



# Road Traffic Act 1930

## 1930 CHAPTER 43

### PART I

#### REGULATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

##### *Provisions as to Weight and Weighing of Motor Vehicles.*

#### **25 Power to prohibit the use of bridges by motor vehicles.**

- (1) Where the bridge authority of any bridge over which a road passes are satisfied that the bridge is insufficient either—
- (a) to carry a motor vehicle of which the weight exceeds a certain maximum weight; or
  - (b) to carry a motor vehicle of which the weight exceeds a certain maximum weight when travelling at more than a certain maximum speed,

the authority may, by a conspicuous notice in the prescribed form placed in a proper position at each end of the bridge, prohibit the use of the bridge, as the case may be, either by a vehicle weighing more than a weight specified in the notice or by a vehicle weighing more than a weight specified in the notice when travelling at more than a speed specified in the notice :

Provided that the weight specified in any such notice shall not be less than five tons and shall not exceed the aggregate of the maximum weights permitted for the time being for a heavy locomotive and the trailers drawn thereby when crossing a bridge.

For the purposes of this section, the expression " placed in a proper position " means placed in such a position either on or near the bridge or on or near the road leading to the bridge as to be visible at a reasonable distance from the bridge to the drivers of vehicles approaching it, and the highway authority of any such road shall give to the bridge authority reasonable facilities for placing thereon any such notice as aforesaid.

- (2) If a motor vehicle is driven across a bridge in the case of which a notice has been so placed as aforesaid in contravention of the notice without the consent of the bridge authority, any person who so drives it or causes or permits it to be so driven shall be

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.*

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guilty of an offence without prejudice, however, to any civil liability of that person in the case of damage being caused to the bridge.

- (3) For the purposes of this section, weight means weight laden, and the weight of a vehicle means, in relation to a vehicle drawing a trailer, the aggregate of the weights of the vehicle and the trailer, and where the maximum permissible weight laden of any vehicle or trailer is indicated by marks placed thereon in accordance with any Act, order or regulation for the time being in force, the weight of the vehicle or trailer shall be taken not to be less than the weight so indicated unless the person charged with an offence under subsection (2) of this section proves to the satisfaction of the court that at the time of passing over the bridge the weight of the vehicle or trailer, as the case may be, was some less weight.
- (4) Where a notice has been so placed as aforesaid any person who causes or permits any motor vehicle, being either a heavy locomotive, light locomotive, motor tractor or heavy motor car to stop on the bridge or to be driven on the bridge while another vehicle of any such class as aforesaid or a tramcar or trolley vehicle is on the bridge shall be guilty of an offence, without prejudice, however, to any civil liability of that person in the case of damage being caused to the bridge.
- (5) Any person or body of persons aggrieved by any restriction or prohibition placed on the use of a bridge under this section, may appeal to the Minister, and the Minister, if - he considers that the bridge is sufficient, as the case may be, to bear a vehicle of a weight greater than the weight specified in the notice, or a vehicle of a weight greater than the weight specified in the notice travelling at a speed greater than the speed so specified, after considering any representations made by the bridge authority, may order the restriction or prohibition to be removed or to be varied in such manner as he may direct, and the authority by whom the restriction or prohibition has been imposed shall comply within such time as may be specified in the order of the Minister with that order, and if they fail to do so the Minister may cause the notice to be removed or varied so as to comply with the order and recover summarily as a civil debt from the authority by whom the notice was placed as aforesaid the expenses incurred by him in so doing.
- (6) The Minister instead of himself determining any appeal under this section may refer the matter of the appeal to an arbitrator to be appointed, in default of agreement between the parties to the appeal, by the Minister.

On any such arbitration the arbitrator shall have power to make any such order as the Minister has power to make under subsection (5) of this section, and for the purposes of this section any order made by the arbitrator shall be deemed to be the order of the Minister.

- (7) An order of the Minister under this section with regard to any bridge shall not prevent the imposition of any restriction or prohibition with regard to the bridge at any future time if the authority empowered to impose the restriction or prohibition consider that it is necessary to do so having regard to any change in the circumstances of the bridge or the traffic, but the imposition of any such restriction or prohibition shall be subject to appeal under this section.
- (8) The Minister may refuse to consider any appeal under this section with regard to any bridge if the question raised by the appeal has already been considered under a former appeal.