by a GIVE-WAY SIGN, you need not necessarily stop. You must give precedence to all other traffic until you can proceed safely.

R1.2 – Stop/Yield sign

Stop/Yield Sign:

COLOURS:

Stop segment:

Border and legend: White retro-reflective

Background: Red retro-reflective

Back of sign: White semi-matt

Yield segment:

Outer border: White retro-reflective

Inner border: Red retro-reflective

Background: White retro-reflective

Arrow: Black semi-matt

This sign indicates to the driver of a vehicle approaching a junction, who intends to —

(a) proceed straight on or to the right at the junction, that such driver shall act as for a "stop" sign R1; or

(b) proceed to the left at the junction, that such driver shall yield precedence to all vehicular traffic approaching from his or her right, where such traffic is so close as to constitute a danger or potential danger.

R1.2

R1.3 – 3-Way stop sign

3-Way Stop Sign:

COLOURS:

Border and legend: White retro-reflective

Background: Red retro-reflective

Back of sign: White semi-matt

This sign indicates to the driver of a vehicle approaching a 3-way stop sign that he or she shall act as for stop sign R1, and he or she shall not proceed into the junction, until every vehicle which has stopped at any other stop line at such junction before him or her and which would, in the normal course of events, cross the path of such driver's vehicle has cleared the junction.

R1.3

R1.4 – 4-Way stop sign

4-Way Stop Sign:

COLOURS:

Border and legend: White retro-reflective

Background: Red retro-reflective

Back of sign: White semi-matt

This sign indicates to the driver of a vehicle approaching a 4-way "stop" sign that he or she shall act as for "stop" sign R1, and shall not proceed into the junction until every vehicle which has stopped at any other stop line at such junction before him or her, and which would, in the normal course of events, cross the path of the driver's vehicle, has cleared the junction.

R1.4

R2 – Yield sign

Yield Sign:

COLOURS:

Outer border: White retro-reflective

Inner border: Red retro-reflective

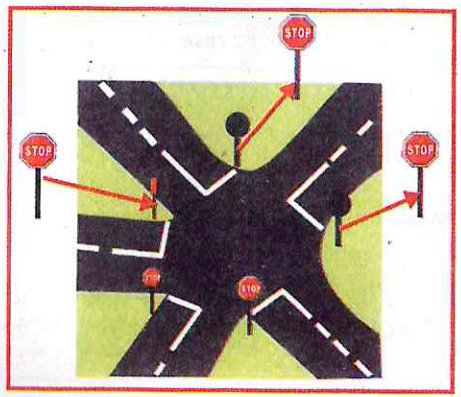
Background: White retro-reflective

This sign indicates to the driver of a vehicle approaching such sign that he or she shall yield precedence to—

(a) all traffic on the roadway which is joined by the roadway on which he or she is travelling; or

(b) all rail traffic on the railway line which is crossed by the roadway on which he or she is travelling, where such traffic is so close as to constitute a danger or potential danger.

R2



(iii) Minimum Speed Sign

R101 – Minimum speed sign

Command Signs: **Minimum Speed Sign:** COLOURS: Border and figures: White retro-reflective Background: Blue retro-reflective This sign indicates to the driver of a vehicle on a public road that he or she shall maintain or "not exceed" the minimum speed indicated in kilometres per hour by means of a number on such sign.	**R101**

(iv) Speed Limit SIgn

R201 – Speed limit sign

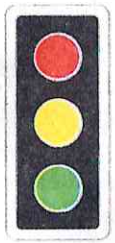
Prohibition Signs: **Speed Limit Sign:** COLOURS: Border: Red retro-reflective Figures: Black semi-matt Background: White retro-reflective This sign indicates to the driver of a vehicle that the speed limit beyond such sign is the speed indicated in kilometres per hour, by means of a number on such sign, and that he or she shall not exceed such speed limit.	**R201**

(v) Bus Reservation Sign

R301 – Bus reservation sign

Reservation Signs: **Bus Reservation Sign:** COLOURS: Border and symbols: White retro-reflective or semi matt Background: Blue retro-reflective or semi-matt This sign indicates to the driver of a vehicle that the public road or a portion of the public road is reserved for buses only.	**R301**

