

beginner's training manual

A comprehensive manual for driving in the UAE



معهد الفجيرة الوطني للسياسة
Fujairah National Driving Institute

message



“ The opening of Fujairah National Driving Institute is an important step towards the Emirate’s goal to emerge as a major player in the development of the UAE.



- His Highness Sheikh Hamed Bin Mohammed Al Sharqi



FNDI beginner's training manual

A comprehensive manual for driving light vehicles,
heavy vehicles and motorcycles in the UAE

Compiled by The Technical Team

Fujairah National Driving Institute

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Dear Reader,

Message

With the exponential growth of a country comes a corresponding growth in its traffic. Today, in the UAE, the need for traffic regulation and safety is felt more than ever before. A manual such as this will go a long way towards educating road users to be effective and safe drivers.

This manual deals at length with issues ranging from the rules of the road to the physical and psychological conditions of drivers and is liberally interspersed with relevant illustrations. Some of the significant responsibilities mentioned include the use of seatbelts and child restraints, rules of the road and safe driving tips, what to do in case of emergencies, and the importance of road sharing, regardless of the class of vehicle one is driving.

Comprehensive in scope, this manual is the first of its kind in the UAE, in that it has been compiled by experts having extensive experience in the region, and its modules relate closely to the UAE FEDERAL LAW NO. 21 of 1995. This manual will hence, without doubt be a companion and guide to thousands. My advice? Keep it handy.

Best regards,
DR. AHMED SAIF BELHASA
CHAIRMAN, BELHASA GROUP



Prologue

Dear Reader,

The primary object that this manual has been designed to accomplish is the imparting of the knowledge and skills to enable every driver in the UAE to operate a vehicle safely on our busy roads and also to ensure the safety of other road users; for we believe that the greatest traffic hazard is an uninformed and unskilled driver.

If you are a resident of the UAE, you will typically belong to one of the following groups:

- A. You do not have a license and are in the process of getting one
- B. You are a new licensee, but you want to have a better idea about driving in the UAE
- C. You are a veteran licensee, but you want to refresh your driving skills and your comprehension of the Traffic Rules of the UAE

As a prospective licensee, you will want to know the licensing procedure, the skills you will need to acquire, and the qualifications – mental and physical – that are required to make you eligible for a driving licence. You are also probably looking for the right mentors to help you in this quest. As a learner licensee, you need to have a clear appreciation of the rules of the road, the various road topographies and traffic conditions, and how to respond to different situations as they arise. 'Learner Licensees', this book is meant for you.

Prologue

As a new driver, the privilege of driving in the UAE signifies a step forward – and for some a launch pad – in terms of your career and on the family front as well. Presented in a lucid format with eye-catching illustrations and caricatures, this manual makes not just interesting reading, but contains dependable reference material too. It is therefore entirely up to you to make good use of this manual to help you make driving a comfortable and economically rewarding experience. So ‘New Drivers’, this book is meant for you also.

As a long time driver in the UAE, you will need proper updates on the Traffic Laws and on the various technicalities of driving in the UAE. Perhaps you have come across a wide array of traffic signs which you do not recognize. And there are hundreds of questions you have always wanted to know the answers to, but did not know whom to ask. ‘Veteran drivers’, this book is for you, too.

While driving on the road you have a choice to make: that of being a considerate, responsible and law-abiding driver or being a veritable menace. So what do you choose to be? Take it from me: driving can be enjoyable provided you adhere to the ground rules, remain consistent and do not digress from good practice. That way, you ensure not just your own safety, but also that of other road users.

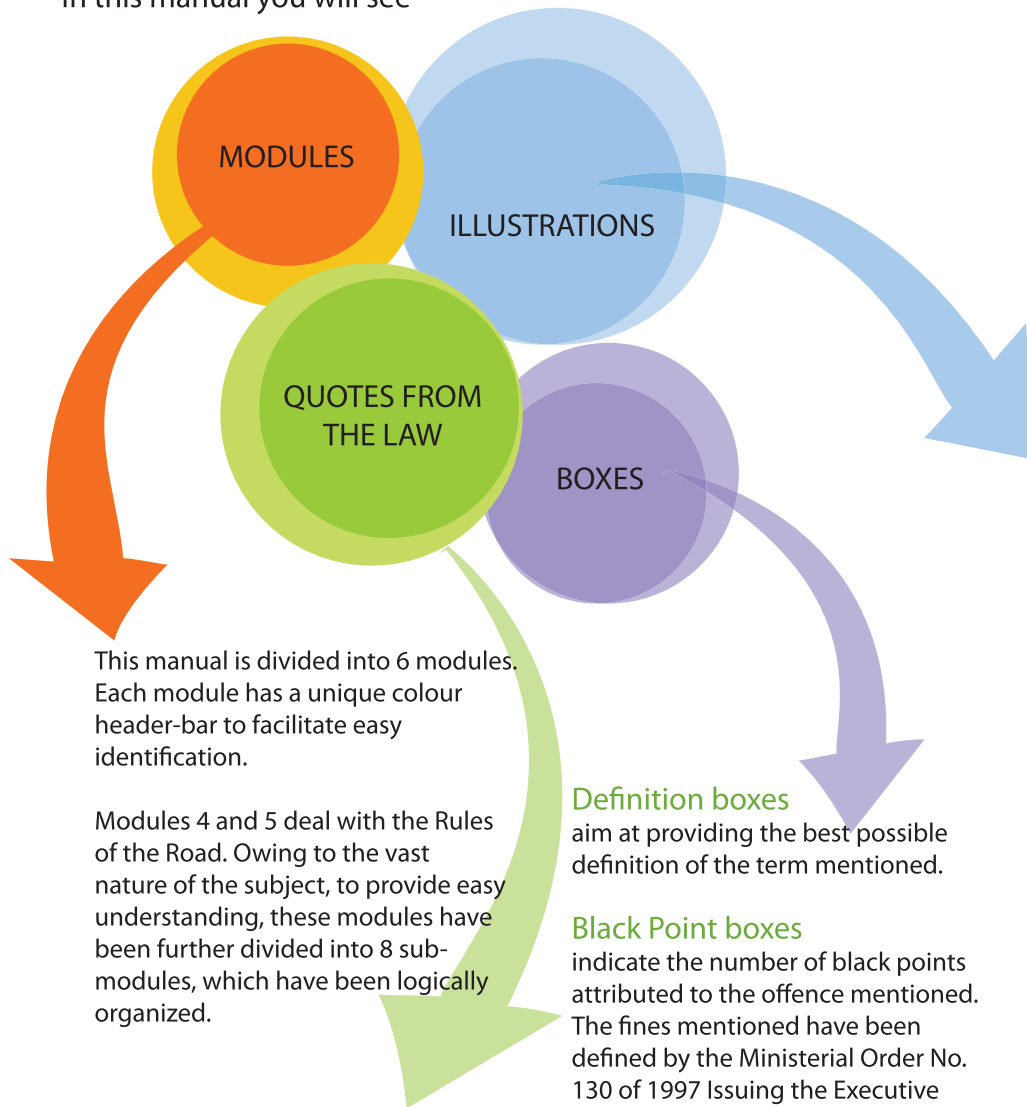
This manual contains all the necessary ingredients to ‘steer’ you in the right direction, but of course, the proof of the pudding, as they say, is only in the eating. Assiduous implementation of the contents of this manual will help you develop and hone skills to control your actions, emotions and of course, your vehicle, in the UAE’s dynamic traffic conditions.

So, good reading and safe motoring.

AMER AHMED BELHASA
MANAGING DIRECTOR

How to use this Manual

In this manual you will see



This manual is divided into 6 modules. Each module has a unique colour header-bar to facilitate easy identification.

Modules 4 and 5 deal with the Rules of the Road. Owing to the vast nature of the subject, to provide easy understanding, these modules have been further divided into 8 sub-modules, which have been logically organized.

Articles from the UAE Federal Law No. 21 of 1995 Regarding Traffic are depicted in Green italic font. Articles from Ministerial Order No. 130 of 1997 Issuing the Executive Bylaws of UAE Federal Law No. 21 of 1995 Regarding Traffic are shown in Blue italic font.

The manual quotes ad verbatim the above Laws. The manual does not attempt to make any interpretation of the laws quoted.

Definition boxes aim at providing the best possible definition of the term mentioned.

Black Point boxes indicate the number of black points attributed to the offence mentioned. The fines mentioned have been defined by the Ministerial Order No. 130 of 1997 Issuing the Executive Bylaws of UAE Federal Law No 21 of 1995 Regarding Traffic.

Disclaimer: The black points and fines mentioned in various pages of this manual have been taken from authoritative sources. However, black points and fines are being amended frequently and thus this cannot be construed to be the latest or correct information. Users of this manual will have to refer to newspapers or other

sources to be kept updated of the latest black points or fines.

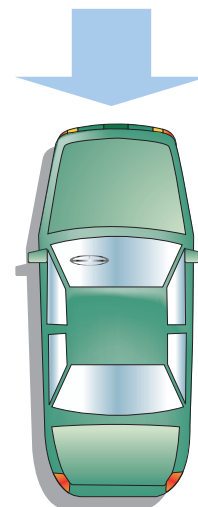
Tip boxes are intended to provide the reader with safe driving advice

Remember boxes caution readers to exercise due diligence and care while performing a certain activity or manoeuvre.

Illustrations of roads and traffic are given an aerial perspective. This will provide you with a clear view of the road system and the markings, positioning of vehicles etc.

The illustrations in this manual attempt at depicting actual representation of typical traffic and road systems in the UAE. Therefore, there may be instances when illustrations may not agree with a particular road or its markings due to the distinctive nature of that road.

Through the progress of this manual you will be driving this Green Saloon.



Fujairah National Driving Institute



Fujairah National Driving Institute

معهد الفجيرة الوطني للسياسة
FUJAIRAH NATIONAL DRIVING INSTITUTE





History and Milestones

Set up in 2004, the Fujairah National Driving Institute (FNDI) has developed fast from a modest beginning with a small number of cars and instructors, to one of the largest and most successful driving institutes in the Middle East.

Today, it boasts of over 200 highly trained instructors and a modern fleet of around 200 vehicles as well as numerous buses, trucks, shovels, forklift plants and motorcycles. As at the end of 2007, more than 13,000 students have obtained their driving licences through FNDI since its inception.

As part of its ongoing expansion plans, EDI has initiated new state-of-the-art training facilities in Fujairah. The Fujairah National Driving Institute (FNDI) is being operated with the support and under the guidance of the Fujairah Traffic Department and the professional supervision of EDI.





Business Relationships

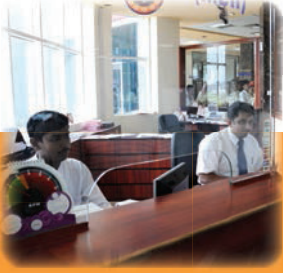
FNDI keeps a finger on the pulse of the latest developments and innovations in driving and training techniques through its multi-faced business relationships with leading international institutes such as the Institute of The Motor Industry (UK), The International Association for Driver Education and The Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM), UK.

FNDI has in recent years, broadened its business reach and range of activities with the introduction of its Corporate Training Programme which features regular specialised courses for Corporate clients. These courses offer the client the unique option of being conducted either at the client's premises or at our Institute. The Corporate Training Programme is also available to clients outside the UAE.

In addition to its regular courses, FNDI also offers courses in Advanced Driving Techniques and Off-Road Driving with supervision of EDI. The Institute also acts as Technical Advisor to a number of other driving institutes within the Middle East region.



Accredited by IAM Fleet Ltd.



Facilities and Services

FNDI's team of 200 highly qualified and cross-national instructors allows us the unique opportunity to communicate and instruct our students in their native language, thus ensuring a full and thorough understanding by the students of all procedures and instructions during the lessons.

The Institute's modern approach utilises various methods of training, such as classroom instruction, vehicle simulators, controlled area driving and open road driving. The high success rate of students from FNDI testifies to the research that goes into developing driving tuition procedures of the highest quality. FNDI's success rate has led to a high number of referrals from past students which contributes towards a large proportion of the Institute's business. A sure testament to FNDI's success!





Why FNDI remains the First Choice for driver training!

- Fujairah National Driving School is the only one of its kind in Fujairah which offers extensive training in driving.
- Sophisticated training technology on par with international standards ensures an edge over safe and efficient driving.
- Value-added facilities such as transportation facilities, prayer halls, cafeteria, etc., helps to improve the total training experience at Fujairah National Driving Institute.
- Training that ensures passing the Police Tests with driving workshops outside of the Fujairah yard, helping to acclimatize students with real traffic conditions.
- Efficient and timely customer service at all times.



Full-fledged Support of the Fujairah Police Traffic Dept.

The presence of FPTD and their team of Examiners within FNDI's premises is proof of the confidence and trust in FNDI by the Government of the UAE. The Institute coordinates and interacts with the FPTD on a daily basis. The FPTD within FNDI premises opens test files, issues learner permits, provides test examiners and also the dates for the tests.

Every day, FPTD examiners test hundreds of students at the institute and branch and the number is set to increase as more examiners have been recently recruited. FNDI's continuous evaluation process on each and every student's progress assists its students in building up their confidence and also ensures a higher pass rate than any other institute in UAE.





Value-added Services

A string of value-added services enhance the total training experience at Fujairah National Driving Institute. They include a comfortably large reception/ registration/customer service area, 2 lecture theaters, multiple simulator facilities, and a 600,000 sq. ft. area where students can practice parking, hill starts, roundabouts, intersection systems, turns, junctions, and other elements of vehicle control before being exposed to the public road system. The FNDI also has an impressive number of vehicles with its own in house workshop facilities for their maintenance.

A trendy cafeteria and restaurant at FNDI allows the students to enjoy refreshments, light snacks, and choose from a wide choice of meals. A thoughtful recreation area offers a comfort zone for students wanting to unwind with just sitting around, watching TV, or browsing some reading material.

The best service offered by FNDI, however, is the transportation facility extended to its students. A fleet of four air-conditioned deluxe buses ply across the length and breadth of Fujairah City offering both pick-up and drop-off services. For large groups of students, FNDI buses can be arranged for transportation at a nominal charge.



A Dream Vision

FNDI's business has been built through uncompromising and meticulous attention to quality.

The sister concern of Emirates Driving Institute, which has the honor of being the world's first driving institute to receive ISO accreditation and which also has to its credit the esteemed Dubai Quality Award, Fujairah National Driving Institute, is therefore closely influenced by the same high values and standards of EDI in all its activities.

EDI's and FNDI's vision for the future, hence, is to be recognized as the preferred driver training provider for the people and industries of the Gulf region.

Over and above, FNDI echoes the concerns and belief of the UAE Traffic Department that a reduction in road traffic accidents can only be achieved by improving the current skill-sets and knowledge of the driving community. To this end, FNDI believes that this manual will help not just its driver trainees, but also existing licensees hone their driving skills.





Driver Training Course

At Fujairah National Driving Institute, we believe that a reduction in road traffic accidents can only be achieved by improving the current skill levels and knowledge of the driving population. To this end, FNDI has introduced a programme of Advanced Driver Training courses to compliment its range of Basic Driver Training programs

The team at FNDI has but one objective – to make your experience with us as rewarding and trouble-free as possible. Our training Instructors have all undergone Defensive Driving instructors training and have been awarded certificates of competence from the Institute of the Motor Industry. The senior instructors are multi-lingual and can therefore instruct students in English, Arabic, Hindi, Urdu, Malayalam & Persian.

FNDI also provides transportation for large groups of corporate clients by arranging pick-up and drop-off with our fleet of deluxe buses.

The courses are conducted at the institute's own facilities, or can be conducted at the client's premises, if the premises have suitable facilities for theory and practice.

All our courses are approved by the Institute of the Motor Industry (UK). We also offer a package of assessments to ensure that the standards being taught are being maintained.

Some of the courses and programs are detailed below:



Light Motor Vehicle Course

The LMV course is FNDI's most popular course. It prepares students for the Traffic Police Driving Test, enabling students to get a Fujairah category 2. Students completing this course and passing the Traffic Police Tests are licensed to drive either manual or automatic transmission light motor vehicle, such as cars and SUVs.



Motorcycle Course

If riding a motorcycle for business or pleasure has been on your mind, then FNDI is the right place for you.

We have large private premises with precise road markings, hills, roundabouts and junctions, where our instructors can teach you the basics of riding motorcycles before taking you out onto UAE's busy roads.

At each stage of your training, our instructors assess your performance to ensure you are best prepared for the motorcycle driving test.



Heavy Truck Driving

This course is designed to help drivers prepare for the practical test. It includes all the official recommended syllabus and practical test requirements, the skills needed and faults that must be avoided. It also contains useful information on load restraint.



Heavy Bus Driving Course

The course has the same technical content as the others plus the emphasis on passenger care and safety. Comfort and safety are the main priorities of this course. The driver should ensure his passengers are seated properly, or are holding the handrails, he should know what to do in an emergency like fire or accident, and should be aware of other such considerations.

Forklift Operation

The course teaches the safety issues as per the UK standards and involves operating the forklift, lifting loads and practical coaching through to test standards.



module 1

The Driving Licence



Objective

In this module you will learn:

- What class of vehicles you are eligible to drive
- What you must do to obtain a driving licence
- Rules regarding validity and renewal of a driving licence
- How you can obtain a substitute driving licence
- How the Black Points system of UAE Police has been structured

Contents

A - Obtaining Your Driving License

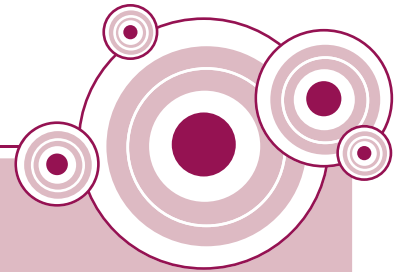
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- 1.4 Licence Classes – A Ready Reckoner
- 1.5 The UAE Traffic Laws on the Driving Test
- 1.6 What Examiners look for during a Driving Test – A Checklist

B - Keeping Your Driving Licence

- 1.7 The Photo-Image Driving Licence
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- 1.10 Changing Your Name and Address
- 1.11 Suspension / Refusal to Renew the Driving Licence

C – The Black Point System of UAE Police

- 1.12 Introduction
- 1.13 Table of Offenses



“

The United Arab Emirates is fast emerging as a hub for business and tourism. As the country grows exponentially in terms of its people, infrastructure and wealth generation, it brings along with it a fair share of problems of managing this dynamic growth.

The traffic system of the UAE is one of the most sophisticated and organized in the world. Despite the burgeoning rise in the number of commercial and private vehicles, UAE roads have been able to manage this without too much chaos. This may be fully attributed to the dedicated and successful implementation of the UAE Federal Law of 1995 (No.21) on Traffic issued on 20 November, 1995.

The legislation addresses at length the licensing and obligations of drivers, the registration of vehicles and the rules of traffic. In this section, we will deal in depth with the licensing procedure and the black points (penalty) system.

”

A – Obtaining Your Driving Licence

1.1 Licensing Requirements of the UAE Federal Law:

Article 15 of the UAE Federal Law, 1995 (No.21) on Traffic makes it mandatory for applicants to meet the following conditions in order to earn a driving licence.

An applicant of a UAE Driving Licence must:

1. Present a medical report from a government doctor or any doctor approved by the Licensing Authority, certifying his medical fitness to drive a vehicle. If the applicant of a driving licence wears eyeglasses or contact lenses for correction of eyesight, he shall be considered medically fit.
2. Pass the driving licence tests provided for regulations and decisions issued for enforcement of this law.
3. The applicant must be of legal age to drive (A detailed description of the various classes of vehicles and the corresponding age of the applicant is provided in Section 1.4)

Thus, to drive in the UAE, you must have a valid UAE driver's licence for the type of vehicle you wish to operate.

The UAE driver licensing system comprises certain minimum standards expected of applicants for the safe operation of different types of vehicles. These standards are implemented by testing prospecting drivers for proficiency, knowledge and physical and mental fitness. On passing these tests, drivers are then licenced accordingly.

1.2 Driving while on Visit to the UAE

Article 16

The licensing authority may issue a driving licence to a person who holds a valid driving licence issued by a foreign country without compliance with Clauses (2) and (3) of Article 15 (see above) if he is a citizen of one of the countries exempted by a decision of the Ministerial Council.

Accordingly, if you are a citizen of any of the countries so exempted (as in Article 16 mentioned above), and are currently on a visit, business or transit visa in the UAE, and want to drive a rented car while you are here, you must be at least 18 years old and have a valid driving

licence or an International Driver's Permit from your country of origin. However, to drive a privately registered vehicle, you must first apply to the Traffic Department for a temporary licence that normally has a validity period of one month.

tip

You are not permitted to drive a privately registered vehicle with an international or foreign driving licence as vehicle insurance is available only for drivers holding a valid UAE driving licence.

1.3 Acquiring an International Driving Licence

Article 104

Auto-clubs authorized by competent authorities may issue international driving licences on the approved forms, according to the following conditions:

- 1 - *The applicant must be a resident UAE National or Expatriate at the time of submitting the licence application.*
- 2 - *The Applicant must hold a valid driving licence issued in accordance with the provisions of the UAE Traffic Law and of its bye laws.*

Article 105

The International Driving Licence is issued according to the type of the national licence held by the Applicant, for one year as of the date of issue. It may be renewed for a similar period as per the same conditions.

An International Driving Licence issued in the UAE does not authorize driving vehicles in the UAE.

for your information

FNDI has been authorized by the Licencing Authority to issue International Driving Licences in the UAE.

Driving Licence for UAE Residents

To apply for a permanent UAE driving licence, you must have a residence visa. Applicants belonging to the countries exempted by a decision of the



Ministerial Council can have their valid driving licences issued in their country of origin transferred to a UAE Driving Licence.

Article 83

Without prejudice to the stipulated exceptions, no person may drive any motor vehicle on the road unless he is in possession of a valid driving licence, issued by the licensing authority, giving him the right to drive the type of the vehicle he is driving, from among the following types of licences.




1.4 Licence Classes – A Ready Reckoner

[As defined by Article 15 – read with Article 3 – of the UAE Federal Law, 1995 (No.21) on Traffic]

Class of Licence	Types of vehicles allowed and description	
1	<p>Motorcycle Minimum age of applicant: 17</p> <p>Motorcycle for transporting goods Minimum age of applicant: 18</p>	
2	<p>Handicapped Carriage Minimum age of applicant: 17</p> <p>Vehicles whose weight is limited to 250 kg and which are designed or specially made for the sole use of handicapped persons who are suffering from a physical disability. Motorcars that have been mechanically modified later on to suit the purpose of such use shall not be included in this category.</p>	 <p>WHEELCHAIR PERMIT REQUIRED</p>


1.4 Licence Classes – A Ready Reckoner

[As defined by Article 15 - read with Article 3 - of the UAE Federal Law, 1995 (No.21) on Traffic]

Class of Licence	Types of vehicles allowed and description	
3	<p>Light Vehicle Minimum age of applicant: 18</p> <p>A vehicle prepared for transport of persons or goods whose maximum net weight is limited to 2.5 tons and number of passengers does not exceed 14 plus the driver in the case of passenger transportation vehicles. This group includes saloon cars and motorcycles, which are designed or prepared for transportation of goods, regardless of their weight. This group is divided into two types: [1] private and [2] public</p>	
4	<p>Heavy Vehicle Minimum age of applicant: 20</p> <p>A vehicle prepared for transport of goods whose net weight is over 2.5 tons. This group is classified into two types: [1] private and [2] public</p>	
5	<p>Light Bus Minimum age of applicant: 21</p> <p>A vehicle designed to carry over 14 persons and whose maximum capacity is limited to 26 passengers excluding the driver.</p> <p>This group is further classified into private and public buses.</p>	

1.4 Licence Classes – A Ready Reckoner

[As defined by Article 15 - read with Article 3 - of the UAE Federal Law, 1995 (No.21) on Traffic]

Class of Licence	Types of vehicles allowed and description	
6	<p>Heavy Bus Minimum age of applicant: 21</p> <p>A vehicle designed to carry over 14 persons and whose maximum capacity is over 26 passengers excluding the driver. The group is further classified into private and public buses.</p>	
7	<p>Tractor or Light Mechanical Equipment Minimum age of applicant: 20</p> <p>Light vehicles running on wheels designed for purposes other than transportation of persons and goods and whose maximum net weight is limited to 7.5 tons</p>	
8	<p>Tractor or Heavy Mechanical Equipment Minimum age of applicant: 20</p> <p>Heavy-duty vehicles running on wheels designed for purposes other than transportation of persons and goods and whose maximum net weight is over 7.5 tons.</p>	

1.5 The UAE Traffic Laws on the Driving Test

Article 92

The grant of a driving Licence is subject to the applicant passing the driving test conducted by the competent department in the Licensing Authority according to the conditions, rules and procedures stipulated in the following articles.

Article 93

The driving test is in two parts: Theoretical and Practical, according to the form prepared by the Licensing Authority.

Article 94

The driving licence applicant shall undergo a theoretical test in traffic rules and ethics as well as in traffic signs and signals. This test may be written or oral and it may be repeated for those who fail.

Article 95

If the driving licence applicant passes the theoretical test, he undergoes a practical test according to the plan prepared by the Licensing Authority, provided that it includes the following steps:

- 1 Engine Start-up
- 2 Forward and Reverse

driving under normal and emergency circumstances and on slopes

- 3 *Use of the gear while starting to move and while driving*
- 4 *Stopping under normal and urgent circumstances, and on slopes*
- 5 *Parking the vehicle alongside a pavement, between other vehicles, in slopes and between specific signs or lines*
- 6 *Changing lanes and left and right turns*
- 7 *Using the required signs, in the appropriate time, when changing driving circumstances*
- 8 *Compliance with constraints represented by traffic department signals, signs and lines, and with gestures made by fellow drivers; in addition to attention and responses to the testing officer's instructions and orders*
- 9 *Crossroad, square and roundabout driving*
- 10 *Performing turns in a limited space on the road*
- 11 *Overtaking a vehicle and meeting another on the road*
- 12 *Leaving the vehicle and parking the same on gradients*
- 13 *Using the handbrake*
- 14 *Using the rear-view and side mirrors*
- 15 *Maintaining the distance between the test vehicle and the one in the front*

- 16 *Any other test decided by the Licensing Authority required in the system for testing vehicle drivers*

Article 96

This test is performed on a vehicle of the same type as that for which a driving licence is required, after verification of the vehicle's integrity and validity.

Article 97

Each of the test items and each move and signal will be given a specific grade in proportion with the Applicant's competence in the performance thereof, knowing that any applicant with a grade less than 75% of the total marks will fail the test.

Article 98

If the licence Applicant fails the driving test stipulated in the foregoing clauses, the driving test panel shall set a subsequent date for a retest.

The licence Applicant may request a retest by another panel constituted by the Licensing Authority for that purpose.

Article 99

A Driving Licence Applicant's application is cancelled if he fails to take the test within 6 months from the last test date set for him.

remember

An applicant shall fail the test in any of the following cases:

1. if he effectively endangers his or other people's lives
2. if he potentially endangers his or other people's lives; such dangers include the following:
 - a. if the vehicle's sides or its wheels touch any of the set limits or barriers
 - b. if the vehicle moves upon first start-up as a result of control loss
 - c. if the gear change procedure is incorrect
 - d. if he fails to stop the vehicle or stops the same in a no-stopping zone
 - e. if he violates traffic signs and signals
 - f. if a motorcycle licence applicant's foot touches the ground while moving
3. If the avoidance of an effective or potential danger was due to the oral or active intervention of the examiner in the driving during the test.

Article 100

Once all procedures are complete and all conditions set forth in these bye-laws are complied with,

the required licence is issued on the form specified therefor after verification that no other legal hindrances exist and the licence is given a serial number.

1.6 What Examiners Look for During a Driving Test A comprehensive Checklist

1. Vehicle Starting / Moving Off

- ☐ Do you turn on the engine if it is not already turned on?
- ☐ Do you move the vehicle off from its previously

remember

How do you move a vehicle safely and progressively?

Moving Safely:

Alert traffic of your intention to move by indicating appropriately. Check your centre and side mirrors and over your shoulders and if found safe, begin to move progressively. (For detailed information read Module 4.5 'Signalling and Turns')

Moving Progressively:

Accelerate gradually and move into the planned lane confidently so as not to confuse other road users. Do not straddle over lanes. (For detailed information read module 4.1 on 'Observing Lane Discipline')

stationary position safely and progressively?

2. Use of the gear (only for manual transmission vehicles)

- ☐ Do you shift gears sequentially as the vehicle attains or reduces speed?

3. Proper stopping and parking (for detailed information read Module 4.6 on 'Parking')

- ☐ Do you scan the traffic behind you before applying the brakes to slow down?
- ☐ Do you stop smoothly and by gradual shifting of the gear?
- ☐ Do you stop at areas where stopping is permitted?
- ☐ Do you park at the proper parking place?
- ☐ When moving out from a parallel parked position, do you signal, check the centre and left side mirrors, and over the shoulder for passing traffic?
- ☐ When reversing from a parked position, do you signal and turn your head to look for traffic passing behind you?
- ☐ Do you wait until it is safe before entering traffic?
- ☐ Do you move off from the parked position smoothly and enter the intended lane while gradually increasing your speed?

