

THE

2313

MOTORWAY

CODE

Britain's Motorways differ from other roads. They have no sharp bends, roundabouts, traffic lights or crossroads. Drivers joining or leaving the Motorway always do so from the left. Crossing traffic or right-turning vehicles are carried either above or below.

Motorways are restricted roads. They are not open to pedal cyclists, learner drivers, mopeds, invalid carriages, animals, slow-moving oversized loads (except by special permission) or agricultural vehicles.

Safety on the Motorways is of first importance, especially since average speeds will be higher than those on other roads. So it is essential for all who use them to adapt their driving habits to the special conditions and to observe certain rules. These rules are set out in this supplement to the Highway Code. Some of them look forward to the Motorways now being built, and do not apply in full to the Preston By-Pass. But, taken as a whole, they constitute your code of conduct for our Motorways.

General

1 DO NOT use a motorway if your vehicle cannot maintain a fair speed or if it is likely to break down. Make sure that brakes, steering, tyres, lights, indicators and windscreen wipers are in good condition.

2 DO NOT use a motorway if you cannot trust yourself to drive safely in conditions where average speeds will be high. It is an offence for learner drivers to use motorways.

3 DO NOT drive on a motorway if your faculties are impaired in any way. Even small quantities of alcohol or drugs may affect your judgment.

Joining the Motorway

4 Look out for the direction signs at the approaches to a motorway so as to avoid joining the wrong carriageway.

5 GIVE WAY TO TRAFFIC ALREADY ON THE MOTORWAY.

6 When joining a motorway at an intermediate access point, you will approach it from the slip road on the left. Watch for a safe gap between vehicles in the near side traffic lane on the motorway and increase your speed in the acceleration lane to the speed of traffic in the near side lane before joining it.

On the Motorway

Speeds

7 No upper or lower speed limits apply at present, except for a maximum speed of 40 m.p.h. on certain types of vehicles drawing trailers.

8 Drive at a steady cruising speed

comfortably within your capacity and that of your vehicle.

9 The law relating to careless, reckless and dangerous driving still applies.

Lane Discipline

10 Always KEEP WELL TO THE LEFT except when overtaking.

11 After entering the left-hand traffic lane of a motorway, stay in it long enough to accustom yourself to the speed of vehicles in that lane before attempting to move out into a faster right-hand lane to overtake.

12 KEEP WITHIN THE CARRIAGEWAY LANE MARKINGS and cross them only when changing from one lane to another. Before changing lanes you must be sure that it is safe to do so particularly at high speeds. DO NOT WANDER FROM LANE TO LANE.

13 On a two-lane carriageway, keep to the left-hand lane except when overtaking.

14 On a three-lane carriageway, you may keep to the centre lane when the left-hand lane is occupied by slower moving vehicles. The outer (right-hand) lane is for overtaking only; do not stay in it longer than is necessary after overtaking vehicles in the centre lane.

15 DO NOT DRIVE TOO CLOSE TO THE VEHICLE AHEAD OF YOU IN YOUR LANE; allow at least one vehicle length between your vehicle and the one ahead of you for every ten miles per hour of your speed, and more at night or in rain or snow.

Overtaking

16 OVERTAKE ONLY ON THE RIGHT. Right-hand lanes will be

free from slow moving and right-turning vehicles, obviating the need for overtaking on the left. **DO NOT OVERTAKE ON THE LEFT.**

17 Before pulling out to your right into a traffic lane carrying faster moving traffic, watch out for and **GIVE WAY TO TRAFFIC IN LANES TO YOUR RIGHT. USE YOUR MIRROR** to make sure that the lane you will be joining is clear for a long distance behind, and bear in mind that an overtaking vehicle may be travelling much faster than you are. Give a clear signal of your intention **WELL BEFORE** you change from one lane to another.

18 After overtaking, move over as soon as practicable from the overtaking lane to one on your left. **DO NOT PULL IN SHARPLY IN FRONT OF THE VEHICLE WHICH YOU HAVE OVERTAKEN.**

19 If you discover from route confirmation signs beyond the entrance to a motorway that you have joined the wrong carriageway, continue along it all the way to the next exit. **IT IS AN OFFENCE TO REVERSE OR TURN IN THE CARRIAGEWAY OR CROSS THE CENTRAL RESERVATION.**

Parking and Stopping

20 It is an offence to park on :

- the carriageway
- the slip roads
- the central reservation
- the verges adjacent to the carriageway or slip roads.

Use instead the parking or service areas with appropriate facilities

which are provided at intervals along the motorway.

21 It is an offence to stop on the carriageway of a motorway except when this is unavoidable or to prevent an accident, or unless required to do so by the police or by an emergency traffic sign.

22 In the event of an emergency or breakdown, **YOU MUST** pull off the carriageway on to the hard shoulder **ON THE LEFT**, but only for so long as may be necessary (an 8 ft. width of the verge adjacent to the carriageway is constructed as a hard shoulder strong enough to carry vehicles leaving the carriageway in an emergency). Before you stop, signal for a left-hand turn as you decelerate and drive completely on to the verge.

23 You must not walk on to the carriageways or cross them on foot. Take special care to keep children off the carriageway when you stop in an emergency or at a service area.

Dogs and Animals

24 When you stop, whether on the verge or in a service area, or in the event of accident, you must keep any animal in your vehicle under close control either in or on a vehicle or held on a lead.

Breakdown: Accidents: Alertness

25 In the event of a puncture do not brake suddenly, but keep control of your vehicle as far as possible by gripping the steering wheel. When the car is under control, brake and pull off on to the verge as soon as possible.

26 If you see a knot of vehicles in the distance, which may mean that there has been an accident, reduce speed at once and steadily.

27 Drive with adequate ventilation and take the opportunity of stretching your legs at the parking or service areas so as to avoid the drowsiness which may attack you after long spells of driving at an even speed.

Driving at Night

28 Do not drive on a motorway after dark on your side lights only.

29 Always keep to a speed that will enable you to stop well within the range of your headlights.

30 Dip your headlights when following behind another vehicle in your lane.

31 Where the central reservation has no adequate screen of trees or shrubs to prevent dazzle, dip your headlights when meeting vehicles from the opposite direction.

Leaving the Motorway

32 If you are not travelling to the end of the motorway, watch for signs warning you of your point of

exit; the first sign will be one mile in advance of the slip road to your left, the second half a mile in advance and a third at the exit.

33 To leave a motorway at one of the intermediate exit points, get into the left-hand lane in good time, stay in it, and give a left-turn signal well before you reach the slip road.

34 Reduce speed as necessary in the deceleration lane on the approach to the slip road and not on the motorway itself.

35 To reach a destination to the right of the motorway, you will leave by a slip road on your left. Watch for signs near a junction off the motorway, directing you to the right of the motorway via an underpass or a bridge.

36 If you miss your exit continue along the carriageway until the next exit.

37 When you leave the motorway, remember to adapt your driving to the different conditions of the ordinary road system.

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