(vi) **Traffic Light Signal**



S1

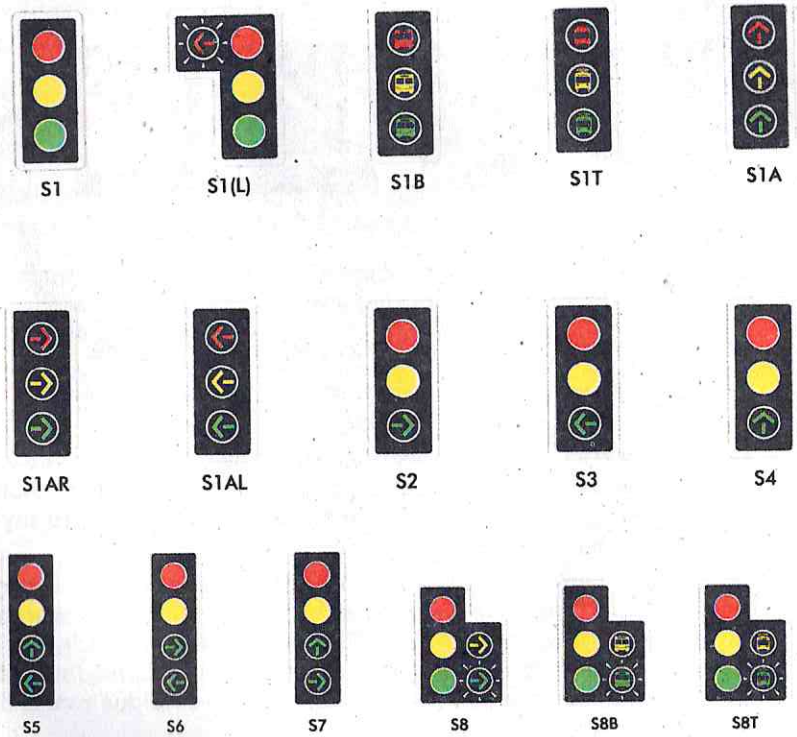
If traffic at the junction you are approaching is controlled by a traffic signal (traffic lights), the instruction conveyed by these devices overrides all others, except those of a police officer controlling traffic.

Traffic light signals: You STOP on the RED; You may GO on the GREEN. You may follow the GREEN ARROW. You should stop on AMBER unless you are too close to the intersection. You must then clear the intersection.

When approaching a traffic light signal, make sure you are in the correct traffic lane for the course you wish to follow, and be prepared to bring your vehicle to a gentle halt.

By means of coloured light signals, the traffic light signal directs road-users to behave in the manner as outlined in the following extract from the regulations:

SIGNALS



S9

S9B

S9T

S10R

S10L

S11

S12

S13

S14

S15

S16

S17

S18

S19

S20

Meaning of light indications

The directions given by the lights of any traffic signal shall be:

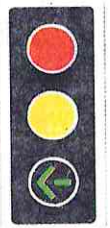
(a) Red - subject to the provisions of para. (e) below, no vehicle facing the signal shall cross the "Stop" line.

(b) Green - all vehicles facing the signal shall, subject to due care and proper precaution being taken, proceed straight ahead or to the left or to the right, provided that the movement is not contrary to any specific regulatory sign.

(c) Amber (when in a light sequence) - no vehicle facing the signal shall cross the "Stop" line unless, when the amber light first appears after the green light, or green arrow, as the case may be, the vehicle is so close to the "Stop" line, that a stop cannot safely be made behind such stop line, in which case the vehicle shall proceed subject to due care and proper precaution being taken.

(d) Amber (fixed or flashing when not in a light sequence) - all vehicles proceeding across the stop line shall do so with caution and, at an intersection or junction, shall give precedence to traffic approaching on the road on the right hand side.