4. Obedience to traffic lights, traffic signs and pedestrian crossings

(For detailed information read Module 4.2 on 'Obeying Traffic Signs')

- ☐ Do you pass the green signal at the appropriate speed?
- ☐ Do you attempt to jump the red signal?
- ☐ Do you comply with the Stop and Give Way signs and road markings?
- ☐ Do you stop ahead of the stop line?
- ☐ Do you take your right-of-way correctly?
- ☐ Do you have a fair comprehension of traffic signs and exercise the necessary compliance expected of you in the situation?
- ☐ Do you change lanes immediately before/after and over a pedestrian crossing?
- ☐ Do you stall your vehicle on a pedestrian crossing?
- ☐ Do you reduce your speed in anticipation of pedestrian movement near a push-button pedestrian crossing?

5. Applicant causing a serious danger (actual or potential hazard)

- ☐ Do you endanger or pose a serious hazard to other road users?

6. Precautions before starting the vehicle and using the seat belt

- ☐ Do you perform the cockpit drill before starting the engine?

7. Use of clutch, accelerator, brakes, mirrors and hand brake

(for detailed information read Module 3.0 on 'Your Vehicle')

- ☐ Do you depress the clutch on time?
- ☐ Do you keep your clutch continuously depressed for an unduly long time? When depressing the clutch, do you do so completely?
- ☐ Do you balance the accelerator and the clutch correctly?
- ☐ Do you increase / decrease the acceleration appropriately depending on the situation?
- ☐ Do you apply your brakes gradually (except in an emergency situation) or do you stop the vehicle abruptly?
- ☐ Do you resort to repeated pumping of the brakes?
- ☐ Do you check your mirrors as and when appropriate, or do you drive focusing too much on your mirrors?
- ☐ Do you engage your hand brake when the car becomes

The 6- Step Cockpit Drill

1. **The doors:** Check whether they are closed (by looking through the side rear-view mirrors or observing whether the 'door-open' indicator is glowing).
2. **The hand brake:** Check whether the hand brake is engaged. If not, engage the hand brake to ensure that the vehicle does not coast while you perform the cockpit sequence.
3. **The gear:** (in a manual transmission vehicle): Check whether the gear shift is in neutral. If not, shift to neutral. In an automatic transmission vehicle, move the gear shift to P or N.
4. **The seat:** Adjust the seat to a comfortable position.
5. **The seat belt:** Buckle up for safety.
6. **The mirrors:** Tweak the centre and side mirrors to get a proper rear view angle. Ensure that there is minimal overlap between the views provided by the three mirrors.

stationary and at other appropriate situations?

- ☐ Do you disengage the hand brake before moving off from the stationary position?

8. Use of indicator, hand signals and horn

(for detailed information read Module 4.5 on 'Signalling and Turns' and Module 3.0 on 'Your Vehicle')

- ☐ Do you indicate when you intend to turn?
After completing a turning manoeuvre, do you turn off your indicators?
- ☐ Do you use your hand signals in the appropriate situations?
- ☐ Do you sound your horn in areas where using your horns is restricted?
- ☐ Do you sound your horn only when absolutely necessary and well in advance to alert pedestrians and other road users?

tip

You must sound your horn only when absolutely necessary, especially to alert pedestrians or other road users with whom you have failed to make eye contact, and not as a rebuke to other road users.

Ensure that you blow your horn well in advance to prevent a potential hazard from becoming an actual hazard.

9. Left turn, right turn and U-turn

(for detailed information, read Module 4.5 on 'Signalling and Turns')

- ☐ Do you correctly follow the MSPSL turning manoeuvre - mirrors, signals, position, speed, look – while making a turn?
- ☐ Is your turn too wide or too sharp?
- ☐ Do you enter into the correct lane and within the lane markings?

10. Emergency stopping

- ☐ Do you use your hazard signals when you stop your vehicle in an emergency situation?
- ☐ Do you have complete control over your vehicle when you stop in an emergency situation?
- ☐ Do you maintain a cool composure in an emergency situation or do you get agitated?

11. Lane discipline and lane changing

(for detailed information, read Module 4.1 on 'Observing Lane Discipline')

- ☐ Do you align your vehicle to the centre of your lane while driving?
- ☐ Do you sequentially and properly perform the necessary actions prior to changing lanes – Indicate, Check Centre and Side Mirrors and Check Over-the-Shoulder?

tip

You can better align your vehicle towards the centre of the driving lane if you focus your eyes to a fair distance ahead.

12. Approaching junctions, roundabouts and traffic lights

(for detailed information, read Module 4.3 on 'Intersections' and Module 4.4 on 'Roundabouts')

- ☐ Do you respond appropriately to traffic signs warning you that you are approaching junctions, traffic lights and roundabouts?
- ☐ Do you position your vehicle in the proper lane sufficiently in advance of the junction or roundabout?
- ☐ Do you give way to vehicles already on the roundabout and moving towards you from the left?
- ☐ Do you enter the yellow box only when the traffic is clear at the exit?
- ☐ Do you enter the correct lane while leaving the traffic junction or roundabout?
- ☐ Do you switch on the indicators while approaching and leaving the traffic junction / roundabout?
- ☐ Do you pass the green signal at the appropriate speed?

- ☐ Do you attempt to jump the red signal?

13. Yielding at a pedestrian crossing

(for detailed information, read Module 4.3 on 'Intersections – Right-of-Way')

- ☐ Do you give way to pedestrians at a pedestrian crossing?
- ☐ Do you change lanes immediately before / after and over a pedestrian crossing?
- ☐ Do you stall your vehicle on a pedestrian crossing?
- ☐ Do you reduce your speed in anticipation of pedestrian movement near a push-button pedestrian crossing?

14. Maintaining the speed limit

- ☐ Do you attempt to speed over the imposed speed limits?
- ☐ Do you maintain the speed appropriate to a given situation and environment (for example, about 40 kmph in a residential area)?
- ☐ Do you increase / decrease your speed gradually depending on the situation (for example, when approaching a traffic intersection, roundabout, pedestrian crossing, the

number and speed of cars nearby, weather, the amount of light etc.)

15. Overtaking

- ☐ Do you exceed the imposed speed limits while overtaking another vehicle?
- ☐ Do you maintain a safe distance from the other vehicle during the overtaking manoeuvre?
- ☐ Do you perform the overtaking manoeuvre after due consideration of other hazards on or beside the road?
- ☐ Do you voluntarily overtake a vehicle when you find it necessary to do so? (For example, when you have a slower vehicle moving ahead of you, do you voluntarily overtake the slower vehicle?)

16. Maintaining a safe distance

(for detailed information, read Module 4.1 on 'Observing Lane Discipline')

- ☐ Do you maintain a safe distance from other vehicles when following, passing or when making a turn?
- ☐ Do you maintain a safe distance from pedestrians walking or bicyclists riding on the road?

- ☐ Do you maintain a safe distance from the kerb while driving or while making a turn?

17. Ensuring that the road / roundabout is clear before entering

(for detailed information, read Module 4.3 on 'Intersections' and Module 4.4 on 'Roundabouts')

- ☐ Do you scan meticulously for traffic signs, signals, other vehicles and pedestrians before entering a road or a roundabout?
- ☐ Do you ensure that the road is safe before you commence the lane changing manoeuvre, or when merging into or entering the main road?

18. Control of the vehicle / attentiveness

(for detailed information, read Module 2.0 on 'Responsible Driving')

- ☐ Do you move into the wrong track while leaving an intersection / roundabout?
- ☐ Do you straddle over lane separators?
- ☐ Does the vehicle veer off – course when you are changing gears, checking your mirrors or looking over your shoulder?

- ☐ Do you scan the road diligently for actual and potential hazards and traffic signs and take the necessary precautions?
- ☐ Do you neglect to turn off the indicators once you have completed a turning manoeuvre or after you have overtaken a vehicle?
- ☐ Do you forget to change lanes and return to your original lane after overtaking a vehicle?

19. Stalling (engine stopping)

- ☐ Does your vehicle stall due to lack of coordination between the clutch, accelerator and gear?

tip

If your (manual transmission) vehicle stalls inadvertently, as an emergency measure, you may start the engine with your clutch depressed. Shift to the first gear and move off.

Remember, this is only a measure to help you temporarily tide over a crisis situation, as otherwise you would be impeding the flow of traffic, the effects of which could be worse. Under normal circumstances, you would start the engine after setting the handbrake and shifting the gear to neutral.

B – Keeping Your Driving Licence

1.7 The Photo – Image driving licence:

The UAE Traffic Department issues a one-piece plastic driver's licence, which bears the photograph of the driver. All drivers in the UAE should have a one – piece licence card.

Article 13

It is unlawful for any person to drive a motor-car on the road unless he obtains a valid driving licence from the Licensing Authority which entitles him to drive the type of vehicle which he is currently driving.

Related Black Points:

1. Driving a vehicle which is not licenced by the licensing authority - Fine Dhs. 500/- and 7 days in custody
2. Driving a vehicle of a different category than that authorized - Fine Dhs. 400/-

You MUST always carry your licence with you whenever you drive.

Related Black Points:

Driving without carrying the driving licence or the vehicle's registration card - Fine Dhs. 400/-

The law also prohibits anyone to allow another person to drive his

own car unless he holds a valid driving licence.

Related Black Points:

Allowing others to drive an non-licensed vehicle - Fine Dhs. 500/

1.8 Validity and Renewal of a Driving Licence

Article 17

The Licensing Authority may determine the period of the validity of the driving licence, and it may upon expiration of the licence validity ask the holder of the licence to produce proof of his physical fitness before its renewal is approved.

With the exception of persons applying for Licences under Class 5 of Article 3 of this law (Handicapped Carriage), licences granted to persons aged 17 to 21 shall be issued on a temporary basis and for one year renewable.

As a licence holder, you are obligated to renew your driver's licence before the expiration date and to inform the UAE Traffic Dept. of any address change. You are also solely responsible for the safekeeping, renewal, and replacement of your driver's Licence.

Related Black Points:

Driving a vehicle with an expired driving licence. ●●●●●●●●

Article 102

The driving licence renewal application shall be submitted on the form reserved therefor, within 30 days from the date of expiry of the licence. Such application must be submitted along with sufficient proof of the Applicant's identity and residence, plus a statement confirming payment of all fines imposed in regard to the violation of any traffic laws, regulations and executive resolutions, if any. Expatriates must submit proof of their legal resident status.

Renewal is effected after payment of the prescribed fees.

tip

Licences are valid for a period of 10 years, and are subject to renewal – Article 84

1.9 Obtaining a Substitute Licence*Article 17*

A copy may be issued in replacement of a lost or damaged driving licence.

Article 103

A substitute driving licence in lieu of a lost or damaged one may be

issued to the holder thereof if his licence is lost or damaged. The holder must apply to the licensing Authority, within 15 days, for a substitute licence. A licence will be issued to him in lieu of the lost or damaged one after all the necessary security procedures have been taken by the Licensing Authority and after settlement of all relevant fees. The damaged licence must be returned, and the lost one also, if found.

1.10 Changing Your Name or Address*Article 101*

The driving licence applicant must notify the Authority of any change in his place of residence or any of the details thereof within 2 weeks of the said change, and the Licensing Authority shall enter the new details in its files and records.

1.11 Suspension / Refusal to Renew the Driving Licence*Article 18*

The Licensing Authority shall have the right to suspend, cancel or refuse to renew any driving licence if it is proved that a licence holder has lost the capacity or physical fitness to drive the vehicle for which a Licence has been issued to him.

Article 58

Where the court is satisfied that a person is guilty of a crime related to the driving of a motor car, it may:

- 1. Suspend his driving licence for a certain period and deny him the right to obtain a renewed licence for a further period after expiration of the suspended licence.*
- 2. Decide to deprive him of the right to obtain a driving licence for a certain period if he has no licence under the provisions of this law.*

An order to suspend a licence or take away the right to obtain it shall invalidate the licence and the right to obtain another licence during the period of suspension of or deprivation of the licence. Whoever applies to obtain a licence contrary to the provisions of this article shall be considered a defaulter of the provisions of this law, and the licence obtained by such contravention shall be considered invalid.

Nevertheless, whoever is denied the right to obtain a driving licence may apply to the same court that has convicted him, for cancellation of such a denial, after the lapse of six months from the date of conviction.

C - The Black Point System of U.A.E Police

1.12 Introduction

The Black Point system is an attempt to boost traffic discipline and civilized behaviour among road users, while enhancing the effectiveness of traffic control.

The system has been so designed as to define 'x' number of points for each traffic offence committed by a driver. An electronic file is opened for each offender where offences committed and corresponding points are recorded.

These points correspond to the gravity of the offence committed. When the aggregate of such points accumulated exceeds 12 points, punitive measures are taken against the offender.

These measures will depend on the types of offences and the pattern of points assigned to most of them. Every 12 points are considered as one traffic precedence.

Black points are deleted automatically after one year has lapsed from the date of its first recording and the driver has not committed any new traffic offence since then.

Traffic offences and their related Black Points:

The system, till date, is restricted to the offences contained in the Traffic Law of 1967. Some provisions of the offences were modified by the UAE Federal Law, No. 21 of 1995. The modifications included the offences and the results which may come out of traffic accidents in respect of casualties and material damages to vehicles. The offences were also classified in groups, and points defined for each group based on the gravity of the offence.

1.13 Table of Offences

Following are the Black Point penalties for driving offences:

2 Points

Violation type	Fine	Confiscation Period
Not fixing number plates in designated places	200	-
Parking in prohibited places	200	-
Broken indicator lights	400	-
Poor condition of indicators	400	-
Poor condition of rear lights	400	-
Invalidity of direction changing signals	400	-
No light on the back side lighting (lamps) of vehicle	400	-

3 Points

Violation type	Fine	Confiscation Period
Opening left door of taxi	100	-
Abuse of parking space	200	-
Driving a vehicle with one number plate	400	-
Using un Clear number plate	400	-

4 Points

Violation type	Fine	Confiscation Period
Taxi refusing to carry passengers	200	-
Carrying passengers in driving-training vehicle	200	-
Driving a taxi without required license	200	-

4 Points (cont...)

Violation type	Fine	Confiscation Period
Violating loading or unloading regulations in parking	200	-
Using vehicle for purposes other than designated	200	-
Using vehicle for undesignated purpose	300	-
Not following instructions of a traffic police man	400	-
Failure of driver to fasten seatbelt		
Failure of passengers to fasten seatbelt	400	-
Failure to leave sufficient distance beyond the front vehicle	400	-
Entering the road without making sure it is clear	400	-
Transporting passengers in a vehicle that's is not licensed for this purpose	400	-
A. Using horn or car sound system in a disturbing way		
B. Driving at residential area, education zones, hospitals in a way that endangers other lift	400	-
A. Driving an uninsured vehicle.		
B. Driving a vehicle which is not licensed by the licensing authority.	500	7 days
Driving a vehicle with an expired driving license		
Driving a vehicle with an expired registration	500	7 days
Reversing dangerously	500	-
Taxis which have designated pickup areas stopping in undesignated places	500	-
Exceeding passengers limit by passenger transport vehicle	500	-
Not wearing the helmet while riding motorbike by the driver	500	-
Not wearing the helmet while riding motorbike by the accompanied passenger.	500	-
Driving a vehicle with expired tires	500	7 days
Vehicle driving in marches without permission and in unlicensed cases	500	15 days
Poor condition or absence of trailers rear or side lights	500	-
Turning from undesignated areas or turning in a wrong way	500	-
Loading a light vehicle in a way that causes danger to others or to the road	500	-

4 Points (cont...)

Violation type	Fine	Confiscation Period
Overload or protruding load from the light vehicle without permission	500	-
A. Driving at night without light		
B. Driving in a foggy weather without lights		
C. Driving in a foggy weather in violation of concerned authorities instructions	500	-
Driving against traffic	600	7 days
Using hand held mobile phone while driving		
Any other distraction	800	-
Heavy vehicle prohibited entry	1000	-
The heavy vehicle passing or entry to the forbidden roads and places	1000	-
Failure to abide by loading or unloading regulations in designated areas	1000	-
Sudden deviation with the vehicle	1000	-
Transporting passengers in vehicle that's is not licensed for this purpose	1000	-

6 Points

Violation type	Fine	Confiscation Period
Violating Tariff	200	-
Broken lights	400	-
Poor condition of car head lights	400	-
Not giving priority to the pedestrians on pedestrian crossing	500	-
Failure of school bus driver to activate STOP sign or abide by traffic rules	500	-
Overload or protruding load from a heavy vehicle without permission	500	-
Entering road dangerously	600	-
Overtaking in wrong way	600	-
Driving a vehicles that causes pollution		
Overtaking from hard shoulder	1000	-
Not giving way to emergency, police and public service vehicles or official convoys	1000	-

6 Points (cont...)

Violation type	Fine	Confiscation Period
A. Parking car in front of fire nozzles		
B. Parking in spaces allocated for people with special need	1000	-
Stopping on the road for no reason	1000	-
Littering from vehicle window while driving	1000	-
Exceeding maximum speed limit by not more than 60km/h	1500	15 days
A. Loading a heavy vehicle in a way that poses danger to others.		
B. Loading a heavy vehicle in a way that causes damages to the road	2000	-

8 Points

Violation type	Fine	Confiscation Period
Failure of light vehicle driver to stop after causing a minor accident	500	7 days
Entering from prohibited place	1000	7 days
Causing a car to overtake	to be decide by court	-

10 Points

Violation type	Fine	Confiscation Period
Driver Fails to stop when school bus STOP sign is activated	1000	-

12 Points

Violation type	Fine	Confiscation Period
Driving a vehicle on different license	400	-
Running away from a traffic police man light vehicle	800	30 days
Jumping a red traffic signal by light vehicle and motor bikes	1000	30 days
Modifying engine or chassis without permission	1000	30 days
Heavy vehicles not abiding by lane discipline	1500	-

12 Points

Violation type	Fine	Confiscation Period
Modifying the vehicle's engine or chassis without permission	1000	30 days
Driving a noisy vehicle	2000	-
Reckless driving	2000	-
Driving dangerously (racing)	2000	-
Exceeding maximum speed limit by more than 60km/h	2000	30 days
Falling or leaking heavy vehicle load	3000	-

16 Points

Violation type	Fine	Confiscation Period
Running away from a traffic police man by heavy vehicle	1000	-
Failure of heavy vehicle driver to stop after causing a minor accident	1000	-

23 Points

Violation type	Fine	Confiscation Period
A. Driving in a way that poses danger to the driver's life or lives and safety of others.		
B. Driving in a way that harms public or private properties	2000	60 days
Exceeding maximum speed limit by more than 80km/h	3000	60 days
Driving a vehicle without number plates	3000	90 days
Causing serious accident or injuries	Decided by court	30 days
Driving under the influence of alcohol	Decided by court	60 days
Causing death of others	Decided by court	60 days

24 Points

Violation type	Fine	Confiscation Period
Transporting passengers illegally	3000	30 days
Using the vehicle for transporting inflammable or hazardous materials without permission	3000	60 days

Violation type	Fine
Not using interior light in buses at night	100
Driving without spectacles or contact lenses	100
Not displaying truck's load on both sides	100
Calling on passengers in the presence of signs	100
Not abiding by taxi drivers obligatory uniform or not keeping it in good condition	100
Using interior lights for no reason while driving	100
Pedestrians crossing from undesignated places (If any existed)	200
Smoking inside taxis and buses	200
Failure to keep taxis and buses clean inside and outside	200
Failure to display tariff of buses or taxis or not showing them when required	200
Failure to abide by specified colour for taxis or training cars	200
Not fixing taxi sign where required	200
Using unmatching number plates for trailer and container	200
Violation of laws of using commercial number plates	200
Using multi-coloured lights	200
Parking on road shoulder except in cases of emergency	200
Parking in loading and offloading areas without need	200
Driving a taxi with an expired warranty	200
Stopping vehicle without keeping the distance specified by the law from a curve or junction	200
Blocking traffic	200
Driving a vehicle that omits gases or fumes with substances exceeding permitted rates	300
Violating the terms of the driving license	300
Driving with a driving license issued by a foreign	
Not carrying driving learning permit while training	300
Exceeding maximum speed limit by not more than 20km/h	
Country except in permitted cases	400
Driving below the minimum speed set for the road (if any)	400
Failure to provide a child seat for children under 4 years old	400
A. Parking in a way that poses danger to passer by	
B. Parking in a way that interrupts pedestrian movement	400
Parking on pavements	400
Failure to use indicators when changing direction or turning	400

Violation type	Fine
Failure to give priority to vehicles coming from behind or left side	400
A. Failure to get the car tested after carrying out major modification to engine	
B. Failure to get the car tested after carrying out major modification to chassis	400
Failure of a light vehicle to abide by lane discipline	400
A. Failure of pedestrian to abide by traffic signals	
B. Pedestrians crossing from undesignated areas	400
Driving on lanes designated for taxis and buses except in permitted cases	400
Driving with a driving license issued by a foreign country except in permitted cases	400
A. Not carrying vehicle registration card	
B. Not carrying driving license	400
Using driving learning vehicle in prohibited times and areas	400
Placing marks on the road that may damage the road or block traffic	500
Teaching driving in a nontraining vehicle without permission from licensing authority	500
Teaching driving in a training vehicle that does not bear a learning sign	500
Stopping vehicle on pedestrian crossing	500
Refusing to give traffic police name and address when required	500
Allowing others to drive a vehicle for which they are unlicensed	500
Not fixing reflective stickers at the back of the trucks and transport vehicles	500
A. Driving a vehicle that doesn't meet with safety and security standards	
B. Driving a vehicle that is unfit for driving	500
Stopping the yellow box	500
Stopping on a pedestrian crossings	
Parking behind the other cars and blocking their way	500
Stopping the vehicle on a road junction or curve	500
Parking in a wrong	500
Not securing vehicle while parked	500
Allowing children on or under 10 years old, or those under 145cm tall to sit in the front seat of a vehicle	400

Violation type	Fine
Writing phrases or placing stickers on vehicle without permission	500
Failure to abide by traffic signs and instruction	500
Placing signs on the road in a way that causes harm to the road or interrupts traffic	500
Failure to take road safety measures during vehicle breakdown	500
Interrupting traffic in any other way not specified in this table	500
Dropping or spelling load from light vehicle	500
Illegal use of commercial number plate (7 days confiscation)	500
A. Teaching driving in a car that is not labeled as learning vehicle	500
B. Teaching driving in a car that is undesignated for this purpose without permission from the licensing authority	
C. Teaching driving without a license	
Exceeding maximum speed limit by not more than 30km/h	600
Overtaking in a prohibited places	600
Exceeding maximum speed limit by not more than 40km/h	700
Changing vehicle colour without permission	800
Exceeding maximum speed limit by not more than 50km/h	1000
Parking on the left side of the road in prohibited place	1000

Violation type	Fine
A. Towing a car or a boat without permission	1000
B. Failure to abide by safety and security standards in towing a car or boat	
Rubbernecking and crowding a traffic accidents scenes	1000
Operating industrial, construction and mechanical vehicles and tractors without permission from licensing authority	1500
Failure to raise exhaust pipe in trucks	1500
A. Exceeding permitted level of tinting	1500
B. Tinting a vehicle not allowed to be tinted	
Not covering the load in the trucks	3000
Using three wheel or more leisure bike in the road (60 days confiscation)	3000
Failure to handover driving license when the maximum black points are accrued in the third traffic violation	3000
Not receiving the light vehicle after the expiration of the legal period of vehicle confiscation	50 dhs /Day or 3000 as maximum
Not receiving the heavy vehicle after the expiration of the legal period of vehicle confiscation	1000 dhs/Day or 3000 as maximum

VIOLATION	FINE	CONFISCATION PERIOD	LICENSE SUSPENSION
Driving under influence of Drugs, psychotropic substances or similar substance	Decided by court	60 Days	Suspending license for 1 year starting from the penalty expiration date.
A. Driving heavy vehicle in a way that poses danger to the drivers life or lives and safety of others. B. Driving a heavy vehicle in a way that harms public or private properties	3000	-	Suspending license for 1 year starting from the license withdrawal date
Heavy vehicle crossing a red traffic signal	3000	-	Suspending license for 1 year starting from the license withdrawal date
Heavy vehicle driver causes any accident resulting overturn of his vehicle or any other vehicle	3000	-	Suspending license for 1 year starting from the license withdrawal date
Overtaking from a prohibited place by trucks	3000	-	Suspending license for 1 year starting from the license withdrawal date

module 2

Responsible Driving



Objective

In this module you will learn:

Who a 'responsible' driver is and the safety precautions that will protect you in potentially life-threatening situations.

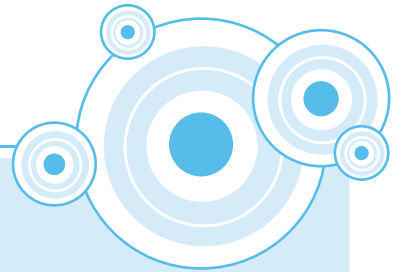
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- 2.6 Driver Health
- 2.7 Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol
- 2.8 When You are Involved in an Accident

“

At the outset, remember that being a responsible driver means being aware of not only what you are doing (and ensuring that you are doing it right) but also what everyone else on the road is doing – be it other drivers, pedestrians or cyclists. If every driver or every pedestrian always abided by the rules, driving would be easier and safer. However, such situations seldom exist.

”



2.1 Are You a Proactive Driver?

None of us want to be involved in an accident. Even if there is no personal loss or injury, the consequent damage and repair cost to the vehicle, fines, legal and insurance formalities etc. are all issues that everyone seeks to avoid.

As the first rule, in such circumstances, for protection you must always aim to drive proactively – by anticipating others' moves while at the same time ensuring that you follow the rules. While anticipating others' moves helps one compensate for their mistakes, adherence to rules ensures that you do not worsen the situation.

Important Characteristics of a Proactive Driver:

1. Primary Characteristics

2. Secondary Characteristics

1. Primary Characteristics

Focus and Mental Agility

Two of the most important aspects of proactive driving are focus and mental agility. The job of a driver is to remain focused on driving. Under no circumstances should a driver



ever try to juggle two or more tasks while driving. Carrying on two or more tasks not only shifts the focus but also reduces the mental agility of the driver to proactively respond to traffic situations.

2. Secondary Characteristics

A) Knowledge and experience

Driving is both a science and an art. While following and abiding by a set of rules makes one a technically sound driver, it is only through experience and constant practice that one hones and develops the skills to become a competent, proactive driver. While the rules implore you to keep to the right, experience will tell you how much to the right one should keep when taking a sharp right turn. While following the rules will keep you legally compliant, experience will keep you as well as others safe. Going beyond eye-hand-foot co-ordination, skill involves sound intuition, anticipation and proactive action to avoid accidents. It involves a sound understanding of the driving environment and

the ability to execute a sub-consciously well developed and well-rehearsed strategy. While the novice learns through observation and instruction, as one gains experience, one will notice significant improvements in adherence to rules, the ability to recognize danger and the capability to take corrective action.

B) Prioritise risks



From knowledge and experience comes the ability to prioritise risks. A driver often faces a

multitude of risks in any driving situation. Driving in low visibility should compel the driver to be aware of the signals, pedestrians crossing the road, the space between the car in the front, back and the sides (also called the 'gates'), and cars in the other lanes. In such circumstances, it is important for the driver to recognize all risks and prioritise among them.

The moment any one of the above factors becomes 0, proactive driving becomes 0. Needless to say, focus and mental agility go hand-in-hand. As mental agility reduces, the other automatically follows.

remember

Proactive Driving = Focus x Mental Agility x Secondary Characteristics.

To understand proactive driving thoroughly, it is important to understand what could affect or distract the primary characteristics i.e. focus and mental agility of a driver. In other words, what does a distraction mean?

2.2 What is a 'Distraction'?**definition**

A distraction is anything that draws the driver's attention away from driving, towards something within or outside the vehicle, thus affecting his driving performance.

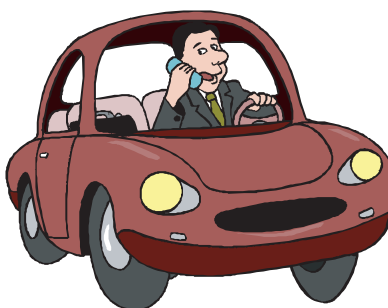
When there is a distraction, there is a break in information relayed, forcing the driver to respond more slowly to traffic conditions. This puts the driver, his co-passengers, other motorists and pedestrians in jeopardy. Think of it this way: suppose you were driving on Sheikh Zayed Road at 90 kmph and you take your eyes away from the road for about 2 seconds to dial your mobile phone. This essentially

means that you are travelling for about 50 metres completely blind on Sheikh Zayed Road! Such is the disruptive power of a distraction.



It goes without saying that drivers are distracted when they take their hands off the wheel or their eyes off the road. Equally dangerous, they are also distracted when they take their minds off driving when they are thinking about things other than the road in front of them and the vehicles around them.

Of course, you have to occasionally glance at your speedometer, fuel and other gauges. But actions like those listed below are very common distractions which more often than not increase the probability of a loss in focus, and consequently, accidents.

**The most common distractions**

Distractions could be divided as Internal (originating from inside the vehicle) or External (originating from outside).

