



Public Advice Note

Issued: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019

## Changes to Vehicle Construction and Use Standards



### Why are things changing?

Guernsey is ratifying The UN Convention on Road Traffic, 1968 (“The Vienna Convention”) on **29<sup>th</sup> March 2019**. The primary aim is to ensure that Guernsey driving licence holders and Guernsey registered vehicles can continue to circulate legally throughout Europe.

The Convention is wide ranging across traffic matters and it defines vehicle construction standards in greater detail than was previously the case in Guernsey legislation. In light of this, the relevant legislation is being updated where necessary.

### When do these changes come into effect?

Unless specified below the requirements come into effect on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The main exceptions are the requirement for seat belts to be fitted to all rear passenger seats in certain vehicle types by 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and side-guards and rear under-run devices to be fitted to all commercial vehicles exceeding 3,500kg by 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

### What does it mean for me?

For the vast majority of vehicle / trailer owners nothing will change as modern, well maintained vehicles and sensibly secured loads will already meet the required standards.

## What are the main changes?

### - From 29 March 2019:

**Mirrors** - Every motor vehicle other than a motorcycle must be equipped with at least 2 rear view mirrors, the numbers, dimensions and arrangement of which must as far as practicable, enable the driver to see traffic to the rear and at both sides of the vehicle.

**Speedometers** - Every motor vehicle capable of exceeding 25mph on a level road must be fitted with a speedometer except:-

- A motor cycle first used before 1st April 1984 the engine of which has a cylinder capacity not exceeding 100 cc
- A works truck first used before 1st April 1984
- An agricultural motor vehicle which is not driven at more than 20 mph
- A vehicle first used before 1st October 1937.

**Directional Indicators** - Power driven vehicles and trailers manufactured on or after 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 must carry an even number of amber direction indicators except:-

- Mobility scooters for people with disabilities with a maximum design speed not exceeding 4mph
- Power driven vehicles having a maximum design speed not exceeding 15mph
- Motorcycles with a maximum design speed not exceeding 25mph
- Single seat motorcycles or motorcycle combinations constructed or adapted to be used off road.

**Marker lamps** – These will become mandatory for vehicles and trailers 2.1m wide or greater. They are designed with the purpose of drawing attention to the width of the vehicle or trailer. There must be at least 2 such lamps fitted as near as possible to the top of the vehicle or trailer showing a white or amber light to the front and a red light to the rear. This does not apply to:-

- Vehicles having a maximum design speed not exceeding 25mph
- Agricultural and works trailers.

Marker lamps will also be permissible to be fitted on vehicles between 1.8m and 2.09m wide but not mandatory.

**Daytime running lamps** – These will become permissible but not obligatory. They are designed to make your vehicle more noticeable in daylight driving conditions.

**Reversing lamps** - Lamps fitted on vehicles manufactured on after 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 will only be permitted to display white or yellow lights as opposed to the current requirement that allows white, yellow or amber lights.

**Side reflectors on long vehicles** – Power driven vehicles and trailers of 6m or more overall length manufactured on or after 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 must be fitted with a minimum of a nearside and offside amber reflector to assist with improving the conspicuousness of longer vehicles on the road at night or in poor visibility.

**Side amber lights** - Amber side lights fitted to power driven vehicles and trailers will become permissible

**Trailer position lamps** – Trailers manufactured on or after 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 exceeding 1.6m wide and used at night or in poor visibility must carry a properly lighted pair of front position lamps showing a white light. Trailers exceeding 1.6m wide but manufactured before this date can carry front position lamps showing either white or yellow light. These requirements **do not** apply to trailers constructed or adapted for the carriage and launching of boats.

**Trailer front reflectors** - Trailers manufactured on or after 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 must carry an unobscured pair of white reflectors facing the front of other than triangular shape. Trailers manufactured before this date must have reflectors of the same colour but they must be triangular in shape.

**Side Car lighting** - There will be requirements for side cars being used at night or in poor visibility to have working position lamps (white/yellow to the front and red to the rear) and a rear red reflector

**Exhaust Silencers** - Every motor vehicle with an internal combustion engine must be equipped with an exhaust silencer maintained in good and efficient working order.