(e) Green arrow - all vehicles facing the signal shall, subject to due care and proper precaution being taken, proceed straight ahead, or to the left or to the right as indicated by the arrow, notwithstanding any indication given by any other lens illuminated at the same time, provided that:


S3

(i) Where the green arrow pointing to the left or to the right is illuminated in conjunction with the red lens, traffic facing the signal shall give precedence to other traffic within the intersection or junction; and

(ii) no green arrow pointing to the left or to the right shall be illuminated in conjunction with the green lens, unless all other traffic at an intersection or junction is facing a red light.

The full sequence of traffic light signals might not be justified at all hours, and the amber light may be shown alone. Under these circumstances, vehicles entering the intersection shall exercise particular caution, and shall give precedence to all traffic approaching from a road on the right hand side.

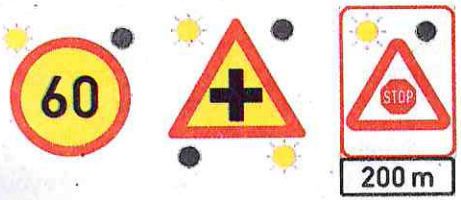
Remember that it is an offence to enter an intersection controlled by traffic lights in a straight ahead lane if traffic conditions are such that you are unlikely to be able to proceed through the intersection without having to stop.

When you move forward on the green light, give consideration to pedestrians crossing with the lights, and stop if necessary.

Disobeying the instruction of a traffic light or trying to "beat the red" are violations of the law, and amongst the most criminally dangerous actions that can be perpetrated on the road.

Flashing Lights

The purpose of the flashing yellow light is to emphasize the existence of a danger warning sign, a regulatory sign or a signal or, on its own, to warn road users to exercise caution.



SS3

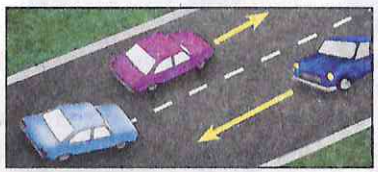
18.3 ROAD MARKINGS

Any prohibition lines, pedestrian crossings, parking lines and other directions or warnings painted or otherwise displayed on the road are referred to as road markings. They contribute substantially to orderly road use, and it is important that you understand their message and behave accordingly. The following markings are commonly used in Zimbabwe:

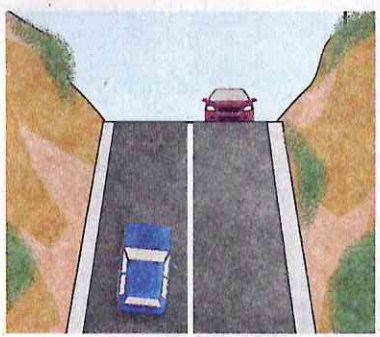
Longitudinal lines

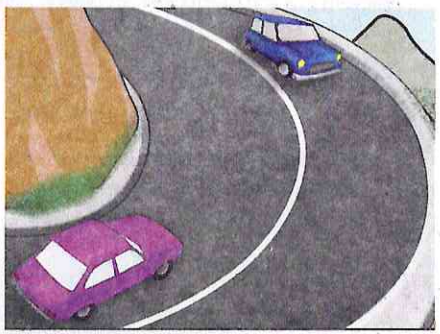
Lines on the road conforming roughly to the direction of the traffic flow (longitudinal lines) are there to demarcate the road centre line, or traffic lanes, or to indicate the course vehicles should take. They are usually white and may not be straddled.

If the line is a broken (dotted) line, it is there to guide you and you may cross it, but only if you are quite satisfied that it is safe to do so.



The driver is wrong for crossing line in face of oncoming traffic.

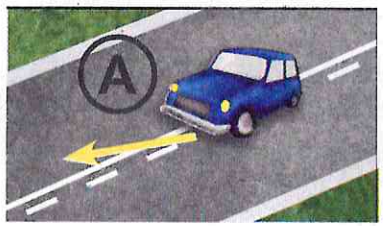




The continuous white line on this hill or this bend confines approaching vehicles to their proper sides, preventing collision where sight distance is insufficient to allow for avoiding action if they were using the same traffic lane.

If the line is continuous, you are prohibited from crossing it, and doing so is an act of criminal folly and a punishable offence.

A broken line is sometimes used in combination with a continuous line; the line on your side of the road is the one that governs your behaviour, just as if it were on its own.