Internal Distractions

- Loud music or headphones that interfere with your 'hearing' of traffic conditions, such as another vehicle's warning horns or emergency sirens.
- Using / dialing a mobile phone
- Personal grooming (make-up, shaving)
- Adjusting the radio stations, stereo systems or climate controls
- Conversing with / responding to occupants
- Tending to kids in the back seat / front seat of the vehicle
- Passing around loose items, eatables, water bottles in the vehicle
- Drinking, or lighting a cigarette while driving
- Trying to retrieve items from the vanity bag, purse, wallet, back seat or glove compartment
- Shaving while driving



External Distractions

- Accidents - where you almost stop your vehicle and crane your neck to watch an accident situation (a phenomenon called rubber-necking)
- Road blocks / checks of other vehicles by the police
- Friends / acquaintances in other vehicles
- Looking at roadside hoardings / new construction / other cars etc.
- Rash drivers
- Billboards



You are a distracted driver if you pay attention to any of the above while driving. Such is the speed of life today that multi-tasking has become the norm. And the effects are all around. Recall the number of times you have swerved your car because you did not expect the car in front to slow down; or the number of times you almost jumped the signal and drove into the yellow box blocking the traffic.

remember

Distraction impairs

- Maintenance of lane position
- Maintenance of the appropriate speed
- Maintenance of the appropriate distances
- Reaction times, and most importantly
- Judgement

A critical cause of a loss of focus in people, especially the youth, is the 'one-upmanship' factor. The power of the ego or the 'what-you-can-do-i can-do-better'

tip

Driving is not a part-time job. Do not get distracted because, as a driver, you are responsible not only for your safety but also that of your co-passengers as well as others on the road.

feeling is such that even perfectly prudent and sensible drivers can fall prey to it. Never let the road be a battleground to exhibit your driving skills. Never forget that the 2-ton vehicle you are driving has a mind of its own and it may take not more than a few seconds to lose control. Remember, never be drawn into a competition and never ever lose focus on keeping alive and keeping safe. This point cannot be emphasized enough.

How can you reduce distractions?

As it is, driving requires you to pay full attention to every development on the road and the last thing you would want to do, as a prudent, proactive driver, is be distracted by a variable that can only hinder driving performance.

Firstly, it is worth reiterating the fact that driving is a full-time task. Nothing else can take precedence over it. If it does, then it is worthwhile to first stop and then pay attention to the distraction.

Secondly, it will also help to ensure the following:

- Use a hands-free device with your mobile phone at all times. However, it is worth remembering that even when you are using a hands-free device while driving, a part of the mind is devoted to operating the phone and maintaining the telephone conversation. The demands of the phone conversation compete with the demands of driving the vehicle safely and can remain a distraction for some time after the call has ended.



tip

It is always recommended that instead of using a hands-free mobile phone you should find a safe place to pull over and stop before answering the phone.

- Pre-program the radio channels and the climate controls
- Plan for long trips and take adequate rest prior to the journey
- Avoid stressful and emotional conversations
- Never drive when sleepy (This is an important point and is elaborated in the subsequent section)
- Finally, always wear your seat belt; keep your hands on the wheel and eyes on the road

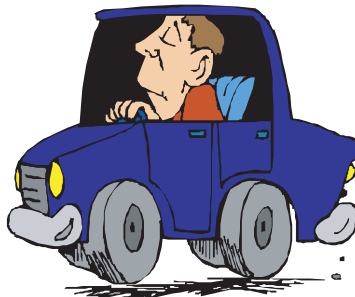


The points above apart, drivers often do get distracted by things which are beyond their control. A crying child in the vehicle, for instance. In such circumstances, when you as a good, proactive driver believe that you are getting distracted, always follow the earlier

rule - STOP at the first available opportunity and then pay attention to the distraction.

2.3 Sleepy Driving Dangers

As stated earlier in this module, the moment mental agility starts taking a back seat, the driver is no longer capable of driving proactively. And perhaps one of the most under-emphasised reasons for the lack of focus and mental agility is the effect of sleepiness and fatigue on a driver.



It is often assumed that a person is unfit to drive only when he is physically unable to drive. Nothing could be further from the truth. Many of us, at some point, have also been unfit because of our mental conditions which are susceptible to fatigue and sleep deprivation.

While sleepiness could be considered one of the causes of accidents occurring in the evenings (when fatigue has set in after a full day's work), the situation is often compounded by exhibitions of aggressive driving and road rage

(more about this later). While lack of sleep and sleeping disorders are often cited as the primary causes of sleepiness, the use of sedatives and barbiturates also has an effect on mental balance. So does driving at odd times (at dawn or in the afternoons) or after a heavy meal. Although this could make any of us prone to drowsiness, certain sections of the population are more susceptible to the adverse effects of fatigue and sleepiness.

The most vulnerable among them are:

- Night-shift workers
- People recuperating from a prolonged illness/sickness
- Drivers on the long haul, on a prolonged spell of uninterrupted driving
- Drivers who have consumed copious quantities of alcohol
- People suffering from sleeping disorders

Symptoms of sleepiness / fatigue

Although it is not hard for the driver or the alert co-passenger to identify fatigue, more often than not, one tends to ignore the same and continues driving. However, it is of absolute importance that if you experience any of the following phenomena, pull aside and stop driving.

- You have unconsciously moved lanes or have been driving on the shoulder of the road
- You have been driving unconsciously on the yellow lines or you have driven over the rumble strips (small yellow bumps on the road)
- You have trouble remembering the last few minutes of your journey
- You seem to have missed exits and / or traffic signs and warning signs
- Your eyes seem to be smarting and automatically closing or blurring
- Your eyes are watering and you blink frequently



- You believe that caffeine or chocolates or some fresh air will remove that 'groggy' feeling
- When stopping at a traffic light, your mind tells you that it is okay to shut your eyes for a second.

So how can you prevent sleepiness related accidents?

At every point of time, a good driver

aims to remember that not being mentally agile or focused means that he is not being a proactive driver. The key is to understand this and refrain from driving instead of having a false sense of confidence. There is no sense in putting your as well your co-passengers' life at risk to prove a point. If you do not feel fully capable, just refrain from driving. This is the primary rule.

Here are some pointers to help you prevent accidents caused by driver fatigue or lack of sleep:

- Ensure that you have had sufficient rest and sleep the night before
- Never drink and drive. They simply do not mix. Alcohol mixes with fatigue, and compounds the effect of drowsiness
- Never take medications – over-the-counter or otherwise – on an empty stomach
- Limit long solitary drives in the early afternoons (2pm – 4pm) and early mornings (3am – 5am)
- On long drives, schedule regular stops. About 15 minutes break after every 2 hours of driving is a good 'rule of thumb'. As far as possible, plan long trips with a companion. Co-



passengers often help look out for early symptoms of fatigue in the driver. Passengers should stay awake to talk to the driver.

- Always switch drivers when needed. As soon as a driver becomes sleepy, he or she should stop driving and either let a licensed passenger drive or stop for some sleep before continuing.
- As a temporary antidote, drink coffee or any other source of caffeine. Although caffeine can promote short-term alertness, remember that this is only a temporary arrangement. Stop at the first available place and take a break.

remember

Safety is your responsibility. It is a task that demands full attention. Do not take it lightly. If you do not feel up to driving, relinquish responsibility.

2.4 Road Rage

Being a proactive driver involves anticipating others' moves and at the same time making sure that you follow the rules. To drive effectively you ought to possess and maintain the right frame of mind – that of being Calm, Co-operative, Considerate and Self-controlled. While fatigue and distractions do lead to losing self-control, the primary reason drivers lose the



right frame of mind is stress. While the reasons leading to stress could be many (a hard day's work, problems at home, traffic congestions etc.) for a stressed-out driver, the road and his vehicle become the proverbial vents to his frustrations, while at the same time providing a release for his frustration through intimidation and aggressive driving. This phenomenon is called roadrage.



So, is road rage related to stress?

Certainly so, but it is not always a result of stress. Another great reason why drivers exhibit road rage is their ego. No one wants to lose. And this culture, when combined with the perpetual pressure of deadlines, becomes a very lethal combination that leads to maniacal exhibitions of road rage.

Theoretically speaking, any driving situation in which the driver does not exhibit the right frame of mind could be called road rage and the manifestations of such behavior could be:

- Tailgating and flashing of lights
- Furious honking
- Hand gestures
- Rash overtaking and lane changing
- Cutting off of other drivers and
- Overtaking on the right

For the prudent driver the objectives are two-fold:

- 1 Always keep the right frame of mind.
- 2 Never seek to respond to another driver who targets his rage at you.

As a driver, more important to you than making a point to an unbalanced driver, is to ensure your safety, your co-passengers' safety, and that of the others on the road. There is no greater responsibility than this.

The following pointers will help:

- Give driving your complete and undivided attention. It is a full-time job.
- Obey the traffic rules. Do not give another motorist the chance to lash out at you.
- Be considerate towards other drivers on the road. After all, they have the right to use the road



as much as you do.

- Control your emotions so that they don't interfere with your driving. Never drive when you are jittery, or immediately after an altercation.
- Keep a safe distance from other cars. Allow yourself a cushion of safety and provide others the same.
- If you are egotistical or have a tendency to get irritated quickly, learn to control these tendencies. Never drive when you are angry, for anger often tends to cloud good judgement.
- Keep your distance from other 'road ragers'. It is never a good idea to get into a confrontation with them even if it is just staring, flashing headlights or blaring horns.
- Do not weave in and out of traffic. Do not pass cars on the hard shoulder. Drive at the appropriate speed for the lane you are in.
- Do not have a rigid stance on overtaking. Never let 'how-dare-he' or 'I-will-teach-that-driver-a-lesson' become an obsession. Never let your ego meddle with driving.

- Do not race on highways or try to outpace another vehicle.
- At all costs, refrain from eye contact with other aggressive drivers. Do not tailgate, flash headlights, blare horns, make lewd hand gestures, block other vehicles from passing or utter obscenities.
- Do not occupy more than one parking space and refrain from scraping against other cars when opening doors.



- Always make it a point to provide enough time for delays, congestions, jams, etc. on the road. A deadline and the eyes always on a ticking clock can be lethal.
- Do not let traffic jams frustrate you. Accept that they are part and parcel of today's life. If it helps, listen to some soothing music or your favourite album.
- Finally, always maintain your composure. There is nothing to gain from entering into unnecessary confrontations. Your objective is to drive safely to your destination. That is your responsibility.

2.5 On Being a Considerate Driver



Often, being a considerate driver is considered being weak. Never let such illusions mask your primary focus – that of being a proactive driver, for not only are such judgements harsh, but they are also ill-informed. It would only take a moment's notice for somebody's mistake to become your nightmare. Never let this happen. Always provide for an error in the judgment of others, be it other motorists or pedestrians. Provide for the following possibilities.

When you are on their blind side: Provide for people who cross your path without seeing you, such as

- Drivers at blind turns / intersections where their view is blocked by buildings, other vehicles etc
- Pedestrians with umbrellas / sun shades in front of their faces
- Pedestrians crossing the road in front of parked buses at the bus stop
- Pedestrians running across, and crossing the road at pedestrian crossings

People who may be too distracted to see you

Pedestrians

- People in a hurry
- Groups of pedestrians engaged in animated conversation
- Pedestrians on mobile phones
- Elderly people / children using the pedestrian crossing
- Children playing when you are reversing your vehicle in a crowded residential area

remember

Proactive driving is not easy. However, it is worth the effort to become a good, proactive driver simply because you drive regularly and are therefore highly exposed to the accompanying perils. Make an effort. Stick to the rules. Always be alert and never lose sight of your primary objective – to reach your destination safely.

Other drivers

- Tourists on sight-seeing trips
- New drivers / out-of-town drivers at complicated intersections
- Drivers searching for street signs, addresses etc.
- Drivers attending to mechanical problems by the side of the road
- Drivers suddenly swerving / braking hard to avoid an obstruction on the road or to prevent an accident

2.6 Driver Health

While the mental makeup of the driver is a critical factor, so is his physical health, as these are intricately related to each other. Even minor health problems like a bad cold or a headache can dull your senses, dramatically reducing your response levels to driving situations. At any point of time, if you are not feeling well, refrain from driving. Allow someone else to take up the responsibility, or hire a taxi. If there is no alternative but to drive be extremely careful. Pay full attention to your driving. Drive with a co-passenger and stick to the rules.



A common cold or a stiff neck may not lead to a blackout, although it is moderately dangerous. However, certain diseases

can increase the danger factor substantially. For instance, people with a confirmed heart condition, those suffering from extremely high risk or low blood pressure, highly diabetic patients etc. are all high risk drivers.

While it may not be practical to refrain from driving, if you are suffering from any of the above (or any other condition which

doctors have certified as potentially dangerous), as far as possible, ensure that you drive with a co-passenger, or better still, remain the co-passenger. Ensure that you maintain your appointments with your doctors and always, keep medications handy.

2.7 Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol



While the earlier sections dealt with both psychological and physiological conditions, no

chapter on responsible driving is complete without an emphasis on the effects of alcohol on a driver. Before understanding the effect of alcohol on driving, it is of paramount importance to understand how it affects the body.

1. How does alcohol become an intoxicant?

The effect of alcohol on the body is almost immediate. Within minutes of the initial consumption, the alcohol starts accumulating and getting absorbed into the blood stream, which carries it through the body, including the liver. The liver oxidises the alcohol and for intoxication to take place, the alcohol absorption into the blood stream has to be faster than what

the liver can oxidize. What this means is that if you have had two units, your intoxication level significantly depends on whether you had them over three hours or in an hour.

2. How is the level of intoxication measured?

A measure called the Blood Alcohol Concentration level or BAC level is used to determine whether you are intoxicated. The measure is expressed in the percentage of drops of blood present for every drop of alcohol. A BAC reading of .05 would mean that for every 500 drops of blood there is one drop of alcohol in your body.

BAC depends on many variables like the quantity of alcohol consumed, the duration over which it is consumed, the kind of alcoholic

remember

As far as the law is concerned, there is no legal or acceptable level of intoxication. Anything over .00 would mean that you are intoxicated and are therefore unfit to drive. Drivers with different levels of BAC would exhibit differing levels of adaptability to driving situations.

Anything above .00 levels of BAC would lead to sub-optimal levels of driving performance.

beverage drunk, the amount of food you have had, body weight and fat etc. However, it is only from the health perspective that these variables hold any relevance.

black points

23

Driving under influence of alcohol
penalty to be decided by court
60days vehicle confiscation.

Driving under influence of drugs
penalty to be decided by court
60days vehicle confiscation.
1 year suspension of driving license.

3. Why must you never drink and drive?

Proactive driving is a complex process necessitating focus and mental agility, involving many tasks working in co-ordination with each other. Alcohol substantially compromises this chain of co-ordination.

Drinking and driving is a deadly mix because

1 It clouds your focus

If you have no focus you should not be sitting behind the steering wheel. You are not capable of taking up the responsibility of the safety of your co-passengers, other motorists and others on the road.

2 It clouds your mental agility

Your eye-hand-feet co-ordination is compromised. For example, you might miss important tasks normally performed subconsciously while sober, like glancing over

the left shoulder to check the blind spot while changing lanes.

3 It clouds your judgement

Tasks you ordinarily would have performed slip through. Tricky curves, which are usually manoeuvred slowly and carefully, become the ground to test your driving skills. Speed is given precedence over safety.

4 It clouds your inhibitions and gives you a false sense of confidence

The concern for self, for the co-passengers and other motorists becomes considerably eroded. Unnecessary risks are taken and lives are endangered.

5 It clouds your responsibilities

Not only do you become less responsible towards your co-passengers, but all the proactive attributes that you would have normally exhibited in different driving situations, for instance in accidents or emergencies, are subdued.

6 It affects your eyesight

Things become a blur. Judging distances, width, car lengths etc. becomes an onerous task. Glare vision and side vision become considerably reduced. Jumping traffic signals, breaking barricades and jumping over speed breakers become commonplace occurrences.

4. What must you do (or not do) when you have consumed

alcohol?

If you have consumed alcohol, **DO NOT DRIVE**. There can be no better solution to such a situation. Do not put your life or that of your co-passengers, other motorists and pedestrians at risk.

Always ensure the following

- If you are planning to consume alcohol, nominate a driver who will not drink and will take the responsibility of driving
- If there is no 'nominated driver', use the public transport. It is cheaper than paying a fine and / or ending up in jail
- Never take up 'I-dare-you' challenges while driving
- Do not go on late night drives after a hard night of partying. Keep in mind that if you are drunk and involved in an accident where you are not the guilty party, the very fact that you are drunk and driving would be enough to implicate you.

remember

Do not drink and drive.

2.8 When you are involved in an accident

However proactive a driver is, accidents sometimes cannot be avoided. In such circumstances, ensure the following:

If you are involved in an accident where there are no people injured:

- Call the police at the first possible instance.



- Do not obstruct traffic. If the vehicle can be moved, shift it to the side of the road. This is especially important at busy roads or during busy times of the day. If the vehicle cannot be moved, ensure that its warning signals are on.
- Provide the police with every

black points**23**

Causing the death of a person.

possible piece of information.

Give a true account of what actually transpired.

- Contact your insurance company as soon as possible.

If you are involved in an accident and people are injured

- Do not flee from the scene of the accident.

black points**23**

Not stopping after causing an accident or causing harm to others.

- Call the police at the first possible instance.
- Offer first aid only if you are

black points**12**

Escaping from traffic police.

qualified to do so.

- If possible, move the vehicles away from the road and towards the side.
- Contact your insurance company as soon as possible.

There are instances when you might be the first to pass by an accident site. In such cases ensure the following:

- Stop to offer help.
- Offer first aid only if you are qualified to do so.
- Call the police at the first possible instance.
- Do not even attempt to move the injured.

tip

Always carry a first-aid kit and learn how to use it.



Review questions for this chapter: Page 150

module 3

Your Vehicle



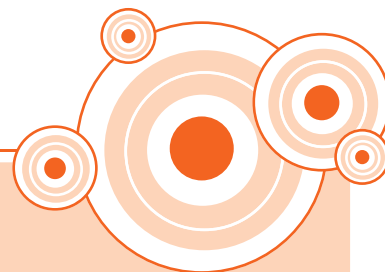
Objective

In this module you will learn to:

- Assess the various aspects of your vehicle that are directly and indirectly related to the vehicle's performance and to your safety
- Take the proper preventive maintenance measures required to keep your vehicle functioning optimally
- Appreciate the various aspects of your vehicle's functioning

Contents

- What your car should be ideally equipped with
- Alphabetical glossary of vehicle related maintenance and safety issues
- What to do when you experience a car fire



“

Being a safe and conscientious driver involves not only knowing how to drive safely and effectively, but also being thoroughly familiar with your vehicle, with reference to its capabilities, limitations and mechanical and electrical aspects.

This chapter deals with getting to know your vehicle better, and equips you with the knowledge of how to use it optimally. Needless to say, as different vehicles are different, you will have to consult the owner's manual of your vehicle for more specific information relating to its use.

Keeping your vehicle in proper running condition also helps to mitigate sudden expenditure on account of unexpected breakdowns, and during the annual registration process, when any faults with the vehicle will have to be rectified before it is certified as roadworthy by the authorities.

”



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Tail Lights and
Rear Licence
Plate Lights
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Transmission
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Muffler and
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What your car should be ideally equipped with

Alphabetical glossary of vehicle related maintenance and safety issues

Accelerating

It is important to accelerate gradually and smoothly, and not press the pedal to the floor too suddenly, as this could cause the drive wheels to spin. When this is done on slippery surfaces, the vehicle could slide out of control. In a manual vehicle, you should practice clutch release while gradually accelerating so that the engine does not rev excessively or stall between gears.

Alternator

The alternator of your vehicle is designed to recharge your vehicle's battery after it is slightly discharged during engine starting. Check your alternator's drive tension belt at every oil change, because a loose belt can reduce the alternator's output and will not provide sufficient charge to the battery.

Airbags/SRS (Supplemental Restraint System)

Airbags have saved thousands of lives, and as such, are an invaluable safety innovation. If your vehicle has an indicator light or sound that alerts you to an airbag malfunction, rectify this at the first instance, preferably at your vehicle's authorised service centre.

Seat belts and airbags are designed to work together and you could be seriously injured if an airbag deploys during an accident and you do not have your seat belt on.

An airbag immediately inflates in just a fraction of a second as the crash occurs and is designed to protect you from hitting the interior parts of your vehicle, and in some cases objects outside your vehicle such as trees and other vehicles, depending on where the airbags are placed. At the instant a crash occurs, it triggers off sensors that begin to measure the severity of the impact, and if the crash is powerful enough to push the sensor over the 'deployment threshold', the sensor signals inflators to fill the bags with a pressurized but harmless gas. After deployment there may be appearance of smoke, this is actually dry lubrication of the bag and presents no danger.

The different types of airbags include frontal airbags, side airbags and overhead airbags. Most vehicles today are equipped with frontal airbags on the driver's side and on the passenger's side as well, in the front seating area of the vehicle. Most frontal airbags deploy in crashes that are similar to hitting a solid wall at a minimum of about 15-20 kmph.

Although airbags save countless lives every year, the risk of injury from a deploying airbag must be

considered. Most of these injuries are minor and include abrasions, cuts and minor bruises, and the risk of death is relatively rare.

Child and infant deaths account for the majority of airbag related mortalities, and adult mortalities are attributed to drivers sitting too close to the steering wheel, or those who are unbelted or improperly belted.

Airbag technology is constantly improving, and is getting more innovative as time passes. Till that happens, though, it is important to keep in mind the proper measures you must take with the present airbag technology.

Battery

The electrical system in a vehicle depends heavily on the battery, and most vehicles have a lead-acid battery that is encased in plastic. While many batteries available today are maintenance-free, others need to be checked for distilled water levels and for charge. Your battery might have a condition indicator that is visible in a window on the top.

If the battery needs more fluid (and is of the type where more can be added), open its vent-plugs and pour in a little at a time until the level is near the top of the grids. Do not over-fill, and always use distilled water, not tap or filtered water. If charging is required, an hour's run on open roads may be enough for

the vehicle's alternator to recharge the battery. If this fails, it might be time to have the technician investigate the cause.

The colours and what they mean:

Blue = condition OK

Red = add distilled water

White = charging necessary

If yours shows different colours, check the vehicle's manual or the label on the battery for more information.

It is important to never leave the music system or lights in the vehicle switched on when you are away from the vehicle and have switched the engine off, as this can drain the battery.



Braking System

There are two methods of applying brakes in all automobiles – the foot brake, which is most commonly used, and the parking brake, which is more commonly called the hand brake.

Watch out for the following warning signs that tell you it is time to check your brakes:

- The red 'brake' lamp on the dashboard lights up

- Your 'ABS' (Anti-lock Braking System) indicator is lit while you are driving
- You can hear grinding or squealing sounds coming from the wheels
- The brake pedal feels different, such as when the pedal travels downward more than it usually does
- The car pulls to one side when stopping.

Make sure the brake fluid level is topped up with the fluid recommended in the owner's manual. You should service this at least every 25,000 to 30,000 kms.



If your vehicle has an ABS malfunction, you should get it attended to at your service station or garage as soon as possible.

If you are experiencing decreased braking performance, your mechanic will be able to determine if you need to replace the linings of your brake pads and shoes, or if the problem is caused by something else. Also remember to get the hand brake cables checked for corrosion, and oiled appropriately.

Bumper, Fender and Other Fixtures

Ensure that your bumper, fender, hub caps and other fixtures such as antennas are properly fixed and do not hang loosely from their bolts, are unglued in certain areas, or have come unscrewed, as this could result in their dragging on the road or falling off while you are driving. This could pose a danger to the traffic.



Article 180

The vehicle must be fitted with front and rear bumpers solidly fitted to the chassis. They must be sturdy and strong enough to perform their required purpose.

Heavy transport vehicles must be equipped with bumpers which do not allow light vehicles to be squeezed underneath them in case of an accident.

Fine

Dhs.
500

- Driving a light vehicle that does not comply with safety and security conditions.
- Driving a vehicle that is unfit for driving

Clean Glass Surfaces

All the glass surfaces of a vehicle must be kept clean and clear in order that you may see clearly through them at all times. Liquid cleaner and a towel work well, and it is a good idea to keep a bottle of window washer handy. Clean the inside surfaces of the glass as well. Headlights, backup, brake and tail lights should be kept clean, too.

Defroster

Barring motorcycles, most vehicles have a defrosting device that keeps both the front and rear windows free of moisture to ensure that the driver has a clear view of the road.

Your defroster must be checked periodically, especially during the winter months, to ensure proper operation.

Engine

A poorly running engine may lose power during normal driving and emergencies, and may have problems with starting and fuel economy, while also causing air pollution.

Fine ^{Dhs. 1000} **Black Points 6**

Driving a vehicle that pollutes the environment.

It could also stop running when you are on the road, causing you and the traffic a considerable problem.

It is best to follow the owner's manual for maintenance recommendations, while regular service is a must and must not be skipped.

You can check, via the dipstick, the level of engine oil present, by pulling it out when the vehicle has been left idle for more than 5 minutes after a drive. Wipe it with a cloth or towel, reinsert it fully, and pull it back out to check if the oil level is above the minimum mark. Buy some oil in case a top-up is needed while ensuring that it is the right type for your vehicle.

Other parts associated directly with the engine may also need to be checked, such as the timing belt, spark plugs etc., and these must be duly inspected by a qualified mechanic.

Fine ^{Dhs. 1000} **Black Points 12**

Modifying vehicle's engine without permission.

Fine

^{Dhs. 400}

Failure to have vehicle examined after carrying out major modification to engine or body.

Engine Cooling System

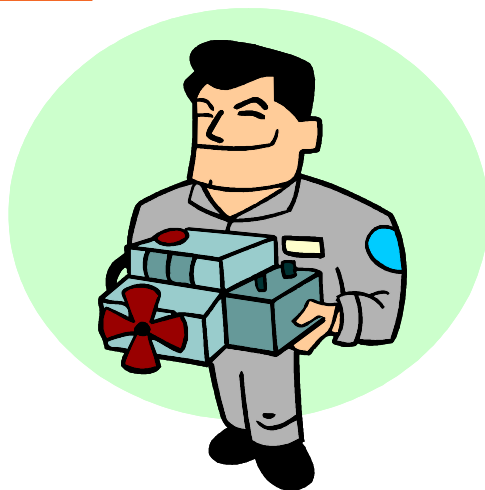
The antifreeze/coolant level in your vehicle must be checked periodically to ensure that the proper levels are always maintained, as recommended by the owner's manual of your vehicle. Low levels can lead to overheating, especially in warm weather. Some vehicles are factory-filled with coolant, and cannot be topped except at an authorised dealer, so make sure you adhere to the recommendations in the owner's manual.

Also ensure that your radiator is properly topped up, but only when it is cool enough to touch, and there is no danger of pressurised steam causing any injury when the cap is opened.

Check the head gaskets of the engine for signs of rot and leakage, reduced air flow through the radiator due to leaves, debris, trapped plastic bags etc., and clogged or leaking pipes, as this could result in the engine heating up dangerously.

Exhaust System

Poisonous carbon monoxide and other gases emanating from a leaking exhaust system can cause death to the occupants of a vehicle within a very short time, and it is therefore important to check it periodically for cracks and leaks.



Fuel

Ensure that your vehicle always has enough fuel to complete the trip you are planning to make, even if it is for a short distance, as running out of fuel on a road can be dangerous to you and to other traffic as well, and could cause a traffic bottleneck.

Fine

Dhs.
300

Driving a vehicle that omits gases or fumes with substances exceeding permitted rates.

tip

Never drive with rear door opened. If you do drive with your hatchback partially opened make sure your windows are open to ensure correct ventilation. Beware that carbon monoxide is colourless, odourless & tasteless.

The fuel grade used in your vehicle should be as per the recommendations in the owner's manual, as using the wrong grade of fuel could adversely affect the catalytic converter.



Besides, the fuel gauge should also be functioning properly.

Head Restraints

Head restraints are designed to prevent whiplash, an injury to the cervical vertebrae in the neck, which occurs due to rapid acceleration and deceleration when you are hit by another vehicle from behind.

The head restraints should be adjusted so that they contact the back of your head comfortably.

Horn

The horn of your vehicle must be in good working order at all times, and must be used judiciously to warn children, bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists that you

are passing, or to signal danger to other motorists when necessary.



Never use the horn in aggression, or to signal to your passengers that you have arrived.

Article 179

The vehicle must be equipped with an adequate horn in good working condition in order to give out an audible warning when necessary. It may not have a multiple array of tones or sound like emergency vehicle horns (Police, Fire Brigade, ambulances and others) or be of any type that is not authorized by the Licensing Authority.

Fine

Dhs.
400

Black Points

4

- A. Using horns or car sound system in a disturbing way.
- B. Driving at residential areas, education zones, hospitals in a way that endangers others lives

Jumper Cables

Jumper cables, as their name suggests, are used to 'jump start' your vehicle in the event that the battery loses all of its charge.

Consult the owner's manual of your vehicle for its recommendations

on how to use the jumper cables effectively and safely with your vehicle's battery.

Lights

All vehicles must be equipped with at least two headlights, as well as a rear licence plate light, brake lights, directional indicator lights and taillights, and all of these must be visible from a distance of 500 feet at a minimum.

Make sure that all of these lights are operational. A misaligned headlight may illuminate unintended areas and may blind pedestrians and traffic in front of your vehicle.



Article 63

The vehicle driver shall switch on his vehicle's indicator lights during night hours between sunset and sunrise, as well as during day time when visibility is low due to any reason which may render his vehicle less visible, if its lights are not on, knowing that front and rear lights must be used.

Article 65

Vehicle drivers shall use the low beam in populated areas, and along roads provided with sufficient public lighting outside populated areas, and shall not use such lights when the vehicle is parked.

