



# Road Traffic Act 1988

## 1988 CHAPTER 52

### PART I

#### PRINCIPAL ROAD SAFETY PROVISIONS

*Protective measures: seat belts, helmets, etc.*

#### 14 **Seat belts: adults.**

- (1) The Secretary of State may make regulations requiring, subject to such exceptions as may be prescribed, persons who are driving or riding in motor vehicles on a road to wear seat belts of such description as may be prescribed.
- (2) Regulations under this section—
  - (a) may make different provision in relation to different classes of vehicles, different descriptions of persons and different circumstances,
  - (b) shall include exceptions for—
    - (i) the users of vehicles constructed or adapted for the delivery of goods or mail to consumers or addresses, as the case may be, while engaged in making local rounds of deliveries,
    - (ii) the drivers of vehicles while performing a manoeuvre which includes reversing,
    - (iii) any person holding a valid certificate signed by a medical practitioner to the effect that it is inadvisable on medical grounds for him to wear a seat belt,
  - (c) may make any prescribed exceptions subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, and
  - (d) may prescribe cases in which a fee of a prescribed amount may be charged on an application for any certificate required as a condition of any prescribed exception.
- (3) A person who drives or rides in a motor vehicle in contravention of regulations under this section is guilty of an offence; but, notwithstanding any enactment or rule of law,

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*Status: Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this provision has been superseded.*

*Changes to legislation: Road Traffic Act 1988, Section 14 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 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)*

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no person other than the person actually committing the contravention is guilty of an offence by reason of the contravention.

- (4) If the holder of any such certificate as is referred to in subsection (2)(b) above is informed by a constable that he may be prosecuted for an offence under subsection (3) above, he is not in proceedings for that offence entitled to rely on the exception afforded to him by the certificate unless—
- (a) it is produced to the constable at the time he is so informed, or
  - (b) it is produced—
    - (i) within seven days after the date on which he is so informed, or
    - (ii) as soon as is reasonably practicable,at such police station as he may have specified to the constable, or
  - (c) where it is not produced at such police station, it is not reasonably practicable for it to be produced there before the day on which the proceedings are commenced.
- (5) For the purposes of subsection (4) above, the laying of the information or, in Scotland, the service of the complaint on the accused shall be treated as the commencement of the proceedings.
- (6) Regulations under this section requiring the wearing of seat belts by persons riding in motor vehicles shall not apply to children under the age of fourteen years.

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this provision has been superseded.

**Changes to legislation:**

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