Provided that there is no oncoming traffic, and if it is safe to do so, Car **A** may cross the continuous line because the broken line is on its side of the road.

Car **B** must not cross the continuous line because the continuous line is on its side of the road.

A road marking consisting of two continuous lines running side by side or separated by a broken line directs that no vehicle shall either cross these lines or be driven to the right of them.

Transverse lines

Prohibition or "Stop" lines - Where a continuous line (usually white) crosses your traffic lane, you must not cross that line until you have complied with the instruction of the traffic sign or signal that controls your action at that point.

"Stop" lines at traffic light signals - you may not cross the "stop" line unless by doing so you obey the traffic light signal's instructions.

Note. - A "stop" sign requires you to stop immediately before continuing into the road directly ahead. If it is used in conjunction with a "stop" line, you must stop immediately behind the line.

Pedestrian Crossing

Where pedestrian crossings are demarcated at traffic light-controlled intersections, respect them and give the pedestrian a chance to cross the road safely.

A vehicle turning left or right must yield right of way to any pedestrian within a crossing.

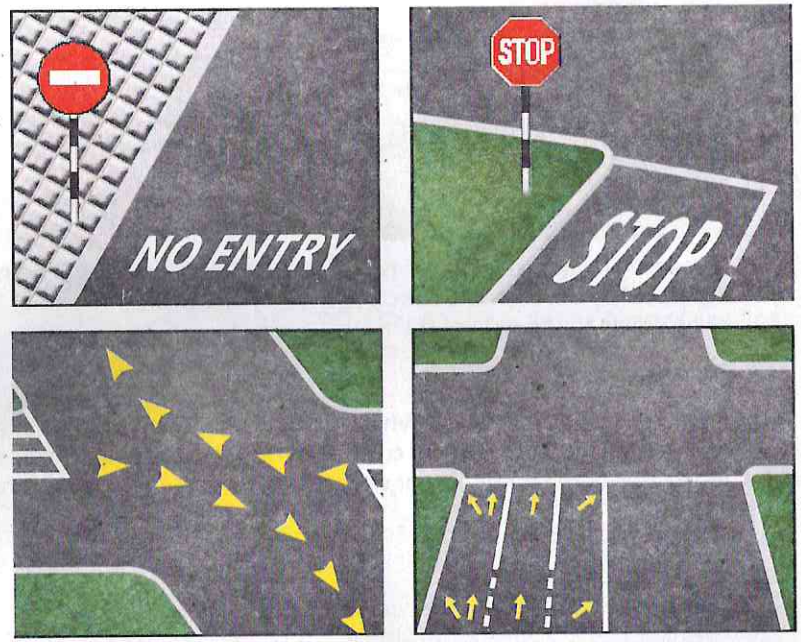
Where pedestrian crossings are provided at positions other than road intersections, they are of the zebra variety i.e. alternate wide stripes of black and white, and the driver is warned of their existence by advance warning signs. At such crossings, the driver must concede right of way to the pedestrian unless, of course, traffic at the crossing is controlled by a light or police officer.

Always be on the lookout for these crossings.

Other Road Markings

Road markings are used for many other purposes, for instance:

- To emphasize the existence of a regulation.
- To indicate the course to follow.
- To guide and instruct the driver into the proper use of traffic lanes.



Yellow arrows – Regulatory

White arrows – Informative

Note: Where direction arrows are shown on the road surface between longitudinal lines, the instructions of the arrows must be obeyed.

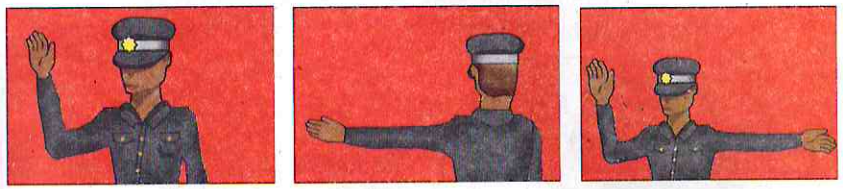
Parking areas or bays are often demarcated by white pavement or kerb markings. When the colour yellow is used, it signifies that the area is subject to a parking or stopping prohibition or restriction often associated with the presence of unloading zones, fire hydrants, bus-stops, intersections, etc, as decided by the authority concerned.