High beams may not be used except in unlit external roads, and when visibility is too low for safe driving, provided drivers observe not to dazzle other road users.

Furthermore, high beams may only be used intermittently when the vehicle meets another coming in the opposite direction, with the intention of drawing its attention to lower its lights, or to inform the driver of the vehicle in front, that it intends to overtake it.

It is prohibited to install and use flood lights on the road.

black points

6

Broken lights

black points

4

- Driving at night or in foggy conditions without lights.

Loose Objects

Loose objects on or in your vehicle can hurt people inside or outside

when you brake suddenly or are in an accident. Secure any loose objects on the vehicle such as a loosely screwed aerial, and refrain from keeping sharp or hard objects that could fly about, inside the vehicle. Also make sure that there are no objects under the accelerator or brake pedal, such as a child's toy, which could prevent you from using the pedals effectively.

Rear-view Mirrors

Rear-view mirrors, i.e. the left side mirror, the centre mirror and the right side mirror should all be adjusted so that you get the widest view possible while almost eliminating blind spots.



As a driver, the centre mirror should let you see fully out of the rear window, and in order to cover the smallest blind spot at the right side of the vehicle, tweak it so you can see the edge of your right rear window post. To minimise the blind spot area, adjust the right and left mirrors just beyond the point where you can see the side of the vehicle on the inside edge of the mirror.

remember

Proper alignment of mirrors for a clear view and the minimisation of blind spots does not excuse you from performing over-the-shoulder check when changing lanes.

Safety Innovations

There are many innovations that have made modern-day driving more safe and, to an extent, more predictable. These include Electronic Traction Control, airbags, side impact beams, crumple zones, the Antilock Braking System, In-Car Global Positioning Systems and the like. To find out how these systems can be used optimally for your safety, and to check if your vehicle is equipped with the same, consult the owner's manual of your vehicle.

Seat Belts

It is a good practice to put your seatbelts on as soon as you are seated in your vehicle, and to instruct other occupants of the vehicle to do so as well. Use restraints for small children, especially if they are riding in the back seat in a vehicle with passenger side air bags, while children over the age of 4 must wear seat belts.

You must wear your seat belt even on short trips, as many traffic accidents and deaths occur within a

few miles from home at surprisingly low speeds.



About 50% of children killed in traffic accidents were unrestrained passengers! Probably none of those children would have died if they were travelling in an appropriate and properly fitted child safety seat system. We will never know where or when the next accident will happen, so doesn't it make sense to protect your most precious cargo... they may thank you for the rest of their lives?

Fine Dhs. 400 **Black Points** 4

Failure to wear seatbelt by driver or by any of the passengers. Dhs.400 each for drivers & passengers

A child car seat is one that is specifically designed to fit a child. During a crash at just 50 kmph, an unrestrained child would be thrown forward with a force 30-60 times its body weight. It could be thrown about inside the vehicle thereby

injuring itself and sometimes seriously injuring (or killing) other people in the vehicle. Also, there is the possibility of the child being thrown out of one of the windows during the impact.



It is also not safe to hold a child on your lap. The child could get crushed between your body and the car's interior during a crash. The child would be torn away from your arms even if you are using a seat belt and holding the child tight. Also, it is dangerous to use a seat belt around yourself and your child (or around two children). The use of seat belts or the appropriate child safety restraint system depending upon the age, height and weight of the child would act as a safety mechanism and help protect the child.

black points

Dhs. 400

Allowing children less than 10 years to sit in the front seat in the vehicle.

remember

Baby prams are to be kept at the back. Never keep the baby pram facing the rear in the front seat.

Do not assume that you can brace yourself on impact at lower speeds, because, even at a speed as low as 40 kmph, you will not be able to react quickly enough to avoid getting injured.

Seating Position

Your seating position is important not just to your level of comfort while driving, but also to your ability to check your mirrors constantly and to your chances of being saved in an accident. You should adjust your seat to a comfortable position, so that you can reach the pedals and see through the windshield easily. Never drive with the seat in a reclined or somewhat-reclined position.

If you move your seat too far forward, you will not be able to steer effectively. The minimum distance you should maintain from the steering wheel should be at least 12 inches, so that the airbag makes contact safely with your chest, and not your face or chin, which could result in serious head or neck injuries.

Speedometer

The speedometer in your vehicle

helps you to compare your speed to that of the imposed speed limit, so it is imperative that you have a properly working speedometer at all times.

**Starting**

The owner's manual of your vehicle will guide you with regard to starting the vehicle properly. You must always make sure that your parking brake is engaged before starting the vehicle. For manual transmissions, the gears should not be engaged, while for vehicles with an automatic transmission, the gear selector should be set to 'Park' while starting.

Steering

A jammed, loose or improperly aligned steering wheel prevents you from taking the direction you want to take, and makes the vehicle difficult to control. Both your hands



should be placed on opposite sides of the steering wheel, i.e. the left hand between the 8 and 10 o'clock positions and the right hand between 2 and 4 o'clock.

Besides being comfortable, steering is controlled better with this position.

When turning tight corners, the 'hand-over-hand' technique works best. Do not attempt one-handed manoeuvres or let the steering wheel slip through your fingers.

Suspension System

Apart from merely providing a comfortable ride, the suspension systems helps you control your vehicle effectively, since after a bump or sharp turn, the vehicle requires more control.

Have a faulty suspension system checked by a good mechanic, as broken springs/shock absorbers place stress on the entire vehicle and its engine.

Transmission**Manual transmission**

In vehicles with a manual transmission, it is advisable to depress the clutch pedal all the way down when starting. It is imperative to depress the clutch pedal while making a gear change, and when your speed drops to less than 20 kmph as you are coming to a stop.

Refrain from 'riding the clutch', which is driving with your foot constantly on the clutch pedal. Never 'coast' with the vehicle in neutral or with the clutch pedal depressed, and when going down steep declines, keep the vehicle in a lower gear.

tip

Avoid driving with footwear which could slip/get caught up in pedals. If you have loose fitting footwear take them off and put them aside before beginning to drive.

Automatic Transmission

The boon of automatic transmissions is never having to change gears, except in extraordinary situations. Consult the owner's manual of the vehicle to understand the proper use of the gears, such as driving down steep mountain grades, driving at low speeds on slippery surfaces, emergency deceleration in the event of a brake failure etc.

Tyres

It is obvious that tyres that have worn out treads or are bald will not provide the same traction as properly treaded tyres, especially in conditions when the road is slippery. Consult the owner's manual of the vehicle for the correct tyre pressure to be maintained in relation to the load factor, as well as the kind of tyres to be used. Never drive with the tyres over- or under-inflated, and check for nicks, cuts, tears, bulges and foreign objects that might have pierced the tyres. Always check the tyre pressure when starting the journey.

Dhs. 500
Fine **4** Black Points
7 Days Confiscation

Driving with expired tyres

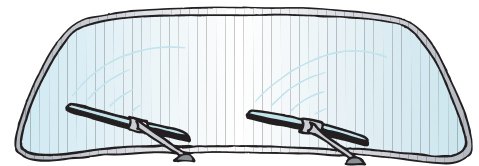
If the wear on the tyres is uneven, this could point to improper alignment, so it is important to have the alignment checked.

Drive carefully on extremely rough surfaces, and make stops to let the tyres cool during long drives in the hot summer months.



Windshield Wipers

Windshield wipers wipe rain off the windshield, rear window and also headlights in some cases, and also clear dust off them during sand storms and dusty weather conditions. Ensure that all your wipers are working well at all times, and replace the blades if they do not clear water or dust well.



Review questions for this chapter: Page 151

What to do when you experience a car fire

How often do you check for potential dangers that could lead to a car fire?

In the UAE, where vehicles travel at high speeds for considerable periods of time and coupled with high external temperatures, cars are susceptible to damage by fires. Regular maintenance of your car is key to preventing a fire. Have your car checked regularly, especially when you set out on a long trip. Have all the fluids, valves and plugs checked.



Most car fires start in the engine. Causes for fires may be attributed to leaking fluids, short circuits, faulty carburetors and catalytic converters. Fires can also start in the exhaust system and even in brakes, especially in the case of tractor trailers. Car fires can even result from a lighted cigarette butt (which you thought that you had extinguished), or from a cigarette lighter.

Flames are not the only dangers during a car fire. Toxic fumes from

burning plastic and synthetic materials used to build automobiles can be lethal. Some cars equipped with a gas shock absorber in the front bumper, or gas struts (pressurized cylinders which may hold a car's hood or back window upright) can act like missiles if fire or intense heat reaches them, causing them to explode.



Unfortunately, the fire department has little chance of saving a vehicle unless they catch the car fire in its very early stages. Oil, fuel and other fluids can help feed the spark or spread the beginnings of a small fire into a blaze burning out of control.

So what do you do when you experience a car fire?

Always keep a portable fire extinguisher within reach. This can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or at least suppressing it until the fire department arrives. You may resort to the following steps when you are confronted with a fire:

- Do not attempt to put the fire out while driving
- Pull over to the side of the road and come to a complete stop
- If possible, put on the hand brake
- Turn off the engine
- Get everyone out of the car fast
- Call 999/998
- Use the fire extinguisher.

If the fire involves only upholstery (for example, a fire in the back seat started by a cigarette), use any fire extinguisher available. If the fire involves the engine or dashboard, however, the fire could quickly become very dangerous. Such car fires can be fought with a fire extinguisher with a B:C or ABC rating. Do not open your hood; aim your extinguisher through the car's grill.

If you feel that the fire is unmanageable, move other occupants and yourself too at least 20 feet away on the side of the vehicle, not in front or behind the vehicle and wait until the fire department arrives.

Keep yourself and other occupants out of traffic and other road-side hazards.

module 4.1

Rules of the Road

Observing Lane Discipline



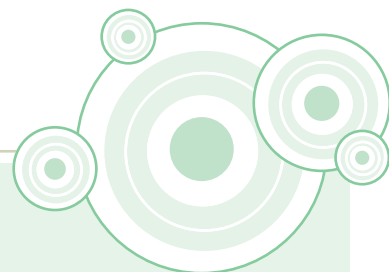
Objective

In this module you will learn to:

- Identify where your 'Gates' are, and which among them are open to you for moving about without interrupting not just your movement, but also the movement of other road users
- Identify your blind spot and learn what checks you have to make to track your blind spot
- Differentiate between white and yellow lines and understand what they convey to you
- Position yourself appropriately and in the right way while:
 - approaching a potential hazard
 - making a turn and
 - overtaking another vehicle
- Calculate the appropriate distance that you will have to maintain when stopping and also while cruising behind another vehicle
- Get a clear picture on the strategies you have to adopt while passing or overtaking another vehicle

Contents

- 4.1.1 The 4 'Gates'
- 4.1.2 Separation and Stopping Distances
- 4.1.3 Tracking Your Blind Spot
- 4.1.4 Traffic Lanes and Lane Usage
- 4.1.5 Lane Positioning
- 4.1.6 Changing Lanes
- 4.1.7 Passing and Overtaking



“

The white or yellow lines which you see painted on the road divide roads into lanes or tracks. Not only do they inform you where to drive, or when to overtake or change lanes, they also warn you of imminent hazards. Lane driving is not an easy task, as all drivers are expected to maintain discipline and order for their own safety and the safety of other road users.

”

4.1.1 The 4 'Gates'

When you are driving along a multi-lane road, which is normally the case in the UAE, it is necessary to carefully observe the traffic around you. Traffic, as has been emphasized in the earlier modules, will include not just vehicular traffic but also pedestrians, bicyclists and other real or potential hazards. An acute sense of observation is a critical factor in safely negotiating through this traffic.

The concept of 'Gates' is widely used to help drivers in methodically observing their surrounding traffic. Fig 4.1.1 is a conceptual representation of the four gates surrounding your vehicle at any time while driving.

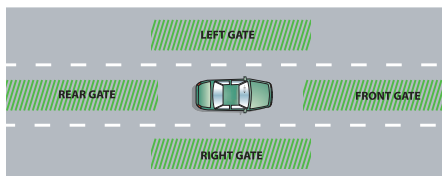


Fig. 4.1.1

The dimensions of a gate are normally a factor of the size of your vehicle and that of your surrounding vehicles, and also the speed at which you are driving. To check whether your rear, right and left gates are open, you will have to use your centre, right and left mirrors respectively. Checking your mirrors has to be a constant activity, although this manual will not prescribe the intervals at which you have to check your mirrors.

tip

The frequency of mirror checks will broadly depend upon the number of adjacent lanes and the amount of traffic. For instance, you may have to check your mirrors more regularly during busy city traffic than when you are cruising on a freeway.

Imagine driving along the centre lane of a three-lane road and there are no vehicles close to you. (Fig 4.1.2)

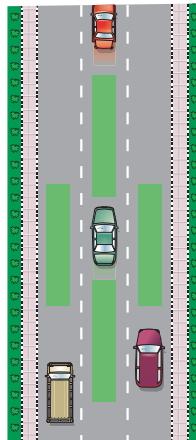


Fig. 4.1.2

In such a scenario, your front, rear, left and right gates are open to you which means that you can do the following without interrupting your movement:

- go forward by increasing your speed
- fall back by reducing your speed
- move to the right lane
- move to the left lane

But it is not always that you do not have vehicles around you. More often than not, there are vehicles that 'block' all the four gates.

tip

A safe driver always tries to keep two gates open as an 'escape' strategy.

In Fig 4.1.3 you will notice that your right and rear gates have been blocked by other road users.

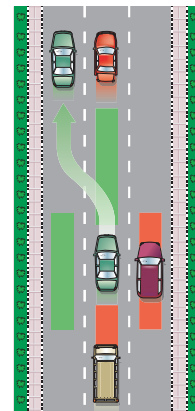


Fig. 4.1.3

In this situation, you have lost your opportunity to move into these gates. That is, you will not be able to

- reduce your speed suddenly, or
- move to your right without interrupting the movement of your vehicle as well as those on your rear and right.

However, you can still freely accelerate forward or move to your left in an emergency.

4.1.2 Separation and Stopping Distances

Article 50

A vehicle driver shall maintain enough distance between him and the vehicle in front of him, to be able to stop when the vehicle ahead suddenly reduces its speed. He shall be alert to the signals made by the driver of the vehicle ahead. Brakes may not be applied suddenly without justification and the drivers of all vehicles moving in one group shall maintain sufficient distances between them, to enable vehicles cruising at higher speeds to use such distances to avoid accidents and dangers when overtaking others.

Fine ^{Dhs. 400} **Black Points 4**

Failure to maintain sufficient distance from the vehicle in front.

Separation Distance

Though a safe separation distance would be difficult to define in exact terms, this manual will follow the international pattern adopted by safety agencies and driver education programs which use 'time' for judging the separation distance.

The Two-second Rule

Many-a-time, when a vehicle races

past you, you find yourself trying to compute its speed based on the speed at which you are travelling. But such mental computations get complex when you try to figure out the speed of the vehicle you are following, on account of the varying speeds of both vehicles.

The widely accepted methodology of calculating separation distance is to use time as a factor, as all of us have internal clocks. This is called the two-second rule, where we 'count' seconds to help us judge the separation distance.

Broadly, the two-second rule gives you about 2 car lengths between you and the car ahead of you for every twenty kmph of speed you are travelling. In bad weather or poor road conditions, or when you are being tailgated, you must use atleast 3-4 seconds to be safe.

Steps to follow for a two-second rule separation distance

- 1 Identify a stationary object on or near the road, preferably

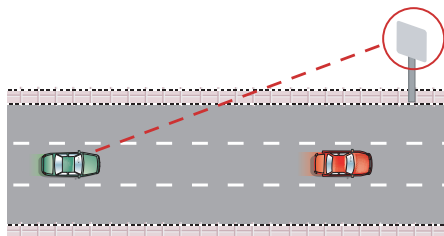


Fig. 4.1.4 (1)

a tree, billboard, lamppost, etc.

- 2 When the rear bumper of the

vehicle ahead of you passes this stationary object, start counting – "one-thousand-

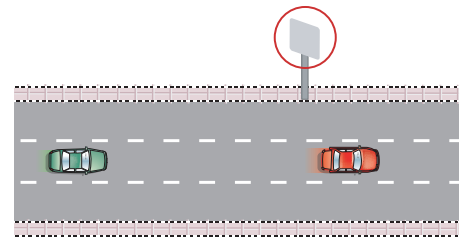


Fig. 4.1.4 (2)

one, one-thousand-two" etc.

- 3 If you pass the stationary object before you finish counting one-thousand-two, it means

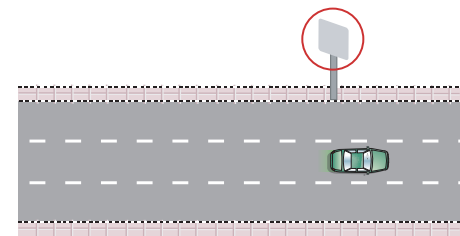


Fig. 4.1.4 (3)

that you are not maintaining a safe separation distance.

Thus, if you are following too close you should slow down slightly to increase the separation distance and repeat steps 1 to 2 until you have achieved a safe separation distance.

definition

An activity in which you close the front gate of your vehicle and the rear gate of another vehicle by following the vehicle too closely.

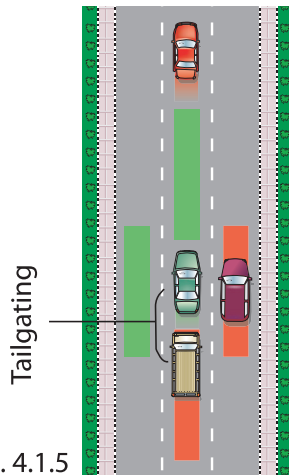


Fig. 4.1.5

Tailgating

While driving, you will no doubt have been taken by surprise in the past when you noticed that the vehicle behind is tailgating you, i.e. following you more closely than it should. You wonder whether the driver behind will collide into you in case you have to brake suddenly. Nevertheless, in such a case, do not feel compelled to accelerate further and enter the rear gate of the vehicle ahead of you. Rather, it would be safer for you to move to your right lane (after performing the necessary checks) and allow the tailgater to pass ahead.

It was emphasized in the previous section that as a safe driver, you should endeavour to keep all the 4 gates open as a 'space shield' around your vehicle. This is so that when the driver ahead brakes suddenly, or makes an abrupt swerve, you will have sufficient time and room to brake or manoeuvre

KMS PER HR.	Reaction distance + Braking distance		Average car length = 4 metres (13 feet)	
32	6m	6m	12 metres (40 feet) or 3 car lengths	
48	9m	14m	23 metres (75 feet) or 6 car lengths	
64	12m	24m	36 metres (118 feet) or 9 car lengths	
80	15m	38m	53 metres (175 feet) or 13 car lengths	
96	18m	55m	73 metres (240 feet) or 18 car lengths	
112	21m	75m	96 metres (315 feet) or 24 car lengths	

Fig. 4.1.6

and thereby avert an accident.

Stopping Distance

Most drivers do not appreciate the time or distance that is needed to bring a vehicle to a complete stop. Stopping well ahead and in anticipation of potential hazards can be done only if the driver is alert and observant. Stopping distance is a function of 2 elements:

- Reaction distance, and
- Braking distance

A. Reaction Distance:

At the time you have decided to stop, reaction distance is the distance covered by the vehicle during the time it takes for you to move your foot from the accelerator to the brake pedal. The average reaction time is about 3/4th of a second.

B. Braking Distance:

This is the distance covered by the vehicle from the time the brakes

have been applied until the vehicle actually stops.

This is usually dependant on the

- Speed of the vehicle
- Condition of the brakes and tyres
- Vehicle design and condition of the shock absorbers
- Vehicle weight when loaded or towing

tip

Total Stopping Distance = Reaction Distance + Braking Distance. (see Fig. 4.1.6)

- Road surface traction
- Weather conditions

4.1.3 Tracking your Blind Spot

When you use your mirrors to check whether your gates are open, you will not be able to see certain

portions of the road alongside (right and left sides) your vehicle due to the way your mirrors are positioned. There may be other vehicles, cyclists etc. that are in these portions and you still cannot see them through your peripheral vision. These portions, shown in Fig 4.1.7, are called ‘blind spots’. It is imperative to check these blind spots to make sure that your side gates are **really** open, particularly before you make your manoeuvres.

A glance over your shoulder through the rear side windows will enable you to see the entire side gate area of your vehicle. You are looking out for the vehicle driving at same speed as you and

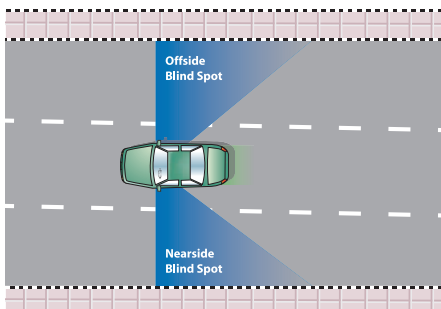


Fig. 4.1.7

currently not in your field of vision. This activity is called an ‘over-the-shoulder’ check.

So when you decide to make your manoeuvres,

- check your centre mirror
- (switch on your indicators),
- check your side mirror, and
- execute an over-the-shoulder check for the blind spot, in that order

- check centre mirror again
- change lanes

Another way to reduce blind spots is by positioning your mirrors as precisely as possible and avoiding an overlap of what you can see in the three mirrors. Nevertheless, you will still have to resort to the over-the-shoulder check to make

tip

As a safe and responsible driver, you should take care not to stay for a long time in the blind spot of another vehicle.

sure that you have the best possible view of your side gates.

4.1.4 Traffic Lanes and Lane Usage

In order to facilitate smooth and organised flow of traffic in the UAE, all roads are divided into lanes (or tracks) by clearly visible lines on the surface of the road. Each of these lanes is wide enough to allow a single row of vehicles to be driven on them and drivers should ensure that they drive as closely as is practical in the centre of their lane and not straddle (or drive over) the lane demarcations. Lane demarcations, like traffic signs and signals, follow certain international standards. There are usually white or yellow lines and they help

tips

Two or more lanes leading in the same direction are demarcated by white lines.

Two sets of lanes moving in opposite directions are predominantly* demarcated by yellow lines.

*There are some two-way roads in the UAE that are demarcated by white lines

determine the flow of traffic.

You may have noticed that there are some gravel roads, driveways and other roadways in remote areas of the UAE where the roads may not be marked or that have markings which have faded away due to constant use. Nevertheless, an absence of demarcated lanes does not mean that you can use the roads as you please.

On such roads, it is your responsibility to use only the right half of the road for your purpose, while a vehicle coming towards you uses the other half.

Article 27

Absence of traffic signs, signals and lines shall not relieve road users of their responsibility to observe the utmost care and precautions.

Lane Separator Lines

Two or more lanes leading in the same direction are separated from each other by white lines. These white lines may be

- Continuous
- Long intermittent (broken), or
- Short intermittent (broken) lines

Continuous white lines may be found as you approach bridges, tunnels and bend roads, and as you approach intersections and roundabouts, etc. These lines may continue for some distance even after you leave these bridges, tunnels, etc.

Owing to the hazards posed to traffic in such areas, continuous white lines prohibit drivers from changing lanes. Ensure that you remain in the same lane till you exit the bridge or tunnel, and not weave over these continuous white lines, which may end in disastrous consequences for not just you, but all other road users as well. You may therefore consider the area around a continuous white line to be a 'DANGER ZONE'.

Long intermittent white lines may be seen as you approach towards junctions such as slip lane or a filter lane onto a main road or a pedestrian crossing. Long intermittent white lines means you must take greater care when moving from one lane to another.

If you come across long intermittent

THREE ZONES OF SAFETY

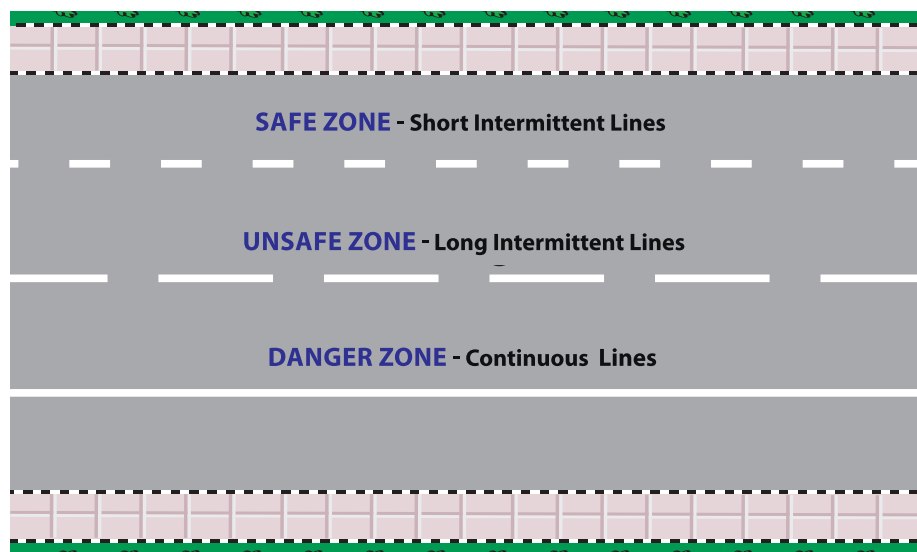


Fig. 4.1.8

white lines (e.g. in the region of the mouth of a U-turn), it means that you are likely to encounter a potential hazard and are therefore restricted from freely changing lanes. Thus, the area around long and intermittent white lines is considered as 'UNSAFE ZONE'.

Broken Lines mean that you can freely change lanes, but only after you have performed the mandatory checks and it is found to be safe potentially.

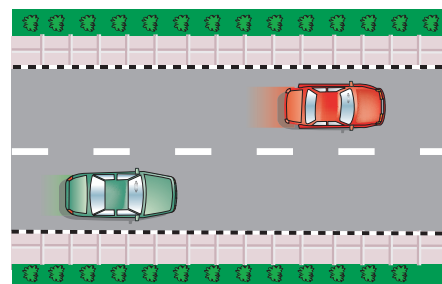


Fig. 4.1.9

One-way Roads

One-way roads consist of one or more lanes demarcated by white lines and facilitate traffic in one direction only. On most major roads in the UAE, multi-lane vehicular traffic flowing in opposite directions are clearly demarcated by 'centre medians'.

Two-way roads

Two-way roads consist of two lanes

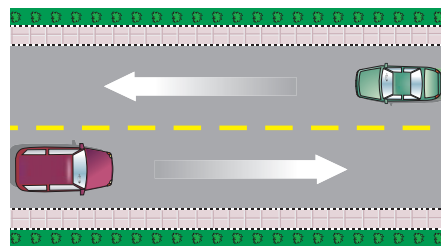


Fig. 4.1.10

mostly demarcated by yellow lines and facilitate traffic in opposite directions. These roads are not very common except in interior roads in residential areas. Drivers operating on such roads should exercise extreme caution and discretion, as unlike in one-way roads, you will have to reckon with traffic cruising in not just your direction, but also traffic coming towards you.

4.1.5 Lane Positioning

Consider this:

You parallel park your vehicle, turn off the engine and open the door, when you hear a blaring horn and the screech of tyres beside you. Had the driver cruising on the main road not applied his brakes on time, he could have torn away your door.

*You say, "Hey! I parked my vehicle in the allotted bay". You may have, except you haven't **positioned** it properly. You parked on the extreme left within the bay, so much so that your left tyres were almost touching the broken white lane demarcations. Your open door was therefore right in the way of the traffic on the main road.*

Had you parked your vehicle on the extreme right of the parking bay, close to the kerb, your open door would still be within the broken white lane demarcation, and thus, safe.

Correct positioning of a vehicle is a key factor that helps in averting accidents and in eliminating hassles to other road users. The ability to position your vehicle correctly has to be demonstrated while driving, passing, manoeuvring, overtaking, turning, parking and reversing, and in almost every other aspect of road use.

There is an inherent risk in driving on any part of the road. Imagine the road to be divided into various risk sectors. When used, there will always be some sectors that pose a greater risk than others.

For example, if you drive too close to the kerb, there is a risk of colliding with a cyclist or a rollerskater. On the other hand, if you were to drive too close to the right of the axis of a two-way road, you run the risk of colliding with a vehicle coming in the opposite direction. The ideal position would be to drive along the right of the centre of the road, where the risk is relatively low. This is just an example of what an ideal position would be. In a real life scenario, positioning would depend on several factors, notably observation, traffic conditions, road layout, and an in-depth appreciation of the UAE Traffic Laws and road safety standards.

Article 58

If a one-way road stream or any

of the parts thereof is divided in several lanes by long intermittent lines, the vehicles driving at slow speeds shall keep to the lane at the far right side and each driver shall maintain the lane he is on and may not change the same until he is sure that this will not represent a danger to others or to the flow of traffic; that is, after giving other road users sufficient warning of his intentions, using warning signals.

4.1.6 Changing Lanes

Article 59

A vehicle driver shall make certain that his vehicle does not expose others to danger, shall give clear and sufficient warning of his intention to change lanes, and shall use the necessary traffic signals when

1. *Exiting from or entering the road, or when*
2. *Changing direction to the right or left, or when*
3. *Turning to the right or left in order to enter into or exit from the side or adjacent road or when*
4. *Making U-turns or driving backwards*

In particular, he shall observe the following:

- *He shall ensure that he can do that without exposing himself or others to danger*

- *He shall take into consideration the locations, directions and speeds of other road users*
- *He shall announce his intention to change his lane, sufficiently prior to doing so, and while allowing enough distance for the same, either by hand signals or by the direction indicators of his vehicle, knowing that the indicator must remain in operation throughout the manoeuvre.*
- *He shall get as close as possible to the right edge of the road stream, if he is turning onto another road at his right and as close as possible to the axis of the dual direction road, if he intends to turn onto another road at his left. However, on one-way roads, he shall keep to the far left thereof.*
- *He must pay attention to the traffic coming up behind him as well as to vehicles coming in the opposite direction, and shall let them pass first.*

Article 69

Drivers of all types of transportation vehicles and of vehicles hitched to a trailer or semi-trailer shall keep to the right side of the road stream and shall not leave the same unless it is necessary to do so, and when overtaking other vehicles.

