



labour

Department:
Labour
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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TRANSPORT CIRCULAR A1 OF 2011

TO: All Officials

NEW TRAFFIC LAW TO COME INTO EFFECT ON FEBRUARY 01

1. **MOTORISTS** convicted of driving more than 30km/h over the speed limit in urban areas, and more than 40km/h over the speed limit outside urban areas, will have their licenses suspended automatically.
2. The new penalty for speeding convictions was added to section 35 of the National Road Traffic Regulations, which lists activities that result in having one's license automatically suspended.
3. Anyone who gets a driving license for a heavy motor vehicle after February 01 will no longer be allowed to drive a light motor vehicle using the same license.
4. All officials of the Department are therefore expected to comply with these traffic laws.
5. Officials to note that anyone with a suspended license will not be allowed to drive Departmental vehicles.

Teboho Thejane

CHIEF DIRECTOR: PROVINCIAL OPERATIONS

SIGNATURE.....

DATE.....

12/01/11

LICENCES TO BE SUSPENDED

Tough new speeding penalties

Staff Writer

MOTORISTS convicted of driving more than 30km/h over the speed limit in urban areas, and more than 40km/h over the speed limit outside urban areas, will have their licences suspended automatically.

This is one of the radical changes to road traffic laws which are due to come into effect on February 1.

The Department of Transport released a statement yesterday summarising some of the changes to road traffic legislation that have been published in the Government Gazette in the past two weeks.

The new penalty for speeding convictions was added to section 35 of the National Road Traffic Regulations, which lists activities that result in having one's licence automatically suspended.

Other changes to road traffic legislation include:

- Cheating during tests for a learner's licence or a driver's licence test will become an offence.
- New vehicles, which were registered after August 1 this year, must have number plates fitted with pop rivets or screws, and not the two-sided tape many car owners use.
- Anyone who gets a driving licence for a heavy motor vehicle after February 1 will no longer be allowed to drive a light motor vehicle using the same licence.
- There will be prescribed forms for road accident reports.

New traffic law to come into effect on February 1

● All municipal police officers will be regarded as traffic officers, without having to have dual appointments.

● All minibus and midibus vehicles, which transport paying passengers, will have to be fitted with an expensive piece of hi-tech equipment – a directional stability control device – which minimises the risk of losing control of the vehicle when braking suddenly.

This requirement will apply to all minibuses that carry paying passengers, not only newly manufactured vehicles.

The department said it was considering issuing a "general learner's licence", which would allow a person to apply for a second category of licence without having to go through the process of getting a second learner's licence.

And from February, anyone who applies for licences to drive vehicles in different categories, say a truck, a sedan and a motorbike, will no longer have to carry separate licences for each.

Instead, the motorist will carry only one licence card, which will be endorsed to show that he or she is authorised to drive the other classes

of vehicles as well.

Foreign driver's licences will be acceptable here if they were obtained while the motorist was living outside South Africa for longer than three months.

Foreign driver's licences will be valid in South Africa until they expire in the country of issue, but not for longer than five years after the person has got permanent residence in this country.

Roadworthy certificates issued in neighbouring states will be acceptable only for vehicles registered in that state.

An amendment has been published that lists breathalysers that may be used.

The department said new offences with regard to goods vehicles would be added to legislation, but did not say what these were.

There has also been a change in the vehicle registration fees. Provincial MECs will determine the fees for the registration and licensing of vehicles, while all other fees will be determined by the Minister of Transport. These have not been published yet.

The power of the minister will be extended to allow certain additional matters to be controlled by legislation.

This includes legislation to be introduced to deal with drivers who habitually over-load vehicles.

Changes to the law will allow drivers of medical vehicles and fire-fighting vehicles to exceed the speed limit and transgress road traffic signs.