**Trailer Braking** - Trailers exceeding 750kg maximum gross weight or whose laden weight exceeds half the kerbside weight of the towing vehicle must be fitted with a braking system in good and efficient order. [It was previously a requirement for braking systems to be fitted to all trailers exceeding 102kg.]

In addition to the above:-

- The service brake must act on all wheels of the trailer.
- Overrun braking is permissible for trailers with a maximum gross weight not exceeding 3,500kg.
- Brake away devices are permissible for trailers not exceeding 1,500kg maximum gross weight.
- The trailer braking requirements **do not** apply to an agricultural trailer being towed by an agricultural tractor subject to the laden weight of the trailer not exceeding 4006kg.

**Carriage and marking of Loads** – Loads being carried on or in a vehicle must be so secured and in such a position that no danger or damage is likely to be caused to any person in or on the vehicle, on the highway or to property due to the load falling or moving.

In addition:-

- Loads must not obstruct or be likely to obstruct the view of the driver, impair stability of the vehicle, create avoidable dust or nuisance, mask lamps, reflectors, indicators or number plates
- Accessories used to fasten a load must be drawn tight and firmly fastened
- During the daytime loads projecting beyond the front, rear or sides of a vehicle shall be marked in circumstances where the projecting load might not be noticed by drivers of other vehicles. In all cases where a load projects by more than 1m to the front or rear of the vehicle it must be marked.

- **From 29 March 2020:**

**Seat Belts** – Every motor vehicle first registered in Guernsey or manufactured on or after 1<sup>st</sup> April 1987 must be fitted with seatbelts for the driver's seat and all forward-facing passenger seats. This does not apply to:-

- Goods vehicles having an un-laden weight exceeding 1525kg
- Passenger carrying vehicles with 12 or more passenger seats
- Vehicles incapable by reason of construction of travelling in excess of 20 mph.
- Motorcycles

(Please note the list of exceptions is not exhaustive but covers the main types of vehicle).

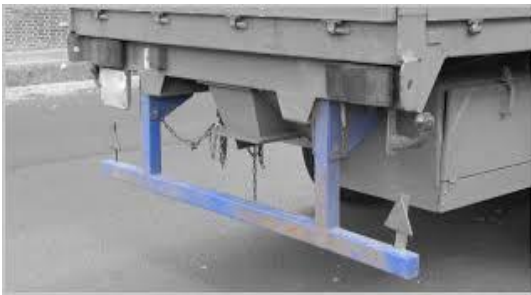
- **From 29 March 2021:**

**Vehicle Side Guards & Under-run Devices** - With effect from 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021 goods vehicles first used on or after 1<sup>st</sup> April 1984 exceeding 3,500kg maximum gross weight and trailers with an un-laden weight exceeding 1,020kg manufactured on or after 1st May, 1983 must be fitted with rear under-run protective devices and sideguards. The benefit of these is to help prevent other road users from going underneath a heavy vehicle or trailer in the event of an accident.

Examples of what a typical underrun and sideguards protective device look like can be found below. There are exemptions in place for agricultural vehicles/trailers and certain specialised vehicles where protective devices are impractical due to design or function of the vehicle. The design and fitting of these types of device is reasonably specialised. Owners of vehicles and trailers not fitted with them are advised to contact Traffic & Highway Services on tel. 202323 in the first instance.



**Vehicle with a sideguard**



**Vehicle with an under-run protective device**

**Anti-theft Device** - Every motor vehicle must be fitted with an anti-theft device by which one of the essential components of the vehicle can be put out of action or blocked when the vehicle is parked.

**Plating Requirements** - All vehicles and trailers must be fitted with a securely affixed plate with a minimum of the name and trade mark of the manufacturer, the manufacturer's production or serial number and where applicable an engine number.

## **Need further assistance?**

If you have any questions, please contact Traffic & Highway Services on tel. 202223 or by email at [traffic@gov.gg](mailto:traffic@gov.gg)