Changing lanes is an activity that involves common sense, alertness, courtesy and strict adherence to the rules of the road. Many a time, you find yourself changing lanes without performing the mandatory checks or signalling. This may not be a deliberate negligence of your duties as a safe driver but due to lack of concentration while driving. Absent-minded lane changing is extremely dangerous and threatens the safety of all road users. The following checklist is intended to guide you in making a safe lane change.

Checklist for making a safe lane change

- **Check your centre mirror**
(while switching on your indicator)
- **Check for a safe space gap**
At this juncture, you have an intent to change lanes. Make sure that your front and rear gates and the relevant side gates are open. Check your rear-view mirrors very carefully for potential dangers.
- **Check the blind spots and signal**
The significance of checking

your blind spots was dealt with in detail in Module 4.1.3. You will have to physically turn your head and look over your shoulder in each direction to spot vehicles positioned in your

remember

Do not compromise road safety. Always execute your 'over-the-shoulder' check before you make a manoeuvre.

blind spots. Most drivers skip this practice, thus increasing the potential for a disaster.

- **Check again**
Repeat the rear-view mirror checks just to ensure that the safety cushion still exists.
- **Make a gradual change**
Begin to change lanes gradually and carefully while maintaining the necessary speed. Do not make abrupt lane changes as there is a chance of you losing control of your vehicle.
- **Turn off your indicators**
By not turning off your indicators once you have completed the lane change, you continue to indicate an intention to make another

lane change or take a turn, thereby confusing the traffic around you.

4.1.7 Passing and Overtaking

Overtaking and passing are the most frequent manoeuvres you make while driving, and therefore also bear the greatest potential for accidents. The Traffic Laws of the

tips

- If the driver in front of you indicates a lane change, ensure that your front gate is open. You may have to slow down for this.
- Do not speed further or change lanes yourself until the other driver has completed his manoeuvre. Being aggressive and trying to change lanes will only result in a perilous situation.

UAE have meticulously outlined the responsibilities of a driver when performing an overtaking manoeuvre.

Article 53

Before overtaking a vehicle that is in front of him, the driver should ensure/observe the following:

1. *That the road is clear and that there is complete visibility of*

the road he is about to take

2. *Non-existence of any obstruction from opposite traffic*
3. *That there is no vehicle in the lane that he intends to move to*
4. *That the driver in front has not given a sign that he intends to overtake*
5. *That he takes into consideration the difference between the speed of his vehicle and that of a vehicle he intends to overtake*
6. *That he alerts the drivers of vehicles he intends to overtake and that they have responded to such an alert*
7. *That he leaves sufficient distance ahead between him and the vehicle he intends to overtake*
8. *That after completing the overtaking he shall return to the right lane without hindering in any way the vehicle he has overtaken. (However, he may stay on the same lane if he intends to overtake another vehicle, provided it does not cause any annoyance or disturbance to the vehicles coming behind him)*

9. *Overtaking vehicles shall be on the left side thereof, unless the vehicle in front moves to the left in order to make a U-turn onto another road to the left, after the driver there of gives the necessary signal, provided that there is sufficient road space allowing him to overtake the other vehicle without danger.*

Article 54

The driver of the vehicle overtaken by another vehicle shall reduce the speed, and shall, as much as possible, keep to the right side of the track, so as to allow the overtaking vehicle to safely complete its manoeuvre.

Article 55

The vehicle driver shall not attempt to overtake another vehicle in the following circumstances and locations:

1. *If the visibility in front of, or around him, is low or insufficient*
2. *If the opposite traffic does not allow the safe completion of the overtaking manoeuvre*
3. *At intersections, roundabouts and squares*
4. *In case a number of vehicles have stopped due to an obstruction of traffic or the*

presence of a signal ordering them to stop

5. *On curves, heights, gradients and slippery roads, near pedestrian crossings and on road tracks limited by continuous longitudinal lines*
6. *In places where overtaking is prohibited according to traffic obstruction signs and indications.*

Overtaking

The term 'passing' and 'overtaking' are often used interchangeably. On the contrary, they are different. 'Passing' is defined as moving past another vehicle from an adjacent lane. Overtaking, however, is a manoeuvre, whereby you change lanes to move past a slower vehicle cruising in your lane. Cyclists, slow moving vehicles and drivers preparing to turn are examples of the ones most likely to be overtaken.

It is important never to overtake and pass another vehicle unless you are sure that this manoeuvre does not endanger yourself or others.

How to overtake (Fig.4.1.11)

1. Indicate with the left turn

tip

Ensure that there are no bicycles and small vehicles hidden from view in front of the vehicles you intend to pass while also making sure that the vehicles in front are not turning left. Also watch for vehicles and pedestrians coming onto the road from another direction.

signal to show that you want to pass. Check that the way ahead is clear while simultaneously checking the rear and your blind spots before moving into the passing lane.

2. Change lanes and begin passing while gradually increasing your speed (but without violating the mandatory speed limit)

tip

If the vehicle you are passing speeds up, do not accelerate but go back to your original lane. Also do not speed up when another vehicle is trying to pass you. It defies driving etiquette and is also dangerous.

3. After passing, signal your intention to move back into the original lane only after you can see the entire vehicle, you

have passed in your central rear-view mirror.

4. Make the lane change.

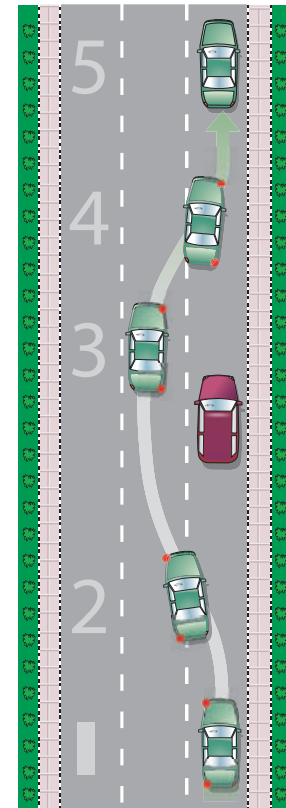


Fig. 4.1.11

5. Do not cut off the vehicle by moving in front of it suddenly or braking abruptly after positioning yourself in front of the other vehicle.

When others overtake you

When being overtaken or passed by another vehicle, you must move to the right to allow safe passage. On an undivided road where the overtaking vehicle has moved to the opposite lane, pay attention to

Fine

Dhs.
400

Not giving way for vehicles to pass on the left.

black points

6

Overtaking in a wrong way.

black points

6

Overtaking on the hard shoulder.

Passing at Night

Needless to say, nighttime passing manoeuvres require you to be more careful on account of lower visibility.

How to pass safely at night (Fig. 4.1.12)

1. Your headlights should be switched to low beam as you approach a vehicle from behind. Toggle your high beams on and off quickly to signal to the driver

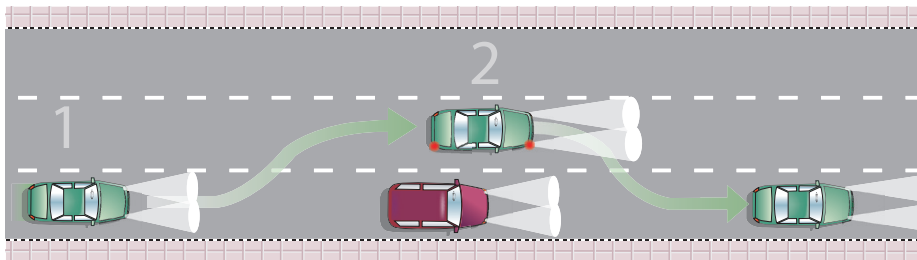


Fig. 4.1.12

ahead that you want to pass. As with passing in the daytime, signal, check your mirrors and blind spot and move out to the left lane to pass.

2. As you move to the side of the vehicle you are passing, turn on your high beam to be able to see more of the road ahead. After overtaking, signal your intention to move back into the original lane only after you can see the entire vehicle you have passed in your rear view mirror, and then make the lane change.

Passing on the Right

Only in certain circumstances is passing on the right permitted, as listed below:

- When there are two or more lanes of traffic moving in the same direction, and when passing is not restricted by signs.
- When the vehicle you are passing is making a left turn

On a two-lane road that has traffic moving in opposite directions, you

tips

When passing vehicles that are parked, watch for doors that open suddenly and for vehicles moving from a parked position.

Never drive off the road and onto road abutment to pass another vehicle.

black points

4

Overtaking from the right side.

may not pass when:

- A 'DO NOT PASS' or 'NO OVERTAKING' sign is present.
- A continuous line is present on your side of the centre line.
- On hills and curves.
- You are approaching an intersection.

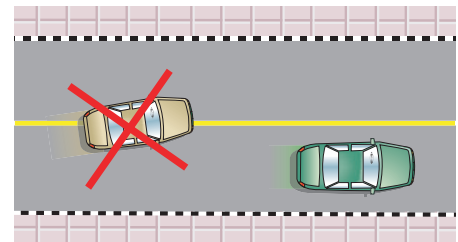


Fig. 4.1.13

- A sufficient view ahead to complete your manoeuvre is obstructed.



Review questions for this chapter: Page 151

module 4.2

Rules of the Road Obeying Traffic Signs



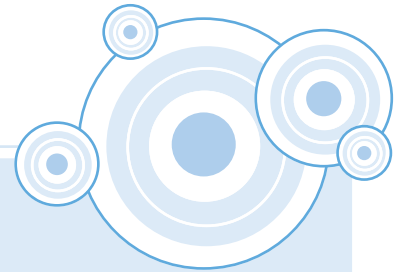
Objective

In this module you will learn to:

- Recognize the shapes and colours of traffic signs
- Respond effectively and appropriately to various traffic signs

Contents

- 4.2.1 The 5 Functions of Traffic Signs
- 4.2.2 Traffic Signs - Basic Sign Shapes
- 4.2.3 Directions to Destinations and Specific Landmarks
- 4.2.4 Temporary (Construction) Signs
- 4.2.5 Order Signs
- 4.2.6 Warning Signs
- 4.2.7 Information Signs
- 4.2.8 Road Markings
- 4.2.9 Traffic Signals



“

In traffic systems around the world, traffic signs play a critical role in that they enable you to drive safely with less confusion and chaos. It is a known fact that the fundamental causes for many accidents are the carelessness and ignorance of drivers when it comes to reading and abiding by traffic signs. It is therefore essential that drivers fully comprehend the message these traffic signs intend to convey.

”

4.2.1 The 5 Functions of Traffic Signs

Traffic signs perform 5 basic functions. They

- 1 Direct you to certain destinations and specific landmarks - **Directions Signs** - page 77
- 2 Command / instruct you to perform a certain activity - **Order Signs** - page 79
- 3 Warn you of certain approaching hazards - **Warning Signs** - page 84
- 4 Inform you about the road, traffic flow and also the local laws - **Information Signs** - page 84
- 5 Help you correctly position your vehicle on the traffic lane - **Road Markings** - page 91

Based on the above functions, traffic signs have been given definite shapes and colours, for easy recognition and understanding, for all categories of road users. As a road user, you should be able not just to recognize them instantly, but also respond in an appropriate fashion. Although in most parts of the UAE constant upkeep of traffic signs is undertaken, there is a chance that you may encounter a traffic sign covered in dust. But the very shape of the traffic sign, for example, the octagonal shape of the stop sign and triangular shapes which indicate warnings should

help you to take a decision for the required course of action.

4.2.2 Traffic Signs - Basic Sign Shapes

Signs can be seen predominantly in 3 shapes

- Circular signs, which mostly order

- Triangular signs, which mostly warn, and
- Rectangular signs, which mostly inform

Fine

Dhs.
500

Failure to abide by traffic signs and directions.

4.2.3 Direction Signs - Destinations



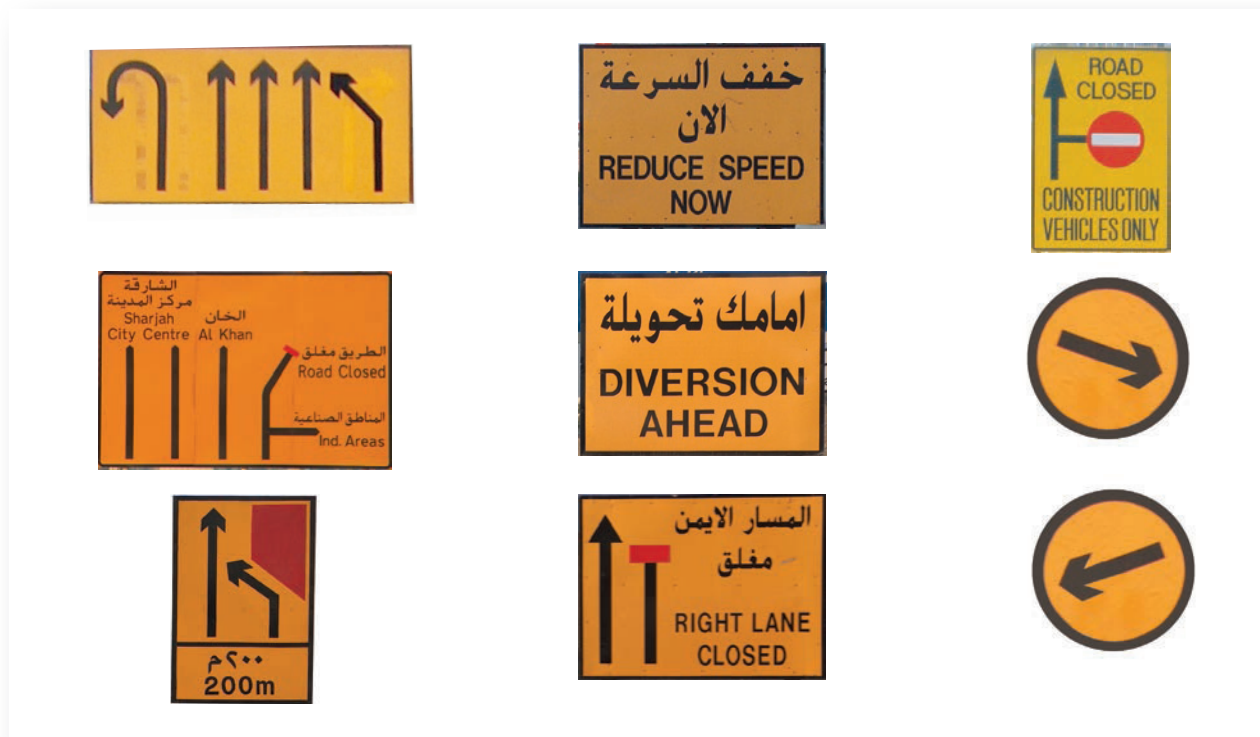
4.2.3 Direction Signs - Destinations



4.2.3 Directions to Specific Landmarks



4.2.4 Temporary (Construction) Signs - Some examples



4.2.5 Order Signs

Order signs dictate the dos and don'ts of road use, and provide other important information as well. Interpretations of some of the most important signs are covered in the following pages.



1) Stop

On approaching a Stop sign, you are required to make a complete stop, at the white line then make

sure the road is clear, and finally enter the road.

Usually found at junctions, such as T-junctions, U-turns, Slip roads etc., 'Stop' signs are visible from a distance, and necessitate stopping irrespective of whether there are vehicles approaching or not.

2) Give Way

On approaching a Give Way sign, you must check for vehicles on the main road or junction, slow down or stop if vehicles are present in order to give way to the vehicles,

and finally proceed when the road is clear.

Also give way at T-junctions, roundabouts etc., including roundabouts with traffic lights. At T-junctions and roundabouts, you should slow down almost to a complete halt, as it requires an



L-shaped turn or entering a road where vehicles are continuously moving.

3) Speed Limit



This sign indicates the maximum speed limit you can travel at on the road where it is posted. In residential areas, even where there are no speed limit signs, remember that speeds of 40 kmph must never be exceeded.

Article 37

The licensing authority shall specify the maximum and minimum speed limits allowed on the roads, observing the conditions of each road, the extent of its congestion, and the circumstances of districts and populated areas. This shall be announced by several clear signboards.

Article 38

A vehicle driver shall not exceed the speed limit specified for the road he is using according to applicable regulations, with the exception of emergency vehicles on their way to an urgent mission, as well as any vehicle carrying a wounded or sick person in a state of danger.

Violation type	Fine	Black points	Confiscation
Exceeding the maximum speed by more than 80 km/h	3000	23	60 Days
Exceeding the maximum speed by more than 60 km/h	2000	12	30 Days
Exceeding the maximum speed by more than 60 km/h	1500	6	15 Days
Exceeding the maximum speed by more than 50 km/h	1000	-	15 Days
Exceeding the maximum speed by more than 40 km/h	700	-	-
Exceeding the maximum speed by more than 30 km/h	600	-	-
Exceeding the maximum speed by more than 20 km/h	300	-	-
Driving a vehicle below the minimum speed limit of the road, if any	400	-	-

Under all circumstances, a vehicle driver shall observe, in his speed, what is required by the state of traffic or visibility in the road and the prevailing weather conditions, as well as the condition of his vehicle, making sure that his speed shall not exceed a limit where he is able to stop the vehicle safely within the visible range. When visibility is low he shall reduce his speed or stop if necessary.

4) No Entry

No Entry means that access at the point where the sign is posted is prohibited to all vehicles. It can be found

At the end of one-way roads

to prevent access in the wrong direction,
At a U-turn exit to prevent vehicles from entering the exit and



At the flipside of entry and exit points at parking lots (to prevent exiting vehicles from moving through the entry point and vice versa).

You are also likely to encounter temporary No Entry signs

that permit entry only for construction vehicles as in the picture.



tip

If you find yourself about to violate a no-entry road or path, carefully reverse your vehicle and proceed to your destination through the correct access point.

5) No Left Turn / No Right Turn

These signs are typically found at junctions, parking lots and areas where entry in a certain direction is not permitted.



6) No U-Turn

A U-turn is not allowed where this sign is posted.



7) No Overtaking

This sign is typically found at tunnels, bridges, upward inclines on hills, sharply bending roads, some roads on which there is two-way traffic, pedestrian crossings, congested city areas, parks, schools etc. You can also expect to find the No Overtaking sign temporarily where roadwork is underway.



To illustrate why you must heed the No Overtaking sign, consider an overtaking manoeuvre on a two-way traffic road on a

hill where you cannot see a vehicle approaching you from around the curve. The chances of an accident occurring are great, and it follows that when visibility is compromised in such situations, overtaking must be avoided.

8) No Stopping

This sign is visible wherever stopping, even temporarily, is prohibited. You can expect to find it near government properties, government office buildings and diplomatic offices. It is also posted near highways, hills, sharply bending roads, bridges, tunnels etc.



The No Stopping sign communicates that you cannot stop your vehicle there for any reason, even when your

vehicle has broken down. The vehicle should be moved to another location. Prohibition against stopping could be due to security reasons or because it endangers or inconveniences other road users, or even because it may cause traffic bottlenecks. A vehicle that has stopped at the No Stopping Zone faces the risk of being fined and the vehicle being towed away.



Article 46

Stopping the car to load or unload passengers or materials may not be done in locations where stopping is prohibited.

Article 49

Stopping is prohibited in the following locations.

1. All locations where waiting is prohibited
2. Locations assigned for pedestrian crossings and on pavements
3. Bridges, flyovers or tunnels
4. Along the stream of the road near gradients or curves or along uninterrupted longitudinal horizontal road signs which may not be crossed.
5. Locations where the parked vehicles may conceal traffic

lights or road signals from the sight of other road users.

6. *In front of access ways to and from houses, parking lots, petrol stations, hospitals, ambulance, fire fighting and police centres, military areas, schools, colleges and educational institutions.*
7. *Locations where the parked vehicle may obstruct the movement of another*
8. *Residential areas (for heavy trucks and heavy mechanical equipment) unless they are parked for the purpose of construction and development.*
9. *At less than 15 metres from road exits, entrances of squares and roundabouts or in front of public transport vehicle stations*

9) No Waiting



The No Waiting sign indicates that you can stop, but cannot wait for an extended period.

It is found at pick-up loading and unloading areas, bus stops, outside shopping complexes and malls, at the pick-up and drop-off areas at airports, and places classified as emergency areas.

Do not park and leave your car at a place where the No Waiting sign is posted, even if you have turned the hazard lights on.

Prohibition against waiting is generally enforced because it endangers or inconveniences other road users, or causes traffic bottlenecks.

10) Height Limit



Order (circular) sign:

This sign can be found as you approach a tunnel, on flyovers, or bridges and on other constructions whose ground clearance is not very high. This necessitates knowing the height of your vehicle (or of the cargo it is carrying), because if the vehicle or cargo height exceeds the limit, an accident could occur.

Warning (triangular) sign:

This triangular Height Limit sign is a warning that is visible from far-off so that high vehicles can exit from an alternate route.

11) Width Limit

Like a Height Limit sign, a Width Limit sign indicates that vehicles



that exceed a certain width (or vehicles carrying cargo that exceeds a certain width) cannot pass through, and is found primarily at tunnels and underpasses.

12) Use of Horn Prohibited



This sign indicates that you must avoid sounding the horn when you are passing the area where the sign is posted.

Article 11

Fitting or using warning sirens or lights, similar to those used in emergency vehicles, is not permitted, nor is the use of horns other than those permitted by the licensing authority.

Horns may not be used inside city limits except in case of extreme necessity to warn road users of an approaching vehicle or of a danger resulting from or threatening the vehicle.

Horns may not be used in a continuous manner or in a way that annoys pedestrians or disturbs public peace or for any purpose other than warning, and they may not particularly be used in the following locations and cases:

1. *Near hospitals, schools and places of worship*

2. *In residential areas from midnight to 6.00 am*
3. *While the vehicle is parked*
4. *At times and places specified by the licensing authority.*

The Licensing Authority may prohibit the use of certain types of horns which may annoy or disturb inhabitants.

Fine ^{Dhs. 400} **black points** **4**

- A. Using horn or car sound system in a disturbing way.
- B. Driving at residential areas, educational zones, hospitals in a way that endangers others lives.

13) Heavy Vehicles Not Allowed

This sign prohibits entry into or use of certain roads, and can be found on approach to certain tunnels, bridges junctions or highways etc. (in which instance timings are specified).

Arrows on some of these signs represent lanes that these heavy vehicles are allowed to use and the ones they are not supposed to use.



Supplementary signs also list timings, specifying the times that

certain roads can be used by these vehicles.

14) Priority to Traffic from Opposite Direction



Here, the small red arrow represents you and the large black arrow represents oncoming traffic.

This sign is found

on two-way roads where your path terminates and is diverted to the opposite carriageway. Before you turn onto the other track, it is imperative that you watch for vehicles approaching, and if present, allow these vehicles right-of-way. Pass when the road is clear.

15) Move Ahead Only & not turn right / left / make U turn

This sign communicates that you must go ahead only, and not turn right or left or take U-turns, even if there are roads that turn left or right, or have a U-turn. It must also be noted that parking is not allowed, and one must proceed ahead.



16) Turn Right / Turn Left

The Turn Right sign signifies an

imperative to turn right, and is an order sign. There can be no left turn made, and is typically seen when you are approaching the main road from a side road that is more-or-less perpendicular to the main road. It is an L-shaped road, and the turn is in the form of an 'L'. This sign is posted at the point facing the terminating road.



For left turns the same is true, although the direction of movement changes.

17) Turn Right Ahead / Turn Left Ahead

Where this sign is posted you must



turn only in the direction indicated.



18) One-way Traffic

This sign indicates the movement of traffic in one direction only. Vehicles do

opposite direction.



19) Pass Either Side

This sign is found at the pavement corner where the main roads meet a service road, and you can either pass on the side of the main road or into the service road. You can also see this on junction dividers, where both divisions are allowed to move through. i.e. intersection (straight and left/U-turn area) or at the beginning of filter roads.



20) Keep Left / Keep Right

The Keep Left sign indicates that one must keep to the left. The Keep Right sign is found at intersections/staggered junction, etc. The arrow points downwards and you must follow the instructions of the arrow carefully. In the case of the Keep Right sign, whichever direction you have to turn, position your vehicle to the right of the Keep Right sign.

21) Roundabout



This sign indicates that at the roundabout junction ahead traffic flow is in the direction of arrows you are approaching and that you should give way to traffic from left & confirm to lane discipline wherever possible.

22) Reduce Speed/Police – Reduce Speed



This sign is posted at check posts and at temporary points. Discretion is advised, and speed must be reduced. Use the low beam if the headlights are on.

23) Weight Limit – 3 Tons Unladen



This sign advises drivers of vehicles of 3 tons category (excluding cargo) to refrain from proceeding because there might be a bridge or a temporary road ahead that cannot bear such a load.

4.2.6 Warning Signs

Warning signs indicate hazards,

and can be found sufficiently in advance, before the hazard-prone area is reached.



A potential hazard

More often than not, warning signs instruct you to reduce speed, and at times even to change direction.



1) Crossroads or Cross Junction Ahead

This sign alerts you to the fact that there is a crossroads ahead, and therefore a potential hazard if you do not slow or stop down. You should keep your position and slow down by progressive braking, and either stop or give way as per the sign or the traffic situation.

tip

Always avoid overtaking or sudden lane change on approach to any type of junction or cross roads.

definition

There are two types of hazards: actual and potential.

An actual hazard might be a T-junction or a cross junction, which is physically in front of you and forces you to reduce speed or change your direction, while a potential hazard is one that is not physically present but can occur, such as side road drivers who might neglect to give way to a main road driver, thereby causing an accident. For main road drivers, side road drivers are potential hazards.

To understand hazards better: bicyclists waiting on the side of the road to cross are a potential hazard, while a bicyclist crossing the road is an actual hazard.

2) T-junction Ahead



This sign alerts you to the fact that there is a T-junction ahead. Like crossroads, a T-junction is an actual hazard, as it forces you to give away or stop and the same caution must be exercised here.

3) Roundabout Ahead

This sign alerts you to the



presence of a roundabout ahead. Like crossroads and T-junctions, roundabouts are actual hazards. Position your vehicle early depending well ahead on where you want to go, before you reach the roundabout.

4) Staggered Junction Ahead



This sign brings your attention to side roads joining the main road from the left and right at different positions, i.e. one after the other. They therefore represent two potential hazards. You should exercise caution, as these junctions are present to a great extent in residential and industrial areas, apart from the main roads. Do not overtake or speed on these roads. Rather, slow down when you approach these junctions.

5) Right or Left Lane Closed

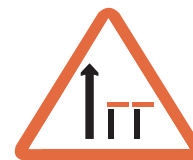
This sign warns that the right lane terminates ahead, and indicates that if you are on the right lane you must move to the left lane, if you are not already there. If you are already in the left lane, be careful



of the potential hazard of vehicles merging into your lane from the right.

The 'Left Lane Closed' sign warns that the converse of the above applies.

6) Right and Centre Lane Closed



This sign warns that the right and centre lanes terminate ahead, and indicates that if you are in either the centre or right lane, you must begin moving to the left lane, if not already there. If you are already in the left lane, be careful of the potential hazard of vehicles merging into your lane from the right.

7) Loose Chippings



This sign warns of loose chippings such as sand and gravel typically found on temporary roads that might fly and hit pedestrians when vehicles travel over them at speed. It is therefore imperative that you reduce your speed well in advance and not brake hard to prevent skidding and losing control of the vehicle. Traction is reduced, so maintaining a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you is important.

tip

While driving over loose chippings, do not overtake, and keep a firm grasp on the steering wheel.

8) Other Dangers Ahead

This sign alerts you to miscellaneous dangers that might include oil spills, the perils associated with construction areas, high voltage cables, accident sites (temporary situations), sharp turns, temporary humps and other such hazards. Remember to reduce your speed in such areas, refrain from overtaking and keep a firm grasp on the steering wheel, especially when you encounter hazards that render your braking ineffective.



9) Traffic Merges from Right Ahead

This sign warns of a road merging into yours from the right in the near distance ahead. You must slow down or speed up to ensure that your vehicle does not reach the spot of merging at the same time as the other vehicles.



Traffic Merges from Right Ahead

10) Traffic Merges from Left Ahead

In this instance, the sign warns that your track is merging onto the main road. You should anticipate having to slow down or stop, allow the vehicles on the main road right-of-way, and then proceed when the road is clear.



Traffic Merges from Left Ahead

11) Dual Carriageway Ends Ahead

This sign warns that the dual carriageway i.e. roads moving in **same direction** and divided by a central reservation or barrier in the



middle, becomes a single carriageway without a dividing reservation or barrier.

Care must be taken that you do not drive into the path of the opposing traffic when the dual carriageway ends, as there is no central barrier to indicate the division between the two roads.

12) Road Narrows on Right



This sign warns of a narrowing of the road on the right side, and advises you to move to the left in case you are

on the narrowing road. Care should be taken to avoid sudden braking or dangerous manoeuvres to move to the left.