Not only is it inconsiderate and selfish to ignore such markings; it could spell danger for persons and property, and moreover, it makes you liable to prosecution.

18.4 POLICE CONTROL

The signals given by a police officer controlling traffic override all other signs and signals, and you should know and obey them.

These are meanings of the signals he or she will normally use, but he or she may sometimes have to use others because of special circumstances or the peculiarities of a situation, such as at a controlled intersection, when the State Motorcade is approaching.



You must stop. Once stopped, you may not move on or filter to the left until you are signalled to do so, even though the police officer has lowered his or her arm.

You may proceed or continue, but before you do so, make sure the police officer is signalling to you.

SS1(a) STOP-traffic from front or sides

SS1(b) STOP-traffic from behind

SS1(c) STOP-traffic from front and rear

SS1(d) Proceed-from front

SS1(e) Proceed-from right or left

When you approach a police officer directing traffic, tell him or her what you intend to do by giving the correct signal.

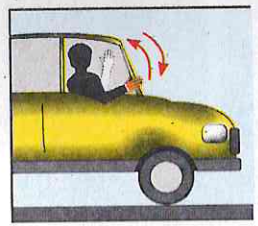
"I wish to turn left."

When you intend to turn left, point your hand to the left, making the movement sufficiently pronounced to be easily seen by the police officer.

"I wish to turn right."

When you intend to turn to the right, give the signal, "I am going to turn right."

"I wish to go straight on."



When you intend to go straight ahead, raise your hand towards your shoulder and move your forearm well forward and then back in a vertical plane, making the movement sufficiently pronounced to be easily seen by the police officer.

Do not, if you can possibly avoid it, speak to a police officer controlling traffic. This distracts his or her attention, and may cause obstruction or danger.

19. GENERAL TIPS

- Give clear signals and also watch out for signals given by other road-users
- You MUST obey signals given by police officers and traffic officers.
- You MUST not sound your hooter in an offensive manner.

20. THE CONDITION OF YOUR VEHICLE

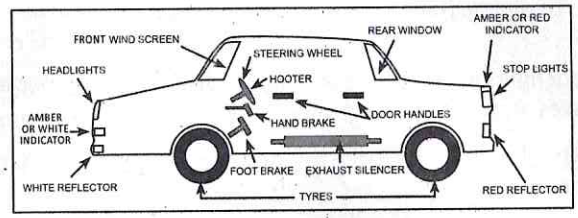
All vehicles

Good drivers take care of their vehicles, not only because it is against the law to drive an unroadworthy vehicle, but because they are proud of them and know that badly kept vehicles are dangerous. This section aims to help you comply with the law and so protect yourself and others.

Many collisions have been caused by a vehicle going out of control owing to a mechanical fault that could easily have been attended to.

See that your vehicle is regularly inspected, so that any faults that may have developed can be corrected before they become serious. Take advantage of the Vehicle Inspection Depots of the Ministry of Transport, where a thorough inspection is available for a nominal fee. Ensure that you use vehicle parts that have been approved by a recognised standards body.

Here are some of the items to which you should pay very special attention, and if they are in any way suspect, have them attended to immediately.



MOTOR VEHICLES DRAWING TRAILERS AND CARAVANS

Note: No vehicle may draw more than three trailers.

Steering

With faulty steering, you are in danger, and without steering you have no control. Your steering wheel must not have more than 45 degrees of free play.

Brakes

Brakes must be effective and efficient.

Tyres

Ensure that your tyres have sufficient tread (a minimum of 1mm tread depth) and are correctly inflated, as per the manufacturer's specifications. Blow-outs at high speed have resulted in many deaths and injuries.

Hard-braking, fast cornering and rapid acceleration damage your tyres.

Get the most out of your tyres by checking for proper inflation and changing them round periodically, as per the manufacturer's recommendation.

Exhaust and Silencer

Beware of leaks in the exhaust system. Exhaust gases are odourless but poisonous.

Be considerate to yourself and others and have an efficient silencer.

