
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1981 No. 154

Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981

PART II

GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO LICENSING OF DRIVERS OF VEHICLES

Restrictions affecting certain vehicles and drivers

[^{F1}Restrictions on newly qualified drivers

19A.—(1) This Article applies to any person who becomes a qualified driver of a motor vehicle of such a class as may be prescribed by passing a test of competence prescribed by virtue of Article 5(3).

(2) After passing that test a person to whom this Article applies shall, for a period of 12 months or such lesser period as may be prescribed (the period of restriction), be subject to the specified restrictions.

(3) The specified restrictions shall apply to such a person while he is driving on a road a motor vehicle of such a class as may be prescribed, in respect of which he was not, immediately before he passed that test, entitled to hold or obtain a full licence.

(4) In determining the expiration of the period of restriction, any time during which a person is disqualified for holding or obtaining a licence, or holds a provisional licence only, shall be disregarded.

(5) The specified restrictions are—

- (a) a requirement that a distinguishing mark of such a nature as may be prescribed shall be displayed in such manner as may be prescribed on any motor vehicle while it is being driven on a road by a person who is subject to the specified restrictions when driving that vehicle;
- (b) [^{F2}subject to paragraph (5A),] a prohibition on driving on any road at a speed exceeding 45 miles per hour, or such other speed as may be prescribed, any motor vehicle on which the distinguishing mark referred to in sub-paragraph (a) is required to be displayed.

[^{F3}(5A) The restriction specified in paragraph (5)(b) does not apply to a person who after 18th January 2013 has passed a test of competence prescribed by virtue of Article 5(3) in the driving of a category A2 motorcycle or category A motorcycle.

(5B) In paragraph (5A) “category A2 motorcycle” and “category A motorcycle” have the same meaning as in the Motor Vehicle (Driving Licences) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996.]

(6) Any person who contravenes any of the specified restrictions shall be guilty of an offence under this Order.

Changes to legislation: Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981, Section 19A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 17 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

(7) Where the Department grants or returns a licence to any person who, while driving a motor vehicle of any class specified in the licence, will for any period during the currency of the licence be subject to the specified restrictions, the Department shall enter on or affix to the counterpart of the licence a notice or other indication to show—

- (a) the period of restriction;
- (b) the class of vehicles affected by the specified restrictions; and
- (c) that the holder is subject for that period to the specified restrictions while driving vehicles of that class.

(8) This Article does not apply—

- (a) to a person who is required to pass a test of competence by virtue of—
 - (i) an order under Article 41 of the Offenders Order, or
 - (ii) Article 6 of, or paragraph 6 or 9 of Schedule 1 to, the Road Traffic (New Drivers) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998;
- (b) to such extent and in such circumstances as may be prescribed, to a person holding a licence by reason of a test passed by him at a time when he held a licence or permit which, by virtue of an order made under the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Act 1952, entitled him to drive motor vehicles in Northern Ireland; or
- (c) to the holder of a licence authorising him to drive, or to a person driving, motor vehicles of such classes or in such circumstances as may be prescribed.

(9) In this Article—

- (a) “period of restriction” has the meaning given in paragraph (2);
- (b) “the specified restrictions” means the restrictions specified in paragraph (5).]

F1 1998 NI 7

F2 Words in [art. 19A\(5\)\(b\)](#) inserted (19.1.2013 immediately after the coming into operation of S.R. 2012/170) by [The Motor Vehicles \(Driving Licences\) \(Amendment No. 3\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2012](#) (S.R. 2012/451), regs. 1(1), **2(3)(a)**

F3 [Art. 19A\(5A\)\(5B\)](#) inserted (19.1.2013 immediately after the coming into operation of S.R. 2012/170) by [The Motor Vehicles \(Driving Licences\) \(Amendment No. 3\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2012](#) (S.R. 2012/451), regs. 1(1), **2(3)(b)**

Changes to legislation:

Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981, Section 19A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 17 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- Instrument amended by [1994 c. 22 s. 63 Sch.3 para 17](#)
- Instrument rev. in Pt. by [1994 c. 22 s. 65 Sch.5 Pt II](#)
- art. 19A(7) words substituted by [S.I. 2007/916 \(N.I.\) Sch. 5 para. 11](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Order associated Parts and Chapters:

- Order Blanket amendment by [2009 c. 1 \(N.I.\) Sch. 6 para. 1\(1\)\(b\)](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Order (including any effects on those provisions):

- Sch. 1 Pt. 1 words inserted by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 18\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 6 repealed by [2010 c. 2 \(N.I.\) Sch. 4](#) (The amendment could not be applied as the relevant affected text is not available on legislation.gov.)
- Sch. 7 para. 7 repealed by [2010 c. 2 \(N.I.\) Sch. 4](#) (The amendment could not be applied as the relevant affected text is not available on legislation.gov.)
- art. 5(2ZA)-(2ZD) inserted by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 16\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- art. 5(4A) inserted by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 16\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- art. 5A inserted by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 17\(2\)](#)
- art. 13(1)(c)(ia) words repealed by [S.I. 2007/916 \(N.I.\) Sch. 5 para. 4\(a\)\(ii\) Sch. 8 Pt. 5](#)
- art. 13B-13C inserted by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 17\(3\)](#)
- art. 15ZA inserted by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 18\(1\)\(c\)](#)
- art. 19D(1ZA)(1ZB) inserted by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 17\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- art. 19AB19AC substituted for art. 19A 19B by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 19\(3\)](#)
- art. 31A(2A)-(2D) inserted (temp.) by [S.I. 2019/648 reg. 5\(2\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 5 omitted immediately before IP completion day by virtue of S.I. 2020/1393, regs. 1(2), 2(4))
- art. 31A(2C) words inserted in earlier amending provision S.I. 2019/648, reg. 5(2)(a) by [S.I. 2020/818 Sch. 6 para. 39\(4\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S.I. 2019/648, reg 5, which inserts art. 31A(2C) omitted (31.12.2020 immediately before IP completion day) by virtue of S.I. 2020/1393, regs. 1(2), 2(4))
- art. 31A(3A)(3B) inserted (temp.) by [S.I. 2019/648 reg. 5\(2\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 5 omitted immediately before IP completion day by virtue of S.I. 2020/1393, regs. 1(2), 2(4))
- art. 31A(3B) words inserted in earlier amending provision S.I. 2019/648, reg. 5(2)(b) by [S.I. 2020/818 Sch. 6 para. 39\(4\)\(b\)\(i\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S.I. 2019/648, reg 5, which inserts art. 31A(3B) omitted (31.12.2020 immediately before IP completion day) by virtue of S.I. 2020/1393, regs. 1(2), 2(4))
- art. 31A(3B) words inserted in earlier amending provision S.I. 2019/648, reg. 5(2)(b) by [S.I. 2020/818 Sch. 6 para. 39\(4\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S.I. 2019/648, reg 5, which inserts art. 31A(3B) omitted (31.12.2020 immediately before IP completion day) by virtue of S.I. 2020/1393, regs. 1(2), 2(4))
- art. 174(2A)(da) inserted by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 17\(5\)\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- art. 174(2AB) inserted by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 17\(5\)\(b\)](#)
- art. 177(1)(ba) inserted by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 19\(4\)\(b\)](#)

- art. 177(1A) inserted by 2016 c. 11 (N.I.) s. 19(4)(c)
- art. 177(3)(4) inserted by 2016 c. 11 (N.I.) s. 19(4)(b)
- art.198 am. (prosp.) by 1997 c. 16 s.18Sch.3 paras.8(2)9
- art.198 am. (prosp.) by 1997 c. 16 s.18 Sch.3 paras.8(2)9