In case you are on the road adjacent to the narrowing road, it is best to refrain from driving parallel to a vehicle on your right as the other road terminates. Either move in front of or behind the vehicle to avoid the danger of other vehicles suddenly moving into your lane.

13) Road Narrows on Left

Same as the previous sign but done inversely.



14) Road Narrows on Both Sides



Predominantly a temporary phenomenon, in this situation, two roads leading in the same direction narrow to a road where only one car can pass, and vehicles coming from both roads have equal allowance. Drivers must therefore adapt to the situation and refrain from driving parallel to the vehicle on their right or left – they should either move in front of or behind the vehicle when changing lanes.

15) Steep Incline (or Hill) Upwards



This sign alerts you to a steep incline up a slope or hill. In such circumstances, you should not overtake, change lane, park, stop or reverse. In case you need to stop, immediately engage the handbrake and turn on your hazard lights. Failure to apply your handbrakes could result in your vehicle moving down the slope in reverse. Always consider using a lower gear for controlling speed.

16) Steep Decline (or Hill) Downwards

This sign alerts you to a steep decline down a slope or hill. In such circumstances, you should not



overtake, change lanes, park, stop or over-speed. Always consider using a lower gear for controlling speed. In case you need to stop, immediately engage the handbrake and turn on your hazard lights. Failure to apply your handbrakes could result in your vehicle moving forward down the slope.

Article 52

In mountainous or downhill roads, the driver of the vehicle going downhill shall keep to the far left side of the road or shall stop, in order to allow the vehicle cruising uphill to pass without difficulty. However, if the vehicle cruising uphill is near a wide section of the road, used for temporary parking, its driver shall stop at such a location to allow the passage of the vehicle going downhill.

tip

While driving downhill, reduce the speed by shifting to a lower gear (manual or automatic transmission vehicles) rather than constantly applying the brake.

17) Children Present



Wherever this sign is posted, children may be present, who may need

to cross the road, or who might unwittingly step into the path of oncoming traffic, so caution is advised.



The sign is typically found near schools, parks and residential areas. Reduce your speed to a controlled manner (or to within the maximum speed limit wherever indicated) where you should be able to stop in case of an emergency. Do not sound the horn, overtake or change lanes, and use the hazard indicators when required to signal to traffic from behind that they must reduce their speed as well.

18) Pedestrian Crossing Ahead



Wherever this sign is posted, you may also find a supplementary sign indicating the distance you will travel (60 m

in the picture) before you reach a pedestrian crossing. Take care as pedestrians are likely to cross the road, and they must be allowed to pass safely.

tip

Do not sound the horn, overtake or change lanes at a pedestrian crossing. Give priority to pedestrians. Do not stall on the pedestrian crossing.

Article 35

A vehicle driver shall reduce his speed when approaching a pedestrian crossing at which the traffic is regulated by traffic light signals or a policeman. If the traffic is blocked in front of him, he shall stop before the pedestrian crossing, and shall not move when the traffic is open for him, except after the pedestrian crossing is vacated by the pedestrians who have already started to cross, and shall stop completely until they cross.

Article 36

A vehicle driver shall reduce his speed, when changing his direction to enter another road, in order to give way to pedestrians who have already started to cross that road, and shall stop completely until they cross.

19) Traffic Signal Ahead

This sign advises that a traffic signal is present ahead. If you are at a distance from the traffic signal, you must reduce your speed as you approach the signal, and if you see that the signal continues to be green, down speed and proceed

with caution. Position your vehicle depending on the direction you would proceed. (Also see page 93 on Traffic Signals) Jumping a red signal can cause grave accidents involving many vehicles.



Fine ^{Dhs. 1000} **black points 12**
Passing the red signal lights for light vehicles & motorcycle

**20) U turn**

This sign simply communicates that a U-turn is allowed where it is posted. In busy intersections you are likely to encounter U-turn signs with a supplementary sign restricting U-turns for heavy vehicles.

21) High Voltage Overhead Cables

This sign alerts drivers' attention to the high voltage cables running overhead, on the road where it is posted. While it is not likely that your vehicle would be high enough to touch it, there is a risk of electrocution if it does touch a low-lying cable.

**tip**

If you spot a broken cable, do not stop or park to investigate, stop when & where safe do so to ring the emergency services on 999.

22) Opening Bridge

This sign warns of a bridge that opens at intervals, and is posted at or before the foot of the bridge. When you see this sign, check for any other signs or traffic signals to check whether the bridge is open for traffic.



In Dubai you will be informed in advance through informational sign boards that the bridge is closed for traffic (see picture)



23) Quayside or Riverbank Ahead



This sign is normally found in the creek area, and in areas where the road terminates into a water source. This is an important sign that is often ignored, although one must heed it immediately and slow down to avoid going over. Last-minute application of brakes is likely to be ineffective, especially since the surface of the periphery of the quayside or river bank is slippery on account of wetness caused by crashing waves. Treat this sign as one would treat a dead-end sign.

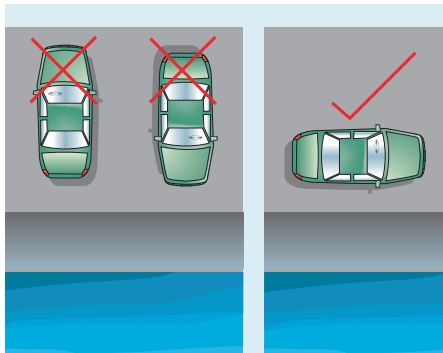


Fig. 4.2.1 - Parking a vehicle near the edge of the creek

tip

When parking near the water at the quayside, do so in a position parallel to the edge, and not perpendicularly facing toward or away from it. Also make sure that your handbrake is properly engaged.

24) Tunnel Ahead



When you see this sign, you must check the height and width limits specified and ascertain whether your vehicle conforms to both or not. A red light at the entrance of the tunnel indicates that a certain lane is blocked, so use the lane that shows green instead.

Also stick to the speed limit specified for driving inside the tunnel (60 kmph), and turn on your low beams. **In a tunnel, you may not sound your horn, stop, park, reverse, change lanes or overtake, and carrying chemicals or explosives is strictly prohibited. No heavy vehicles, bicycles or pedestrians may enter a tunnel.**

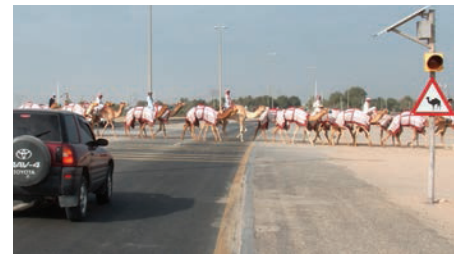


If there is a traffic jam for an extended period, you should switch off engine to avoid breathing exhaust fumes which are poisonous, consider taking passengers out of the tunnel, and immediately inform the police.

25) Animals Present

A sign that shows a camel also indicates animals that might be present in the vicinity, so you must slow down in anticipation of an animal crossing the road, especially on highways.

Turn on your hazard lights if you see an animal crossing ahead of you, stop and wait until it has passed. It is advisable to refrain from sounding the horn, because the sound of the horn can startle the animal and cause it to charge towards the vehicle, putting the driver and passengers at risk.



26) Low Flying Aircraft



This sign can be found near the airport or the runway itself. You must not be distracted by aircraft which

may be flying low overhead, and should keep your eyes on the road, not on the aircraft. For security reasons, parking near the airport fences is prohibited, as is taking photographs.

27) Risk of Falling Rocks



Found near hilly areas and construction zones, this sign is posted to warn drivers and

passers-by of the danger of falling rocks and debris. You are advised to reduce your speed, keep a distance from the area, and avoid parking in or around the vicinity.

Overtaking and speeding are prohibited in these areas. While some signs may be temporarily posted, others are permanent and communicate a constant threat.

28) Reduce Speed

This sign is posted either temporarily or permanently to communicate hazards in the near distance ahead. These might include oil spills, falling or fallen rocks, roadwork, road damage or other such situations and circumstances. Caution is advised.



29) Sharp Deviation to the Right/Left

This sign warns of a sharp bend in the road and is clearly visible from a distance both during day and night. This sign is used where the road turns sharply just in front of you and at other places as well. Reduce your speed and turn safely.



30) Road Works Ahead

This sign warns that roadwork is underway. If possible, you should change to the next lane away from the roadwork, and if a lane change is not possible, you must reduce your speed and keep a safe distance from the workers, equipment, barricades and traffic cones.



These situations are usually temporary, and are often encountered where road maintenance or

construction work is being carried out. Refrain from sounding your horn and do not overtake in such areas.

31) Uneven Road

This sign could signify either man-made humps or naturally occurring unevenness on the road. Bring your speed down to a minimum so as to avoid running into the humps at speed, which could lead to an accident or damage the vehicle.



32) Diversion to Opposite Carriageway



This sign is typically seen in two-way traffic, and represents a diversion to the opposite

carriageway. You must check for any oncoming traffic on the opposite carriage way, and if traffic is present, stay in your own track until the vehicles pass.

33) Road Clear

After the completion of roadwork or the removal of obstructions, this sign is posted to let road users know that the road is clear for use.



4.2.7 Information Signs

1) No Through Road

This sign clearly indicates that the road comes to an end ahead. You must reduce your speed and search for an alternate route or exit on encountering this sign.



This sign is often found in parking areas where the road ends, signifying that the exit is located elsewhere. Where there are dead-ends such as these, you often find enough space to allow you to turn and exit.

2) Priority Over Vehicles from Opposite Direction



In this sign, you are represented by the large white arrow, while the small red arrow represents traffic from the opposite direction that is diverted to your path.

Although you do have right-of-way over the diverted oncoming traffic, exercise caution at the point where

the actual diversion meets your path.

3) Parking

Sign #1 advertises a parking area at which you either have to pay for parking or the parking is free. Observe the supplementary signs that indicate parking timings or other considerations. **Do not park at areas where sign #2 is posted.**



4) Hospital Zone



A sign that marks a hospital zone advises you to reduce speed; look out for

emergency situations that you might be hindering; give priority to ambulances, police vehicles and pedestrians; and refrain from sounding the horn.

Also take care never to stop or park at the exit or entrance of the hospital compound.

5) No Turning for Heavy Vehicles

This sign prohibits trucks and other heavy vehicles from turning,

and is a supplementary sign that accompanies a U-turn sign.



6) Diversions of Traffic Route

This yellow sign alerts you to the fact that the traffic is diverted. You must slow down and make driving judgments judiciously while anticipating the movement of traffic. Always maintain enough distance from the vehicle in front of you.



4.2.8 Road Markings

Just as traffic signs provide important information relating to road use, so also do the road markings you encounter frequently while driving.

Markings guide road users in positioning their vehicles. The picture below highlights the



most important road markings. A detailed explanation of each has been provided in the following pages.

1. Stop line

When you see this line ahead of you at an intersection or a traffic signal, you must stop before it and refrain from crossing over until the road is clear or the signal has turned green.

2. Give Way Line

This is a thick intermittent line that instructs you to 'yield' and is often found in conjunction with a 'Give way' sign. You must assess the traffic condition, and give way to oncoming traffic when you encounter

this road marking across your lane.

3. Yellow grid / box

Take care not to stall on this box when you are crossing an intersection, and before you enter the box always make sure the exit of the box is clear.

4. Pedestrian crossing

This is a zebra-striped marking across the roadway used by pedestrians to cross the road. Such crossings may at times be controlled by traffic signals. Nevertheless, yield right-of-way to pedestrians when you encounter this marking.

5. Painted island

You are not allowed to drive

over this area, which is marked with diagonal lines.

6. Directional arrows

These arrows point the direction you are allowed to turn into from your lane, and could be a) right b) left c) straight or right and d) straight or left.

7. Lane separators

This is a painted area of the road that demarcates lanes leading to different directions.

8. Merge arrow

Arrows that slant either to the right or left indicate that the lane they are drawn on is

terminating ahead and that the driver must move to the lane they are pointing towards.

9. Intermittent / Continuous lines

These lines between lanes indicate to the driver whether or not it is safe to make a lane change manoeuvre. Such lines may be:

- Short intermittent lines
- Long intermittent lines
- Continuous lines (for a detailed explanation, refer to Module 4.1 Observing Lane Discipline)

10. End-of-road markings

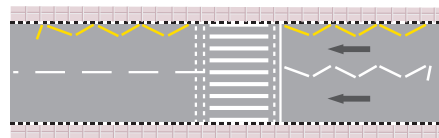
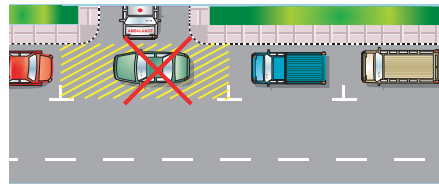
This is a yellow line beyond which is a 'hard shoulder' where traffic is not allowed to move.



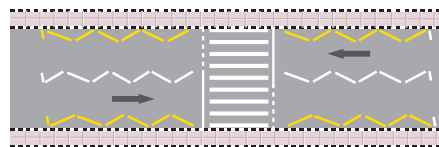
Deceleration lane

These arrows instruct the driver to decelerate (reduce speed) to take a deceleration lane that may for example, allow the driver to exit a freeway.

No stopping / No parking



Pedestrian crossing on dual-carriageway (diagram shows one side only)



Pedestrian crossing on a single carriageway

4.2.9 Traffic Signals



Traffic signals electronically control the flow of traffic and are normally placed at busy intersections and also at pedestrian crosswalks. Signals

enforce discipline by allowing the right-of-way to road users. This depends on various considerations, for example, the time of the day, the density of traffic etc.

Most traffic intersections in the UAE are controlled by traffic signals or traffic lights. These lights instruct you when to stop and when to proceed. These lights are also

assisted by the road markings, which instruct drivers where to stop. Traffic lights in the UAE follow the international standard – Red, Yellow(Amber) and Green from top to bottom respectively.

*Article 25
Lights regulating
traffic shall be as
follows:*

*Red Light: Vehicles
must stop and may
not cross this signal.*



remember

Stop behind the Stop Line.

*Green Light: Vehicles
are allowed to pass,
observing precaution
and making sure that
the road is clear*



remember

Even if the Green Light is on, do not enter the yellow grid on an intersection till the exit is clear.

Fine

Dhs.
500

Stopping on a yellow box.

4.2 - Obeying Traffic Signs

Yellow (Amber) light:

This light appears after the green light, and it means that the vehicles shall stop and may not cross the stopping line, or the line found at the level of the traffic light post, nor may they surpass the pedestrian crossing. However, if the vehicle cannot safely stop at this point, it may proceed with crossing the intersection while observing care and alertness.



Intermittent Yellow (Amber) Light:

The vehicle can pass, if the road is clear, observing precaution and care.



Green Arrow: Indicates the traffic direction regulated by the signal, allowing the vehicles to pass through.

Intermittent Yellow (Amber) Light fitted on single-light posts: Means priority is given to vehicles coming from the left side at intersections, roundabouts, road junctions and also warns of the presence of pedestrian crossings and that precaution and care must be taken.



Article 27

Neither traffic signs, signals and lines, nor the instructions of Traffic and other Police Officers shall relieve road users of their responsibility to observe the utmost care and precaution.

tip

Always obey directions given by Traffic and other Police Officers even when their directions differ from that of the traffic lights and signs.

black points

12

Passing the red signal lights.

tip

Typically, accidents occur when you decide to 'jump the yellow light' and collide into a driver from the crossing traffic who has 'outsmarted the green light'.

remember

Even if you have the right-of-way at a traffic signal you must yield to any approaching emergency vehicle.

Article 28

The instructions and indications of the Traffic and other Police Officers shall have priority over traffic rules, as well as over traffic lights, road signals and traffic organization lines.



Review questions for this chapter: Page 152

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Intersections



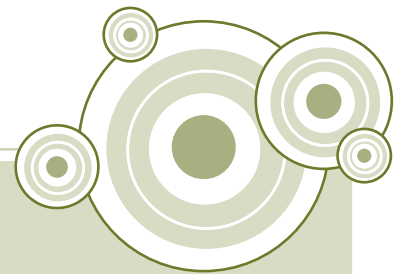
Objective

In this module you will learn about:

- The anatomy of an intersection
- The various types of intersections, how they are controlled and how you would approach such an intersection
- The 10 principles of the 'Right-of-Way'
- 'Stop' and 'Give Way' signs
- Where to stop while approaching an intersection and
- The difference between various types of intersections

Contents

- 4.3.1 Anatomy of a Typical Intersection
- 4.3.2 Types of Intersections
- 4.3.3 Approaching an Intersection
- 4.3.4 Stopping at an Intersection
- 4.3.5 Rolling Stops
- 4.3.6 The 10 Principles of the 'Right-of-Way'



“

Simply speaking, an intersection is an area where two or more roads meet. The importance of an intersection lies in the fact that traffic from different directions converges onto a single point leading to a high chance of collision among vehicles..

”

4.3.1 Anatomy of a Typical Intersection

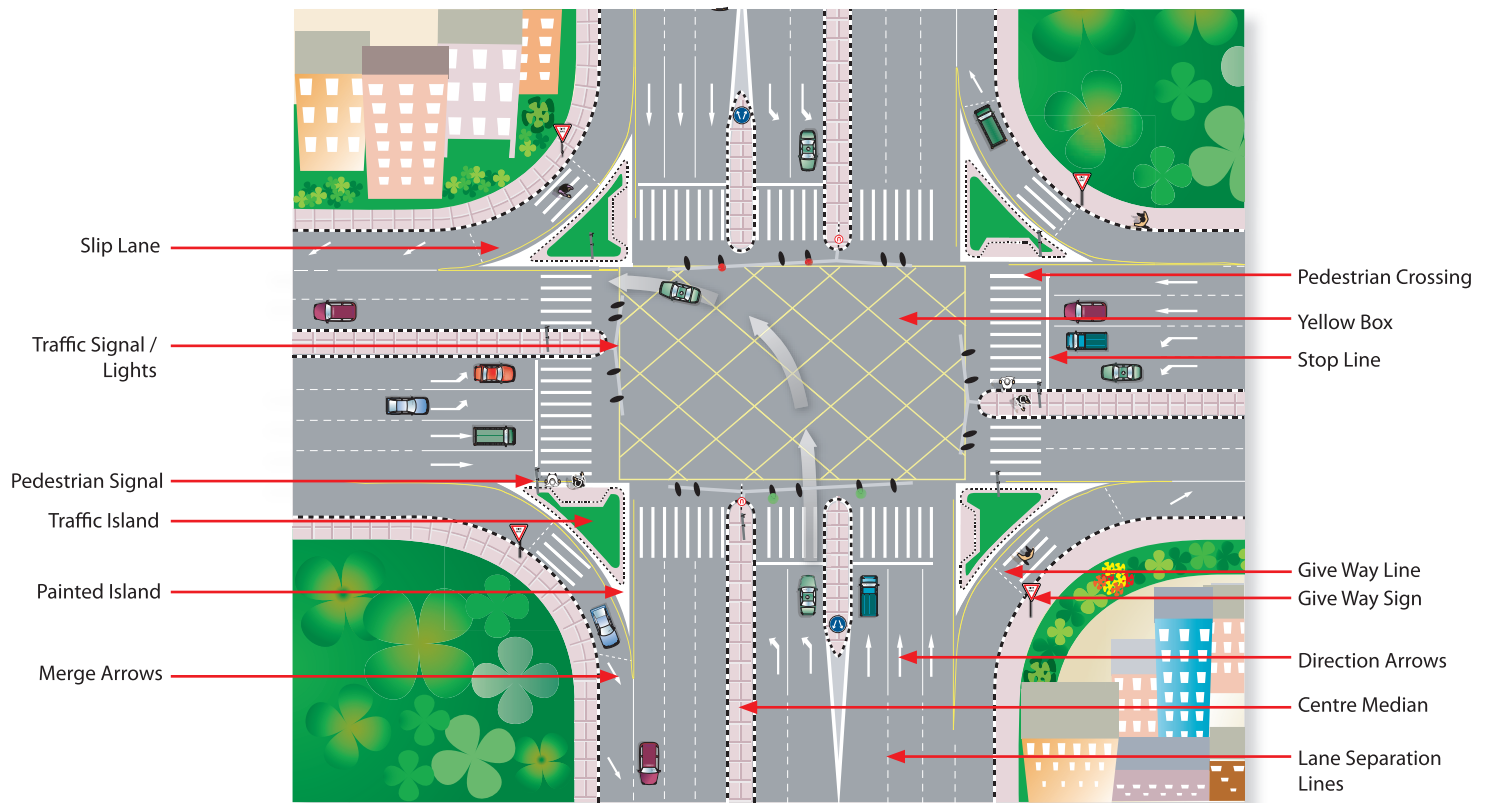


Fig. 4.3.1

4.3.2 Types of Intersections:

While driving in the UAE, as in most countries of the world, you are likely to come across 3 types of intersections:

1. Controlled Intersections
2. Uncontrolled or Open Intersections, and
3. T-Intersections

1. Controlled Intersections

A controlled intersection is an intersection with traffic lights or traffic signs. To drive safely in a controlled intersection you must

know what the signs and signals mean (refer Module 4.2: Obeying Traffic Signs). These signs or signals could be facing you or drivers on the intersecting roadway. You also need to know who has the right-of-way and who has to yield (Right-of-way principles have been dealt with in detail later in this module).

Article 28

The instructions and indications of the Traffic and other police shall have priority over traffic rules, as well as over traffic lights, road signals, and traffic organization lines.

tip

Always be alert and observant. Other drivers may not be paying attention to the signs and signals.

2. Uncontrolled or Open Intersections

An open intersection is one without traffic lights or traffic signs. Open intersections are rare in the UAE, as almost all intersections are controlled either by traffic signals or signs. Sometimes, if there is a

power blackout and traffic lights fail to function or where a traffic sign has been knocked down due to an accident, controlled intersections become uncontrolled at least till such time traffic police personnel take control of the situation. Nevertheless, you might come across an uncontrolled intersection in remote, less travelled areas in UAE. And when you do, the principles of the right-of-way will apply.

3. T-Intersections

definition

T-Intersections are where two roads meet and one of them ends.

A T-Intersection has two parts:

1. Intersecting / Continuing Road
2. Terminating Road

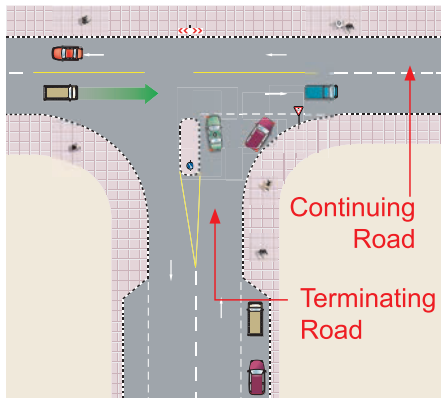


Fig 4.3.2

It is clear from the figure that the Terminating Road ends at the



T-intersection, you will have to give way to vehicles travelling on the continuing road.

4.3.3 Approaching an Intersection

Most traffic accidents take place at intersections. You will therefore have to be very careful when approaching any intersection. The vast majority of traffic intersections in the UAE are regulated by traffic lights. Traffic lights help you in making a quick and informed decision as to your course of action when you approach an intersection. Based on the color of the traffic lights, whether red, yellow/amber or green, you will be able to stop at or proceed across the intersection.

However, there may also be intersections without traffic lights. These intersections are otherwise controlled by traffic signs (like the STOP or GIVE WAY signs).

A. Intersections controlled by 'STOP' Signs

The following procedure will help you in correctly approaching intersections controlled by STOP signs:



1. Check your mirrors for the traffic following you
2. Begin braking
3. Shift to a lower gear (if you are driving a manual transmission vehicle) and slow down smoothly
4. Gradually bring your vehicle to a total halt before the stopping point
5. Check the road ahead carefully for pedestrians and other vehicles
6. If found safe, you may proceed on your way, increasing your speed progressively

However, there are rules that indicate where you must stop your vehicle when you see the STOP sign. More often than not, your stopping position is determined by the markings on the road and also a general comprehension of the UAE laws and practices in this matter.

B. Intersections controlled by 'Give Way' signs

A Yield or Give Way sign means that you should slow down as you near an intersection. You may be required to stop and yield the right-of-way to traffic or pedestrians using the intersection.

A broken line is usually marked on the road to help you to judge where to slow down or stop. Wait for a safe gap in the traffic before you



proceed. If there are no pedestrians or traffic that you are required to yield to, you may proceed through the intersection without stopping.

4.3.4 Stopping at an intersection

A vehicle approaching a stop sign shall stop at the clearly demarcated stop line following the stop sign, or immediately before the pedestrian crossing.

If neither a stop line nor a pedestrian crossing is present, before entering an intersection, the vehicle shall stop at a point closest to the intersecting roadway where the driver of such vehicle has a clear vision of the road ahead and the traffic that plies it.

The following is a useful checklist:

- If you cannot clearly see whether the road ahead of you is clear of traffic, approach slowly till you can clearly see the traffic crossing from both directions.
- Wait until the pedestrian crossing is clear.
- Once the pedestrian crossing is clear, you may slowly move forward to check traffic before crossing the intersection or

remember

Do not halt your vehicle on the pedestrian crossing.

entering the roadway.

- When stopping behind another vehicle, which has already stopped at the stop line, make sure you allow adequately safe distance from the car ahead of you. A basic rule of thumb is that you should be able to see the other vehicle's back tire where it meets the road. If the vehicle ahead of you is a heavy vehicle (tractor-trailer or heavy plant), the full vehicle from top to tire should be visible.
- This safe distance provides a safety zone in the event the other vehicle rolls back slightly or stalls. If the vehicle stalls, you would still be able to manoeuvre around it when safe. It also provides you with an escape route in the event of an emergency such as another vehicle approaching from behind so fast that you may need to move to avoid a rear-end collision.

black points

No sufficient distance is left behind the front vehicle

4

- Once the vehicle in front of you has moved on, you may move forward to the stop line. You still must ensure that the traffic is clear before you enter the road.
- A complete stop is required at a flashing red traffic light, just as with a stop sign. Although not very common in Dubai, flashing red lights may be seen in other Emirates.
- After you have stopped, if there is no traffic from the right or left, you may proceed. When there is traffic on the crossroads (right to left) and/or oncoming traffic (heading toward you) from the other side of the intersection you must follow the right-of-way procedures.

Where you must stop

Article 43

A vehicle driver preparing to enter a road, or coming from a non-asphalt road onto an asphalt road, shall stop and allow vehicles cruising on such road to pass, and shall not attempt to enter the road except after ascertaining that it is vacant, so as not to expose traffic flowing thereon to any danger.

In figure 4.3.3, the green arrows mark movement of vehicles that have priority. Other vehicles approaching the intersection shall stop at the clearly marked Stop Line.

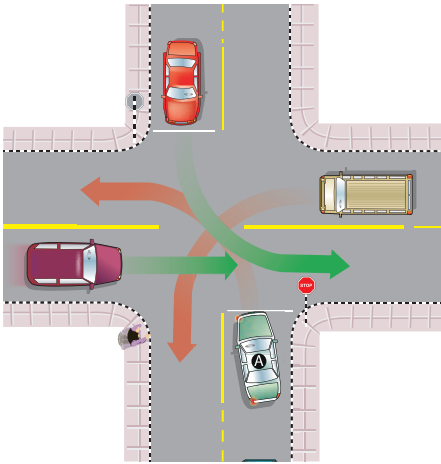


Fig 4.3.3

4.3.5 Rolling Stops

definition

A rolling stop occurs when the driver only slows down for a stop sign or traffic signal and proceeds through the intersection or turn without ever bringing the vehicle to a full and complete stop as required by the law

Article 43

*A vehicle driver preparing to enter a road, or coming from a non-asphalt road onto an asphalt road, shall **stop** and allow vehicles cruising on such a road to pass.*

Article 42

A vehicle driver shall take the necessary precautions when approaching a curve, gradient,

roundabout, intersection, exit or junction, and shall drive his vehicle at the appropriate speed which enables him to stop and allow vehicles with traffic priority to pass.

You should remember that performing rolling stops might be grounds for receiving a traffic ticket AND for failing the driver examination road test. It is advisable not to make rolling stops for the following reasons:

- A pedestrian may presume that the driver will abide by the law and come to a complete stop.
- There is a better chance of seeing possible hazards because the driver who comes to a full stop has a longer observation period of the intersection.
- If two drivers are travelling at right angles to one another, and both fail to stop, a collision is almost a certainty.
- Police and insurance companies will hold the driver who fails to stop, completely liable in the event of an accident, possibly resulting in fines, loss of licence, increased insurance rates, or loss of insurance coverage.

4.3.6 The 10 Principles of 'Right-of-Way'

Consider these situations:

1. You are approaching an intersection where there are no traffic lights or signs, and there are other vehicles using

When traffic lights fail...

It may so happen, though very rarely in the UAE, that traffic lights may stop functioning due to a power failure and there may be a lag before traffic police intervene to take control.

In such a situation, as an alert driver, you will assume you are being faced by a STOP sign and will therefore come to a full stop before the Stop Line. Vehicles approaching from all directions are required to come to a full stop. All drivers must exercise courtesy and care.

Normal courtesy is to allow the vehicle that arrived first to proceed first. You must not proceed unless you can do so safely.

the intersection from different directions. Will you wait and give way for other vehicles or will you proceed across the intersection?