Hooter

When you need it, you need it badly. See that it works, but only use it when absolutely necessary.

Rear View Mirror

See that it is clean and properly adjusted. If your central mirror does not give you a clear view to the rear (when drawing a trailer or carrying a load), you require both left- and right-hand wing mirrors.

Windscreen, windows and wipers

Good visibility is of primary importance. See to it that everything is clean and free from oil, and that your wipers are operating properly.

Do not obscure your view by putting stickers on the glass.

Lights

Make sure that all your lights including the stop lights, are lighting up efficiently and that lamps, glasses and reflectors are clean.

Your headlamps MUST be correctly adjusted and your dipping mechanism MUST function properly.

Direction indicators

Front indicators must be white or amber, whilst rear indicators must be red or amber.

Make sure that indicators work, or you may be misleading yourself and others, with serious consequences.

Reflectors

See that your vehicle is fitted with efficient reflectors: white ones at the front, and red ones at the rear.

Projecting loads

For the information of road-users behind you, any load projecting behind your vehicle must be marked with a red cloth by day and a red lamp or red reflective material at night.

Doors

Check the security of all door catches.

Safety belts

Safety belts often save drivers and passengers from the worst effects of collisions. So, you MUST wear them. Use safety belts approved by a recognised standards body.

Safety belts are compulsory for cars registered on or after 1 January 1980. Attend to all adjustments before you drive off.

Couplings

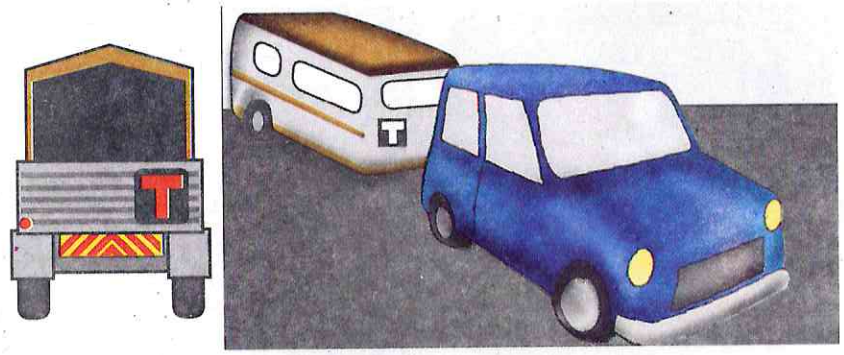
The trailer or caravan must be securely attached to the towing vehicle. In addition to the draw-bar, safety chains MUST be fitted.

Identification

Unless other road-users know that your vehicle is drawing a trailer or caravan, they may easily commit serious errors of judgment, especially at night.

The reflective white "T" that you are required to display on the extreme right panel of the towed vehicle serves to warn approaching drivers of your vehicle train at night. It should therefore be clearly visible to oncoming drivers and in no way obscured.

You are required to display a red reflective "T" on the right side at the rear of the trailer.



All trailers (except for light two-wheeled trailers) must have adequate brakes. These may be operated from the towing vehicle or by the trailer's pressure on the draw-bar (overrun brakes). Unless these types are fitted, someone must be carried on the trailer specifically to operate its brakes.

Connections

Connections for brakes and lighting between a towing vehicle and trailer should be sound, firmly fixed and functioning properly.

Suspension

All types of vehicle suspension, namely: leaf spring, coilspring, rubber and pneumatic, should be in efficient working order. Broken, splayed, worn or leaking suspension parts should not be used.

21. A FINAL THOUGHT FOR ALL

- Our roads belong to the Nation and represent the investment of large sums of public funds.
- Steel wheel, bare rims and wheel chains all cause permanent damage to tarred surfaces. Wantonly subjecting roads to such traffic is criminal. Spilling petrol, lubricating and fuel oil on such surfaces is equally injurious.
- Much has been done and much more can be done to make our roads safer and improve the road environment for the benefit of all. This is only achievable if everyone plays their part in keeping them clean and tidy, and preserving the road environment and road signs. If cases of vandalism come to your notice, report them to the authorities.
- Let us all play our role to keep our roads safe and save lives!

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