2. You are leaving the fuel station driveway and approaching the main road. Will you wait till the approaching traffic is clear, or drive onto the main road, expecting other vehicles to slow down for you?
3. You are taking a right turn on a slip lane and find a lady about to cross the pedestrian crossing

pushing her grocery cart. Will you squeeze your way through or wait for her to cross the lane and then proceed on your way?

4. You are driving out of your apartment block car park onto the main street and find a bicyclist on the sidewalk across your path. Will you sound your horn to indicate to him to stop so that you can proceed, or allow him to use the way first?

In each of these situations, you have to decide whether to wait and give way to the other person or to proceed first. In order to avoid confusion, particularly when there are multiple road users, there are clear guidelines that explain who has precedence over the other in using the road. These are called the 'Right-of-way' principles.

definition

The 'Right-of-way' principles require one person to give way and the other to proceed.

These principles are derived from courtesy and common sense and are not carved in stone. Therefore, it may so happen that even when you have the 'right-of-way' in using a road, you would still have to give way to a reckless and aggressive driver in order to avoid a collision.

Article 45

A vehicle driver having priority or allowed to pass according to

the traffic rules, shall abstain from using his priority and stop so as not to confuse or obstruct the flow of traffic, or to annoy or injure any road user.

What does the UAE Federal Law, 1995 (No.21) say about the right-of-way?

Article 6

In the absence of a policeman or a traffic sign to control traffic at road crossings or intersections, the right-of-way shall be given to vehicles coming from the main road. Where there is a roundabout, priority shall be given to the vehicle coming from the left side.

In all cases, right-of-way shall be granted in the following order:

- *Official motorcades*
- *Fire trucks while on duty*
- *Vehicles carrying sick and wounded persons, while at work*
- *Military vehicles moving in columns*
- *Police cars using alarm signs and revolving signal lights*

Article 10

While on the road, each driver shall keep to the extreme right side of the road, in order to grant right-of-way to other traffic.

Although not exactly a right-of-way situation, Article 10(8) of the UAE Federal Law, 1995 (No. 21) provides that:

While on the road, each driver shall slow down, or stop if necessary, to enable the passage of a vehicle in front of him which is signalling to turn right or left.

The 10 Principles of 'Right-of-way' are as follows:

1

Article 44

If traffic at squares, roundabouts, intersections, and junctions is not regulated by a traffic police officer or by traffic lights, traffic priority shall be as follows:

1. *To vehicles coming from the left if the roads are of equal classification.*
2. *To vehicles coming from a main road intersecting with a side road.*

In the figure 4.3.4, vehicle A will give way to vehicles B and C and vehicle C will give way to vehicle B. Vehicle D can proceed.

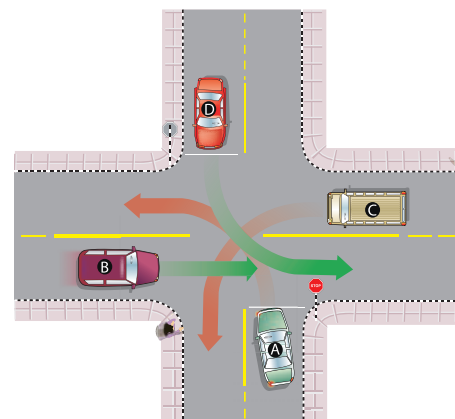


Fig 4.3.4

2

When entering a road from a private road or driveway, you must yield to vehicles on the road and pedestrians on the sidewalk. Also refer Principle 6 in this section regarding right of way to pedestrians.

In the figure 4.3.5, vehicle A will give way to vehicle B

3

Fig. 4.3.6 Where you are travelling in a service lane and you want to enter the main road through a denominated exit break in the dividing strip, you must stop and give the right-of-way to the traffic on the main road. After checking whether the traffic is clear, you may proceed to the main road.

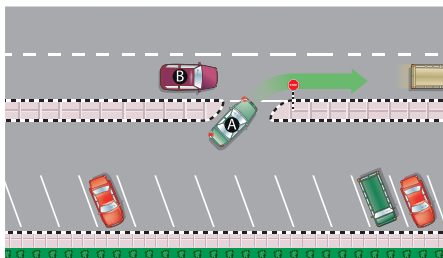


Fig 4.3.6

4

Fig. 4.3.7 When you are travelling on the main road and you want to enter into a service lane through a denominated entry break in the dividing strip, vehicles travelling in the service lane must give you the right-of-way.

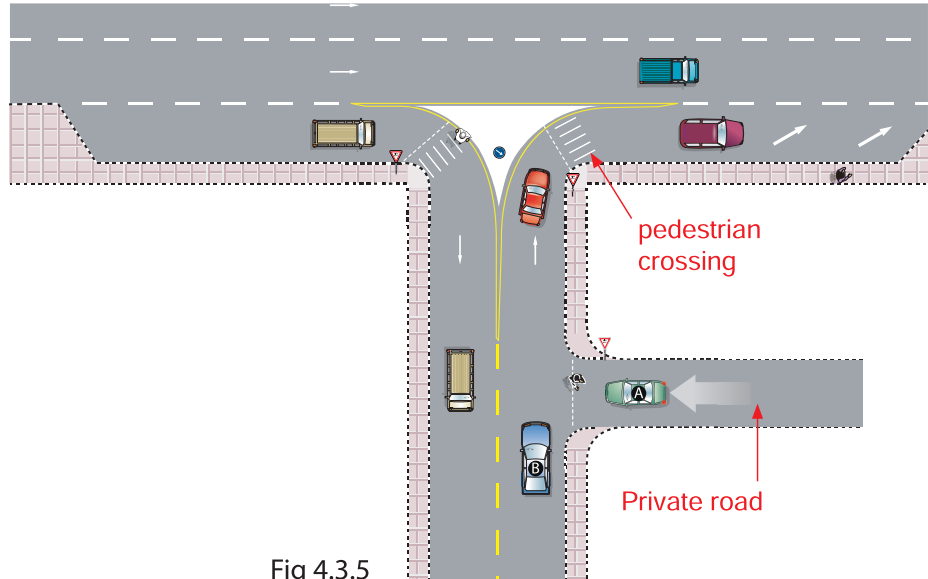


Fig 4.3.5

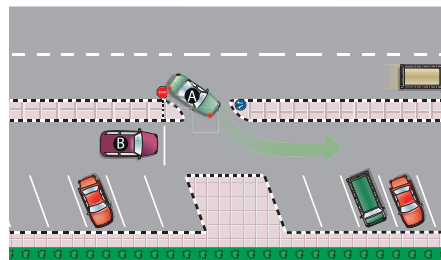


Fig 4.3.7

5

When you are travelling on the main road and you want to enter the traffic moving in the opposite direction through a break in the median strip, you have to give the right-of-way to the traffic moving in the direction of the main road you are trying to enter. After checking whether the traffic is clear, you may proceed to enter the main road.

6

Right-of-way to Pedestrians. You must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians crossing at specially marked pedestrian crossings or crossovers. (fig 4.3.8)

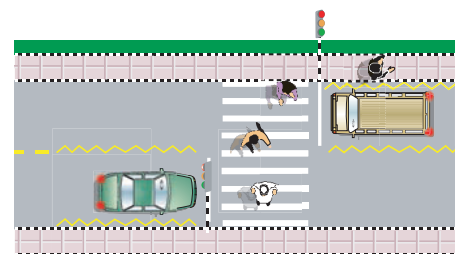


Fig 4.3.8

7

Yield the right-of-way to vehicles classified as Emergency Vehicles such as official motorcades, ambulances, fire fighting vehicles,

military vehicles moving in columns, police vehicles etc., when they are displaying a flashing red or blue light and sounding a siren or bell or any other signal. Whether the emergency vehicle is overtaking or coming towards you, pull to the side of the roadway and stop.

8

The right-of-way applies to T-intersections also. When you enter the continuing road from the terminating road you must give way to vehicles travelling along both sides of the continuing road. The following diagrams show how to give way at T-intersections without traffic lights or signs, or where traffic lights are flashing yellow. In the figures 4.3.9 (A-C), vehicle B must give way to vehicle A.

9

Prior to entering the yellow box in a traffic intersection (or a roundabout in some cases), ensure that you will be able to cross and exit the yellow box without being forced to stop on it.

10

If you enter an uncontrolled intersection at an unlawful speed, you will lose any right-of-way which you might otherwise have.

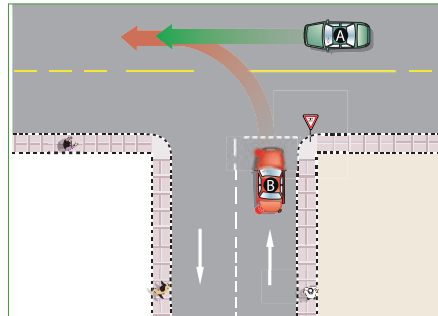


Fig 4.3.9 (A)

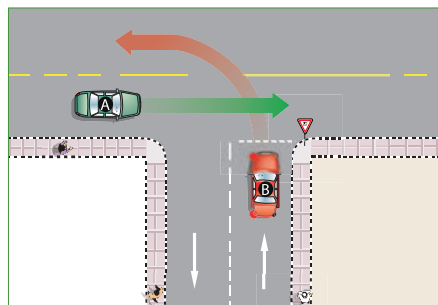


Fig 4.3.9 (B)

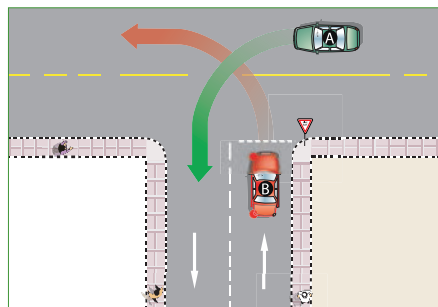


Fig 4.3.9 (C)

Fine

Dhs.
500

Stopping on a yellow box.

pedestrian safety

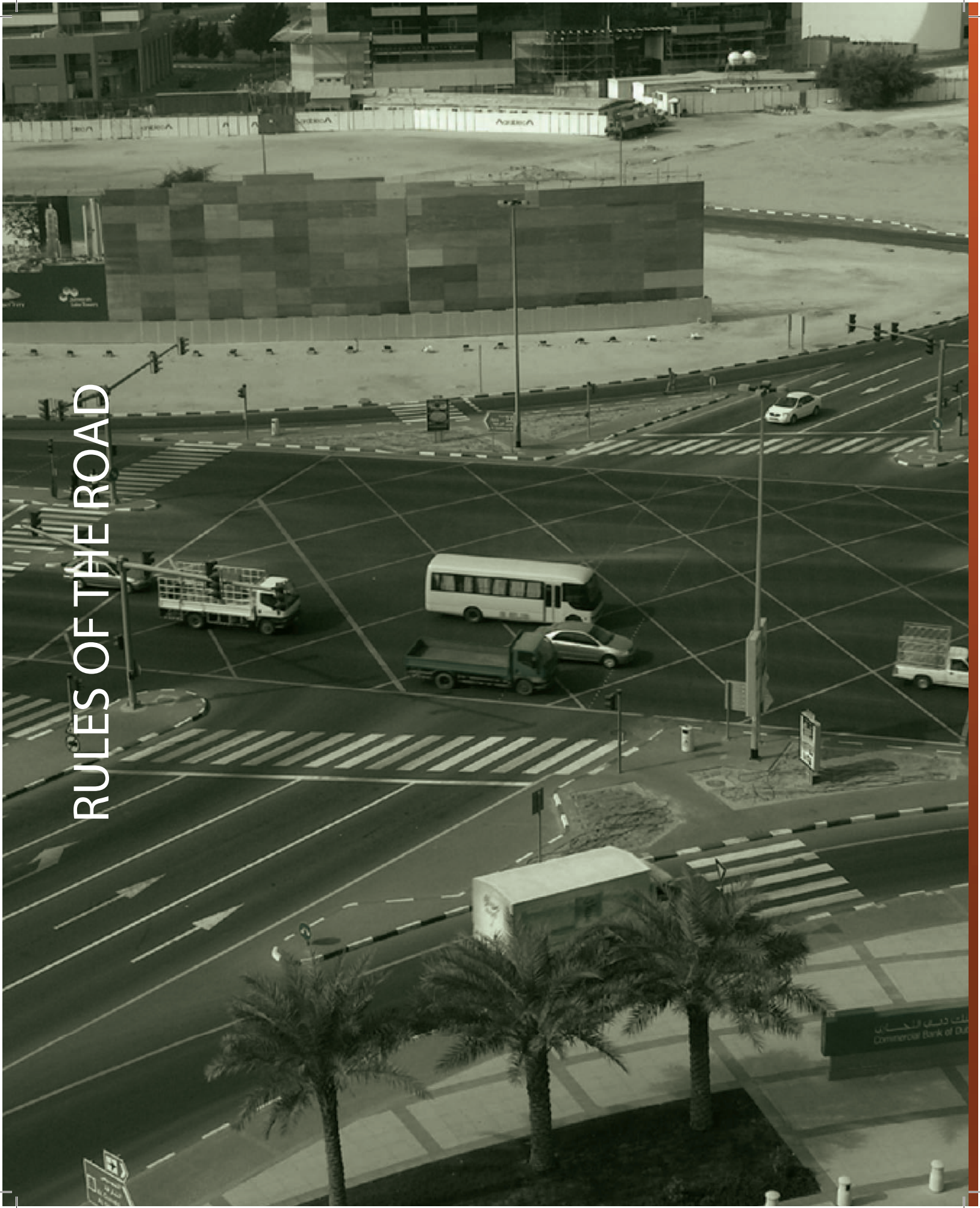
Pedestrian and cyclist safety are critical issues. Drive cautiously when pedestrians or bicyclists are near because they may cross your path. A pedestrian is a person on foot or can also be a person with a disability in a self-propelled wheel chair, tricycle, or quadracycle. Here is a checklist of things to remember when you see a pedestrian while you are driving:

- Always stop for pedestrians who are crossing at corners or other pedestrian crossings.
- Do not overtake a car from behind that has stopped at a crosswalk. A pedestrian you are not able to see may be crossing.
- Do not drive on a footpath, except to cross it at a driveway. When crossing, yield to any pedestrian.
- If a pedestrian makes eye contact with you, he or she is ready to cross the street. Yield to the pedestrian. Remember, signalling (flashing your headlight or sounding your horn) does not give you the right-of-way. You must make sure the way is clear.



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RULES OF THE ROAD



module 4.4

Rules of the Road Roundabouts



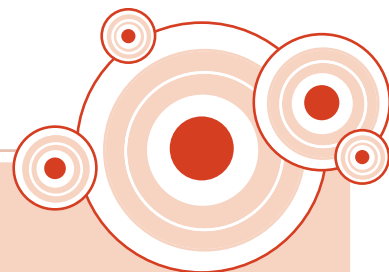
Objective

In this module you will learn to:

- Clearly recognise from traffic signs that you are approaching a roundabout
- Approach, enter and exit a roundabout using the right method
- Make left turns, right turns, U-turns and drive straight at a roundabout
- Signal appropriately and also yield the right-of-way to other roundabout users

Contents

- 4.4.1 What is a Roundabout?
- 4.4.2 Approaching a Roundabout
- 4.4.3 Right-of-way on a Roundabout
- 4.4.4 Making Turns and Signalling at a Typical Roundabout



“

You may have noticed that some of the oldest landmarks in the UAE such as the Clock Tower in Dubai have been erected on large circular islands. Intensive but regulated traffic flows around these circular islands which are called **Roundabouts**.

Negotiating a roundabout is not an easy task, despite the presence of traffic lights and signs that help in regulating traffic. A clear understanding of the right-of-way, that is, who has to give way to whom, coupled with safe and responsible driving, alone can help you in negotiating a roundabout without creating chaos and accidents.

”

4.4.1 What is a Roundabout?

A roundabout is an intersection that may display one or more of the following features:

- Presence of a 'Roundabout Ahead' traffic sign well before the roundabout, which warns drivers of the presence of a roundabout. The driver is expected to take the correct precautions on seeing this traffic sign.
- Presence of an order sign at the entrance of the roundabout which notifies the driver to begin approaching the roundabout and also to give way to other traffic already on the roundabout.
- In the UAE, the traffic at a roundabout moves in an anti-clockwise direction (clockwise in certain European and Asian countries and in Australia as well), around and on the right side of a circular island.
- The traffic moves in the same direction on one or more



marked lanes with three or more exits to different directions.

- Roundabouts may sometimes be regulated by traffic lights, but these traffic lights are mostly operational only for specific durations in a day. When these traffic signals are not operational, only a blinking amber light will be functional. This is an indication to the driver to exercise caution and yield the right-of-way to the traffic at the roundabout moving in from the left.

4.4.2 Approaching a Roundabout

The first hint that you are approaching a roundabout is provided by the 'Roundabout Ahead' traffic sign. This is a warning sign that is located well before the roundabout. When you encounter this sign:

- Begin slowing down gradually as the sign indicates an actual hazard ahead. Check for the traffic behind you while you slow down. Ensure that you do not apply your brakes abruptly.
- Position yourself in the appropriate lane before you approach the roundabout.

By positioning yourself in the correct lane well in advance, you will be able to enter and exit the roundabout without placing other vehicles at the roundabout in jeopardy. If you have to change lanes to position yourself, perform all the mandatory checks.

- On arriving at the roundabout, you will notice an order sign that indicates, you are at the entrance of the roundabout. More often than not, you may also find a 'Give Way' sign on the same traffic pole or separately from the order sign.
- Do not attempt to change lanes at the entrance of the roundabout. Watch for the long and uninterrupted road marking lines, which prohibit you from changing lanes.
- Slow down, or even stop if need be, to give way to the vehicles moving towards your direction from your left, which are already at the roundabout.
- If found safe, you will enter the roundabout, increasing your speed in order not to create confusion for traffic moving in from the left. Drivers of manual transmission vehicles have to exercise caution, in that they have to ensure that their vehicle does not stall after entering the roundabout.

4.4.3 Right-of-Way on a Roundabout

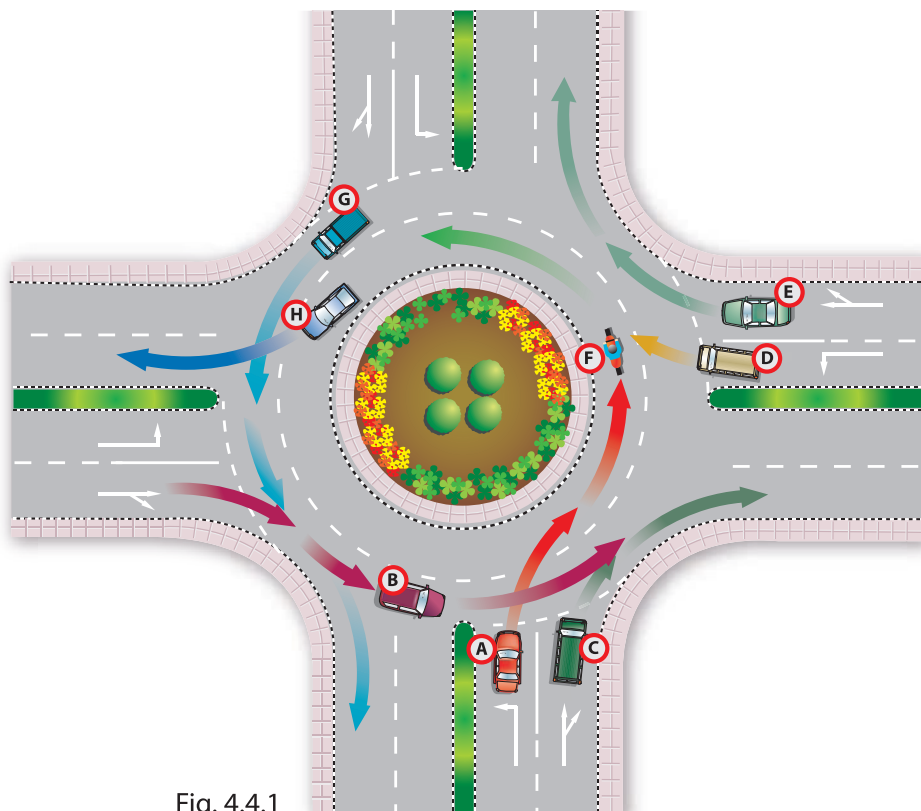


Fig. 4.4.1

As with Intersections in Module 4.3, on a roundabout you have to give priority (or the right-of-way) to traffic already on the roundabout and moving towards you from the left.

In Fig. 4.4.1:

A & C must give way to B
D and E must give way to F
G must give way to H

tip

- When you are leaving a roundabout, switch on your right indicator to caution other roundabout users of your intention to exit.

tip

- On some roundabouts, the arrow markings on the lanes will indicate the direction you can go if you take a particular lane. Always be guided by these arrow markings.

4.4.4 Making Turns and Signalling at a Typical Roundabout

Your Objective: To turn right

Which lane should you use for entering the roundabout?	2-Lane Roundabout use only Right Lane	3-Lane Roundabout use only Right Lane
Where will you exit?	Less than halfway around the roundabout	
Which indicator will you switch on?	On Entry Right Indicator	On Exit Right Indicator

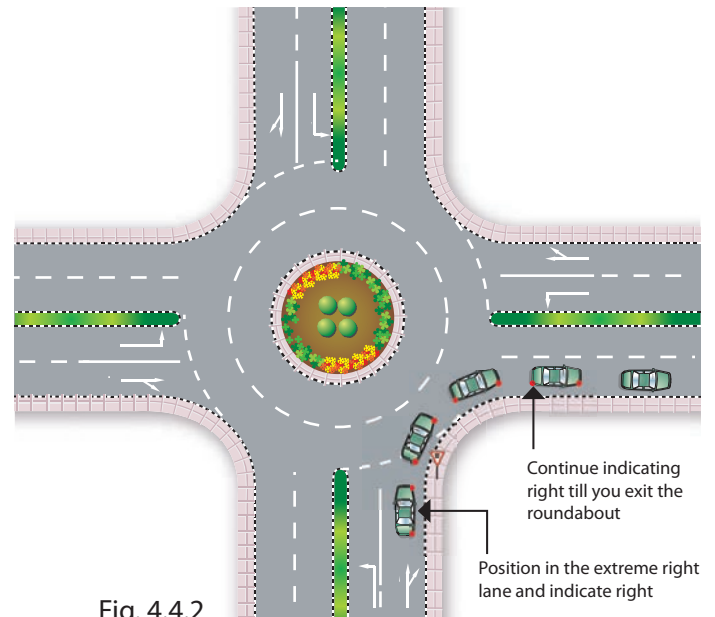


Fig. 4.4.2

Your Objective: To go straight at a standard roundabout

Which lane should you use for entering the roundabout?	2-Lane Roundabout use only Right Lane	3-Lane Roundabout use only Right or Centre Lane
Where will you exit?	Halfway around the roundabout	
Which indicator will you switch on?	On Entry No Indicator	On Exit Right Indicator

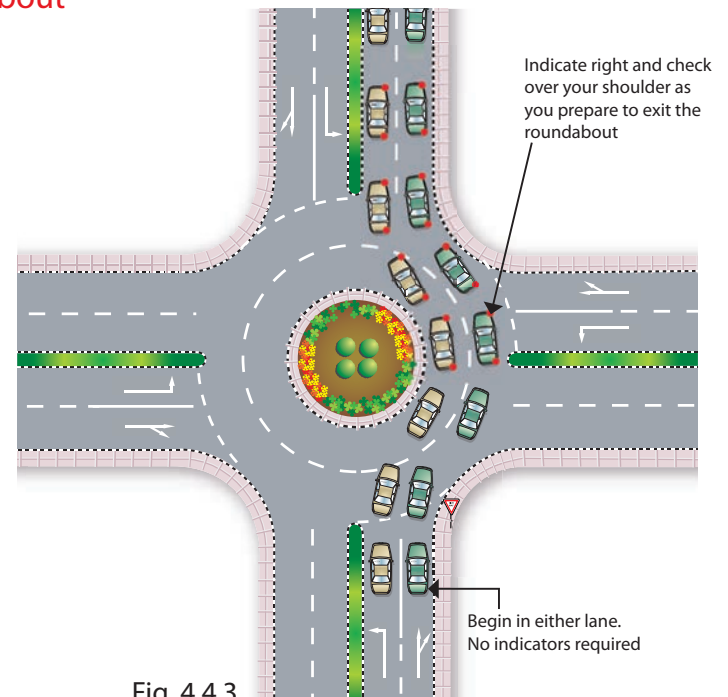


Fig. 4.4.3

Your Objective: To turn left at a standard roundabout

Which lane should you use for entering the roundabout?	2-Lane Roundabout use only	3-Lane Roundabout use only
	Left Lane	Left or Centre Lane
Where will you exit?	More than halfway around the roundabout	
Which indicator will you switch on?	On Entry	On Exit
	Left Indicator	Right Indicator

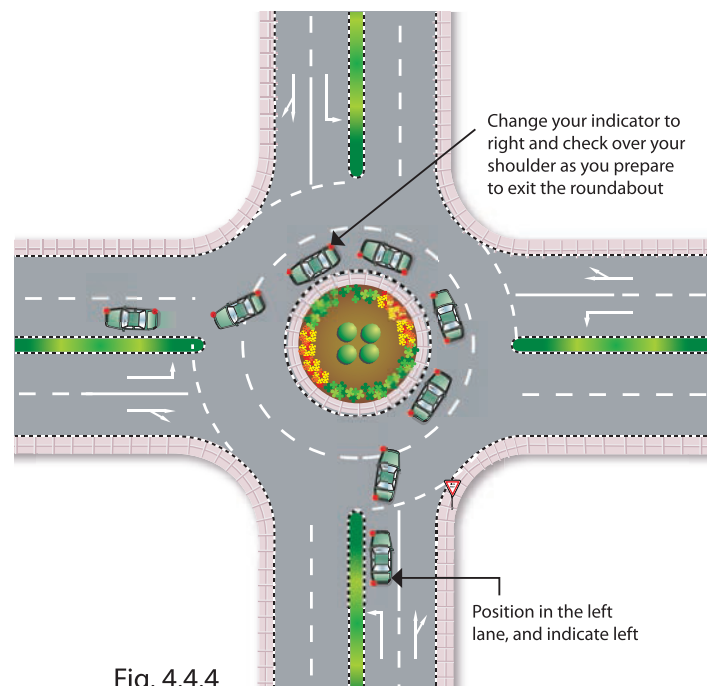


Fig. 4.4.4

Your Objective: To make a u-turn at a standard roundabout

Which lane should you use for entering the roundabout?	2-Lane Roundabout use only	3-Lane Roundabout use only
	Left Lane	Left Lane
Where will you exit?	Complete turn around the roundabout	
Which indicator will you switch on?	On Entry	On Exit
	Left Indicator	Right Indicator

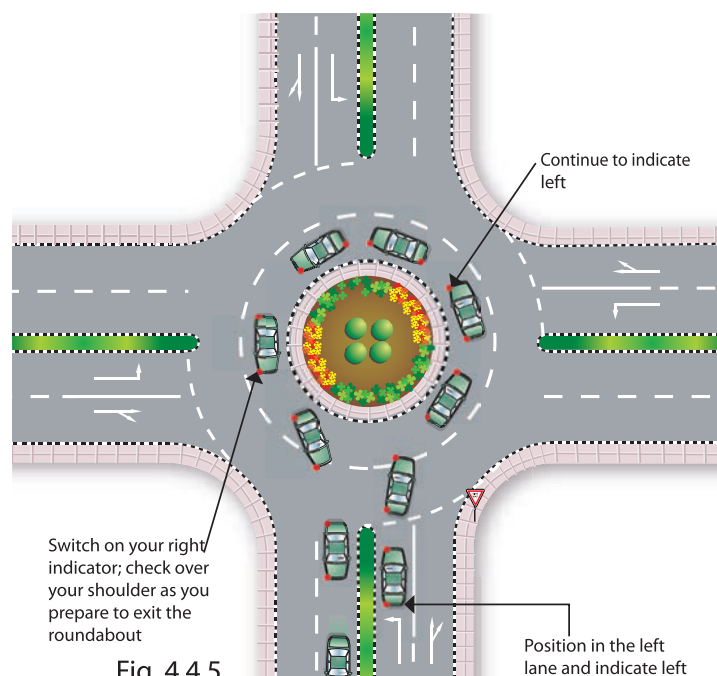


Fig. 4.4.5



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module 4.5

Rules of the Road Signalling & Turns



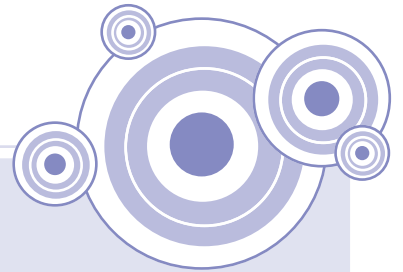
Objective

In this module you will learn:

- The proper use of directional indicators
- The 6 do's and don'ts of a perfect turn
- MSPSL Turning Routine
- How to make a right and a left turn at intersections, safely and effectively
- How to make U-turns safely and effectively

Contents

- 4.5.1 Signalling
- 4.5.2 How to Signal Effectively
- 4.5.3 Turning
- 4.5.4 MSPSL Routine
- 4.5.5 Making a Right Turn at an Intersection
- 4.5.6 Making a Left Turn at an Intersection
- 4.5.7 The 6 do's and don'ts of Making a Perfect Turn
- 4.5.8 Making a U-turn



“

Signalling and turning are part and parcel of the driving exercise, and adequate attention must be paid to these two aspects of driving if you are to be a safe and effective driver. Here, we cover the important considerations of signalling and turning, in that order, to enable you to make educated judgements when either or both of these aspects is necessitated during driving.

”

4.5.1 Signalling

Signalling with the directional indicators is a pre-requisite for safe turning manoeuvres, whether into another roadway, a parking lot or another traffic lane, or when leaving a parked position. Signalling also includes using the brake lights to indicate slowing down or stopping.

It is imperative that you signal with your directional indicators, especially when changing lanes, because other drivers expect you to keep to your lane until you have signalled your intention to move into another one. This gives them as well as pedestrians, cyclists and other road users time to react appropriately to your movements.

Article 60

A driver preparing to enter the road or from one part of the road onto its stream, or from a parking or lay-by at the side of the road, must not enter the road or its stream, except after ascertaining that this can be done without exposing others to danger, and shall always clearly announce his intention to do so, at the appropriate time, and by using the vehicle direction indicators or hand signals, and shall also observe the same when exiting the road or its stream to one of its sides, and this shall be done, under all circumstances, at a low speed.



Fig. 4.5.1 Hand Signal: Left Turn



Fig. 4.5.2 Hand Signal: I intend to stop



Fig. 4.5.3 Hand Signal: Slowing down

4.5.2 How to Signal Effectively

You must use your directional indicators before/as you:

- Change lanes or move your vehicle to the right or left
- Turn at an intersection, or into a driveway or parking lot
- Move away from a parked location
- Pull over to the kerb or the side of the road
- Slow down or stop your vehicle suddenly (hazard signal)
- Reverse your vehicle (reverse indicator which automatically switches on when you move to the reverse gear)

Article 61

The driver of the vehicle may not drive in reverse except when necessary, and on condition that he shall not obstruct the traffic, after giving the appropriate signal. Prior to doing so, he shall ascertain that the road is clear, that he shall not expose others to danger, and that reverse driving shall not exceed the necessary distance. When required, he shall seek the assistance of someone to direct him.

4.5.3 Turning

Turning at a corner or U-turn may seem to be a simple manoeuvre, but neglect of certain important factors when executing the same could produce dire results, possibly a serious accident.

tips

- Signalling does not give you the right of way.
- To indicate a stop, pump your brakes gently a few times to activate/deactivate the brake lights in order to alert other drivers to your intention to halt.
- Use your directional indicators only when you plan to turn or change lanes.
- Signal even when you do not see other vehicles around. A vehicle just might be in your blind spot.

As you will see in this module, making a left turn is more complex than making a right turn, although some considerations are common to both.

Article 10(4)
While on the road, each driver shall take the necessary precautions before he turns onto a side road, a curve, a crossroad or an intersection. He shall give the necessary signal to change course,

tip

If you reach an intersection where you wish to make a right or left turn and are not in the proper lane, you should drive to the next intersection from where you can make the turn from the proper lane.

and make sure that he can turn without endangering other users of the road.

Article 10(8)
The driver shall slow down, or stop if necessary, to enable the passage of a vehicle in front of him which is signalling to turn right or left.

Article 10(14)
The driver shall use the proper turn signal on the vehicle for turning left or right.

Article 59(4)
The driver shall get as close as possible to the right edge of the road stream, if he is turning onto another road at his right and as close as possible to the axis of the dual direction road, if he intends to turn onto another road at his left. However, on one-way roads, he shall keep to the far left thereof.

4.5.4 MSPSL Routine

Whenever changing the direction or position of your car, or if you intend to change speed or to stop,

then you should always use the MSPSL routine. This will allow you to be safe at all times and let other drivers know your intentions.

Refer page 115 to know more on the MSPSL routine

4.5.5 Making a Right Turn at an Intersection

1. Decide to make the turn well before you reach the intersection
2. Follow the MSPSL routine
3. If you are not in the proper lane to make the turn, you must safely move into the correct lane using the MSPSL routine.
4. Check for traffic, pedestrians and other actual or potential hazards* at or near the intersection
5. Slow down (and shift to a lower gear if your vehicle has a manual transmission)
6. If there are no potential hazards, complete the right turn into the first available driving lane

* See page 84 for definition of 'Hazard'

4.5.6 Making a Left Turn at an Intersection (T-Junction)

While similar to right turns to a large degree, left turns are the more complex of the two turns because you have to cross traffic approaching from at least two

MSPSL Routine

Whenever changing the direction or position of your car, or if you intend to change speed or to stop, then you should always use the MSPSL routine. This will allow you to be safe at all times and let other drivers know your intentions.

1. **M-Mirrors:** Always make your observations early, and check your mirrors fully to see who may be approaching from behind or in a parallel lane. Check your centre mirror first, and then your side mirrors;

3. **P-Position:** Position your vehicle onto the correct lane, continuing to reduce your speed, taking into consideration the remaining distance to be covered and also the traffic behind you;

5. **L-Look:** Keep constant observation at all times, particularly regarding the nature of your intended action – check your centre mirror; will you need to check your side mirrors? Look at what is in front of you and in any other joining or intersecting road. Beware of cyclists, pedestrians and all other road users.



2. **S-Signals:** Following your mirror checks and if found safe, immediately turn on your signal for the direction you are going, then brake progressively, and by doing so your brake lights will indicate that you are slowing;

4. **S-Speed:** Whilst continuing to brake, choose the correct road and engine speed to shift your gears down, (for manual transmission cars.) thereby further keeping proper control of your vehicle;

directions. Your attentiveness to this traffic is imperative, and you must take the left-most lane available while safely commencing the turn. Prior to this you must apply the MSPSL routine on approach. Complete the left turn into the right most driving lane.

4.5.7 The 6 Do's and Don'ts of Making a Perfect Turn

4.5.8 Making a U-turn

definition

A U-turn is a turn on the dual carriageway that facilitates transiting to the other side of the dual carriageway which you are travelling presently.

You may not make a U-turn:

- Wherever U-turns are prohibited by official signs or markings
- At or near a curve or the crest of a hill where the view is not clear
- At an emergency crossover that is reserved for the use of

The Do's

- 1 Decide well in advance to make a turn and much before you get to the turning point
- 2 Before changing lanes, using the mirrors, scan the traffic around you to see where other vehicles are located and signal appropriately. Always also use your mirrors.
- 3 Reduce your speed before you reach the Stop or Give Way sign or pedestrian crossing
- 4 Turn only if permitted to do so
- 5 Always make the turn staying in the correct lane
The choice of lane you have to use for making a turn will depend on whether you are making a right or left turn
- 6 Finish your turn in the proper lane
Use the lane markings (white lines, painted islands) to correctly position your vehicle once you have made the turn

...and the Don'ts

- 1 Do not make 'sudden' or 'last minute' turns
- 2 Do not indulge in lane 'surfing' or making sudden lane changes without all round observation including your mirrors
- 3 Do not make 'rolling stops' when you are required by the traffic signs or road markings to stop completely, or if the traffic is not clear
- 4 Do not turn at places where there are signs prohibiting such turns
- 5 Do not turn from the wrong lane
- 6 Do not cut corners, swing wide or straddle lanes during and after the turn

police, emergency
vehicles and
highway
maintenance
crews only



tips

- In the UAE, most major intersections have a slip lane for vehicles that have to turn right; but be wary of pedestrians crossing at this point.
- Do not try to overtake a vehicle that has stopped before the pedestrian crossing -- a pedestrian you cannot see may be trying to cross the road.
- If a vehicle is parked in the lane closest to the right edge of the road, near the intersection, you should move into this lane ahead of the parked vehicle at the first opportunity before you execute the turn. Do not make a right turn from the main driving lane.
- On completion of the right turn, if you see a vehicle parked immediately around the corner, move into the first available lane to the left of the parked vehicle, after doing the indicator, mirror check and over-the-shoulder check routine.

General instructions to be followed before you make a U-Turn:

- Switch on your left signal from an appropriate distance before the turn to indicate to the following traffic your intention to make a U-turn.
- Move into the turning lane at the earliest opportunity.
- On reaching the mouth of the U-turn, position your vehicle appropriately and stop well before the Stop line so as to ensure that your vehicle does not protrude into the path of the oncoming traffic. Do not make rolling stops.
- Check for oncoming traffic. If your line of vision is blocked by an object or due to the curvature of the road, you can edge your vehicle a little further till you get a proper view of approaching traffic.
- If the traffic is clear and it is safe enough, make the turn into the appropriate lane. The choice of lane into which you will turn largely depends on the pattern of the road and the type of U-turn, that is, whether it is a
 1. Closed U-Turn, or an
 2. Open U-Turn, or a
 3. Intersection
- Once you have completed your turning manoeuvre, use your mirrors to scan for traffic

behind and alongside you, as the traffic situation may have altered during the time you made the turn.

- Gradually pick up speed and move ahead.

tip

Try to avoid making a U-Turn into the extreme left lane, as you would substantially lose both speed and steering control when making an acute turning manoeuvre. Thus, you become an actual hazard for oncoming traffic, which could result in an accident. Proper lane discipline must be observed when making U-turns as this is an important driving manoeuvre and is prone to risks.

Closed U-turn

(Where there is no perpendicular road opposite the U-turn)

- On reaching the mouth of the U-turn, position your vehicle on the extreme right and stop well before the Stop line.
- If the traffic is clear and it is safe enough, make a well-curved turn into the right-most lane. Try as much as possible to avoid turning into the centre lane. This is to prevent a collision with another vehicle/motorcycle you

may not have noticed taking a U-turn alongside your vehicle. Here, there is an increased chance of the other vehicle also turning into the centre lane.

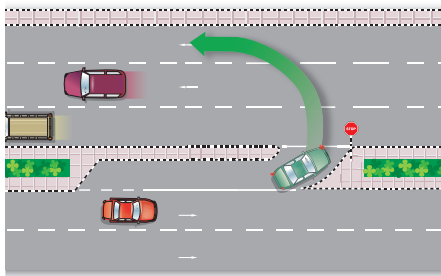


Fig. 4.5.4 Taking a U-turn onto a 3-lane road

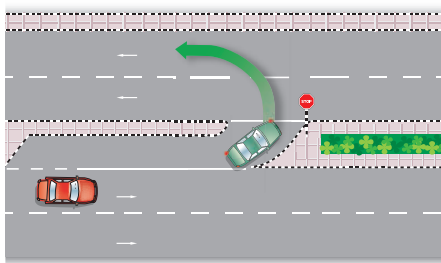


Fig. 4.5.5 Taking a U-turn onto a 2-lane road

Open U-turn

(Where there is a perpendicular road opposite the U-turn)

- On reaching the mouth of the U-Turn, position your vehicle on the left and stop well before the Stop line.
- If the traffic is clear and it is safe enough, make a well-curved turn into the last-but-one lane.

Try as much to avoid turning into the last lane, as this lane will be used by vehicles turning from the side road onto the main road.

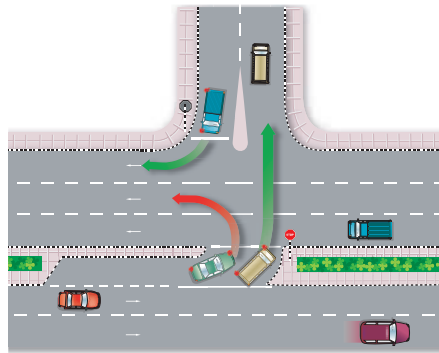


Fig. 4.5.6 Taking a U-turn onto a 3-lane road

Where you intend to make a U-Turn and a vehicle from the side road facing you is about to enter the main road, the vehicle on the side road has the right-of-way over you. However, it is advisable to maintain eye-contact with

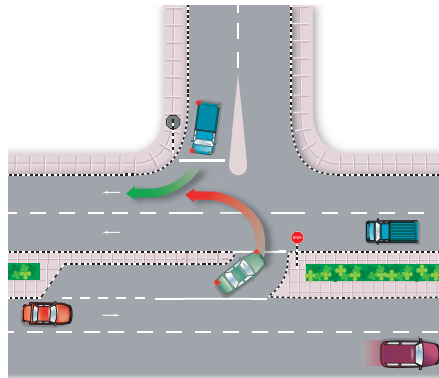


Fig. 4.5.7 Taking a U-turn onto a 2-lane road

the other driver to anticipate his movements. If the vehicle on the side road has already commenced the turning manoeuvre, allow him to complete his manoeuvre before you begin yours.

tip

However, with practice you may take a U-turn into the left lane while giving the right-of-way to vehicles on the opposite road to take the right lane. This should be done only after ensuring that traffic from your right is clear and safe.

U-turn at an intersection

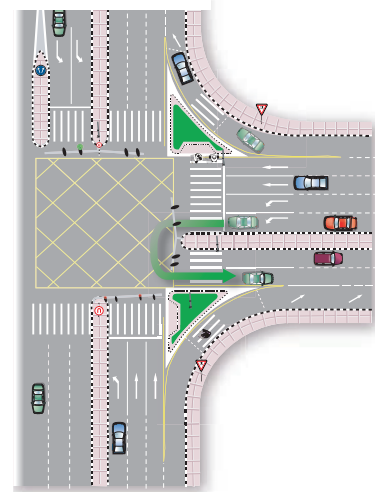


Fig. 4.5.8 Making a U-turn at an intersection



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module 4.6

Rules of the Road Parking



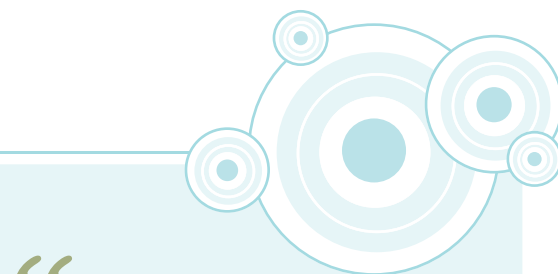
Objective

In this module you will learn:

- About the different types of parking
- What the UAE Traffic Law says about parking
- About the various parking offences and related fines and black points
- How to parallel park and pull out from a parallel parked position
- How to perform a 60° / 90° angle parking manoeuvre and pull out from an angle-parked position
- How to park your vehicle on inclines / hills and in an emergency
- Where not to park your vehicle

Contents

- 4.6.1 Types of Parking
- 4.6.2 Parallel Parking
- 4.6.3 Pulling Out from a Parallel-parked Position
- 4.6.4 Angle Parking
- 4.6.5 Pulling Out from an Angle-parked Position
- 4.6.6 Hill Incline Parking
- 4.6.7 Road Side Stop / Emergency Parking
- 4.6.8 No Parking
- 4.6.9 Parking Privileges for the Disabled



“

Parking a vehicle requires good control, accurate judgement of distance and a good understanding of steering control. Most drivers are known to fumble when it comes to parking their vehicle, especially when reversing their vehicle into a parking bay. Parking woes are also accentuated when there are no clearly marked parking bays.

Despite the presence of strict laws and clear traffic signs, drivers are seen to park their vehicles at places where they are prohibited from doing so. A common occurrence is that of unauthorised parking in 'handicapped' parking bays. As a person licensed to drive in the UAE, you also owe it to the community to park your vehicle at places only where it is permitted, and in the correct manner. Remember, the way you park your vehicle displays not merely your driving skills, but also your mental disposition.

”

4.6.1 Types of Parking

There are several types of parking, depending on the parking spaces available at various locations. These include

1. Parallel Parking
2. Angle Parking and
3. Hill Parking

Before we proceed with the above types of parking, you need to be aware of the UAE Traffic laws related to parking.

The driver of a motor vehicle will take care:

Article 5 (4)

Not to park a motor car in places where parking is forbidden, and if his stopping on the road becomes an inevitable necessity, he must keep to the right side of the road, and keep away from road intersections, road crossings, slopes and turns.

Article 7

Not to use roads in a way that causes obstruction of the flow of traffic, persons and animals.

Article 42

Not to park a motor vehicle or any part thereof, or any mechanical equipment for the purpose of repair unless the repair of the vehicle is carried out in a short time and does not cause disruption of traffic.

Further,

Article 3

No vehicle may be parked on the road unless its driver is compelled to do so. However, he shall take all the necessary precautions to prevent accidents, which could occur as a result of the vehicle being left there, provided that this will not result in obstructing traffic.

Fine

Dhs.
500

Not doing the necessary for the safety of the traffic movement when the vehicle is out of order.

Vehicles must be parked to the right side of the road, away from exits, junctions, intersections, roundabouts, gradients and curves.

Fine

Dhs.
1000

Stopping vehicle on the left side of the road in prohibited places.

Warning lights must be turned on if the vehicle is not parked off the road or off same during the period between sunset and sunrise, as required in order to warn others of its presence. Furthermore, all necessary arrangements should be taken to ensure the safety of traffic along the road, and the driver

should not leave its engine running, and must make certain it cannot be moved in his absence.

Fine

Dhs.
500

Leaving a vehicle on the road with the engine running.

Article 64

The driver of a vehicle parked on a road not equipped with public lighting or when visibility is low, shall announce the presence of his vehicle, by switching on the indicator lights or using the reflective triangle.

The following are some of the parking related traffic offences and their corresponding Black Points:

1. Parking the vehicle in front of fire hydrants, and at locations reserved for parking of handicapped or emergency vehicle ●●●●●●
2. Parking a car in a manner causing danger to pedestrians ●●●●●●
3. Parking vehicles on pavement. ●●●●●●
4. Misuse of parking lots ●●●●●●
5. Parking the car behind other vehicles, thus impeding their movement - Fine Dhs 500
6. Parking a vehicle on the left

side of the road at prohibited locations - Fine Dhs. 1000/-

7. Parking in prohibited places.



8. Not securing vehicle while parked - Fine Dhs. 500/-

9. Violating loading or unloading regulations in parking.



10. Parking in loading and offloading areas without need.
Fine Dhs. 200/-

4.6.2 Parallel Parking

Parallel parking means parking vehicles in a line, front to rear next to the pavement / footpath. Parallel parking is normally done in the direction of the traffic, that is on your right hand side. This is done to make it easy for the driver to join the road while exiting the parking. This type of parking may seem slightly difficult at first, but with enough practice, just about anyone can master it.

1. Most parallel parking spaces or parking bays are clearly marked on the road surface to fit only one vehicle. In places where a parking space is not marked, you must first choose a parking space that your vehicle could possibly fit into. To do this,

- a. Stop your car (shown as A in Fig 4.6.1) adjacent to the available space.
- b. Check whether you have enough of a gap to come out of the parked position and at the same time without obstructing the movement of vehicles B and C. Ideally, the space required for parking your car may be about one-and-a-half times the length of your car.

2. Always slow down well ahead of the parking space and switch on your right indicator, so that other drivers are aware of your intention to park. Position your vehicle A parallel to vehicle B with your rear bumper aligned to at least half its length. Shift to reverse, making sure that no other vehicle is behind you before you start to park.

3. Start reversing slowly. As soon as you can see vehicle B's tailgate in your rear side outer window start turning your steering completely to the

tip

When you get the first view of vehicle B's rear on your right hand rear quarter glass, start turning your steering completely to the right. Continue reversing slowly at the same time.

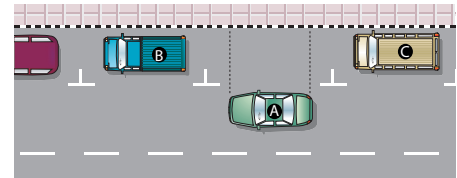


Fig 4.6.1

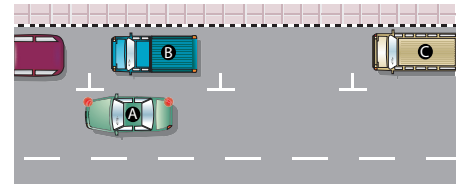


Fig 4.6.2

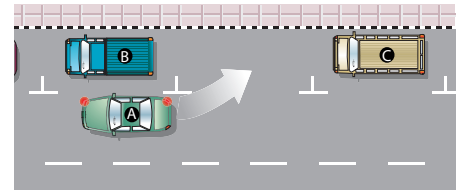


Fig 4.6.3

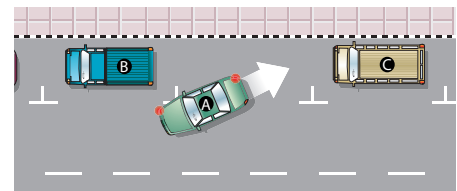


Fig 4.6.4

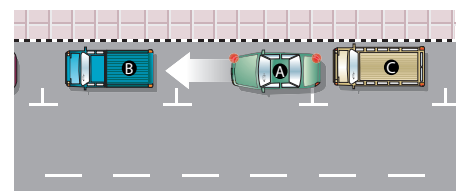


Fig 4.6.5

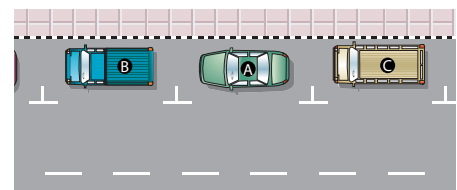


Fig 4.6.6

right. At the same time, keep moving your car towards the pavement until you reach a 45° angle. See figure 4.6.3

4. When vehicle B's rearmost portion gets aligned with your right side windscreen corner, turn your steering completely towards the left, at the same time reversing steadily till the car straightens in the parking bay.
5. Take care not to go too close or collide with vehicle C. Depending on the situation, you may slowly move your car ahead to keep a safe distance between your vehicle and vehicles B and C. Make observations for pedestrians.
6. When the vehicle has been properly parked, set the hand brake and engage the gear. If the vehicle is parked on a downward slope engage the Reverse gear and if it is parked on a flat or upward slope, engage the 1st gear. However, if you drive an automatic transmission vehicle, move the gear selector to Park.

remember

Before releasing the clutch ensure your engine is switched off.

Ensure that there is enough space between both vehicles at your front and rear so either can be driven out easily. Before opening the doors to step out of the vehicle, make sure the way is clear of other vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists etc.

tip

Position your vehicle well within the bay in such a way that, when you open your left door, you will not obstruct the movement of traffic in the adjacent lane.

4.6.3 Pulling out from a Parallel Parked Position

Here is a to-do list before you drive out of a parallel parking space.

1. Check whether there is enough space ahead of you to steer the vehicle out of the parked position.
2. If the space ahead of you is insufficient to turn the vehicle out of the parked position, you may reverse slowly, checking the rear for pedestrians moving behind your vehicle.
3. Take care not to reverse too hastily as you may collide with the vehicle behind you.
4. Once you have sufficient space

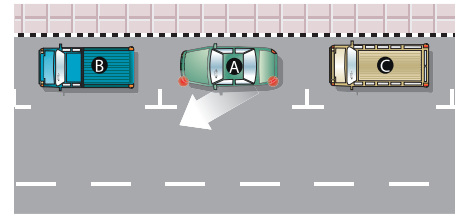


Fig 4.6.7

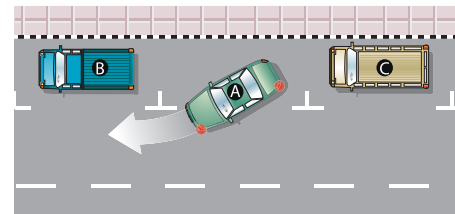


Fig 4.6.8

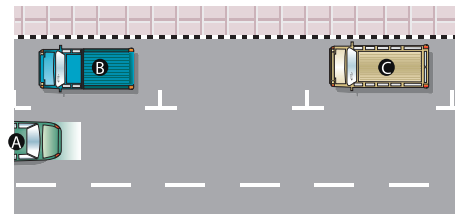


Fig 4.6.9

to steer the vehicle out, do a mirror and over-the-shoulder check for oncoming traffic, pedestrians and bicycles, and turn on your left indicator. (see fig 4.6.7)

5. Gradually steer out of the parked position (see fig 4.6.8) onto the traffic lane and drive away (see fig 4.6.9)

4.6.4 Angle Parking

Most angle parking bays are at 90° or around 60° to the road.

tips

It is better to reverse into the 90° parking space as your windows are clear, and more importantly, you will have an excellent view when you drive out.

For a 60° parking space, it is advisable to drive in straight.

Angle parking into a 90° parking bay

1. As you approach the 90° degree parking bays, turn on your right indicator and slow down when you have identified an empty parking bay (shown in fig 4.6.10)
2. (see fig 4.6.10) Keep moving slowly till you have crossed at least half of the adjacent parking bay – where vehicle B has been parked. Maintain a safe distance from the rear of vehicle B.
3. (see fig 4.6.11) Before you start reversing, watch out for traffic approaching from behind in your lane, as well as the adjacent lane (as the front portion of your vehicle will enter the adjacent lane while reversing - see fig). Also observe whether there are pedestrians and potential

dangers behind you. Start reversing slowly but steering completely to the right, and into the middle of the vacant space.

4. (see fig 4.6.12) At the centre of the parking space, straighten your wheels and slowly move back. Be careful to observe that you are not too close to the parked vehicles on either side. Keep moving for a sufficient distance without allowing the rear wheel to make contact with the kerb.

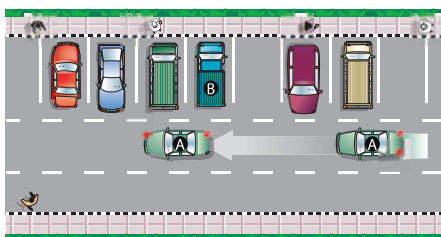


Fig 4.6.10

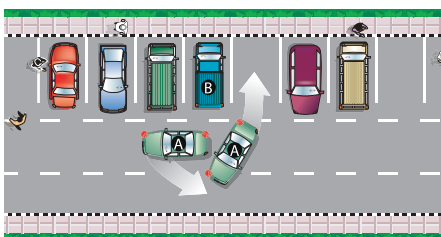


Fig 4.6.11

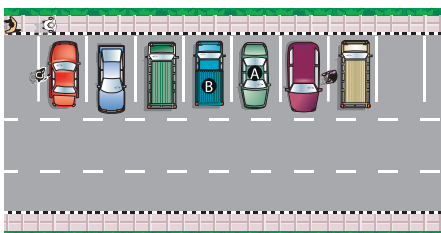


Fig 4.6.12

Angle parking into a 60° parking bay

1. (See fig 4.6.13) As you approach the parking bay, switch on your right indicator and slow down gradually. Driving parallel to the kerb, remain at a safe distance from the rear of the vehicles already parked.

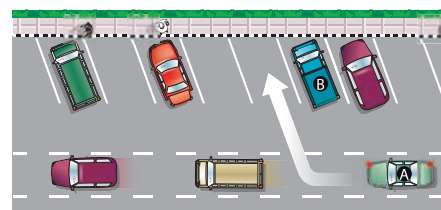


Fig 4.6.13

2. (See fig 4.6.14) When you can see down the left hand side of vehicle B, steer to the right into the centre of the vacant space at a slow speed.

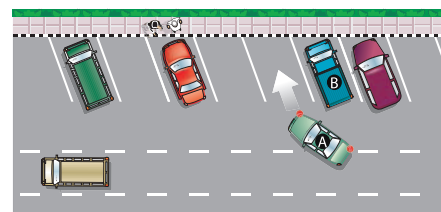


Fig 4.6.14

3. (See fig 4.6.15) As you approach the middle of the parking bay, straighten your wheels and continue to move forward slowly. Ensure that your vehicle is not too close to the vehicles parked on either side of your vehicle.

Keep moving for a sufficient distance without allowing the front wheel to make contact with the kerb.

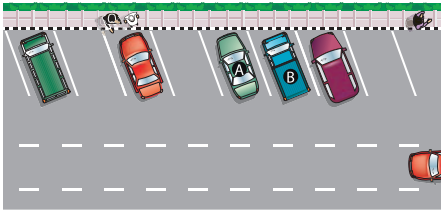


Fig 4.6.15

4.6.5 Pulling out from angle-parked position

Pulling out of a 90° parking bay

1. This is a simple procedure, as you had earlier reverse-parked your vehicle and all you have to do now is to merely drive your car out. However, you have to keep a close watch for traffic approaching from your left which may be hidden from your sight by a larger vehicle parked on your left.
2. If your view of the approaching traffic is not clear, turn on your right indicator and move forward very slowly till you have a clear view of both sides of the road, including vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians.
3. (See fig 4.6.16) If found safe, turn the steering wheel

smoothly but quickly to the right and continue moving onto the road. Straighten your wheels when your vehicle is parallel to the kerb and then drive ahead in the appropriate lane.

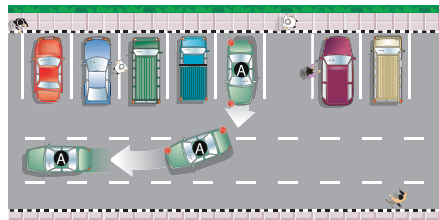


Fig 4.6.16

Pulling out of a 60° parking space.

1. Follow all normal reversing precautions and procedures. This is a simple manoeuvre but could be dangerous because it is difficult to see traffic as you back out of the space. **You do not have the right-of-way as you back out.** Look very carefully behind your vehicle.
2. Reverse slowly and be prepared to stop if necessary. (If the vehicle beside you is longer than yours, stop when the rear of your vehicle is in line with the rear of the longer vehicle. Continue reversing straight until you can see past the parked vehicle to your right.)

Continue reversing until your

front bumper clears the rear of the vehicle on your left. When safe turn the steering wheel sharply and quickly to the right and continue reversing. Stop when your vehicle is parallel to the kerb. After safety checks and full observation, drive ahead in the appropriate lane. Watch out for other vehicles reversing from the angle parking bay in front of you.

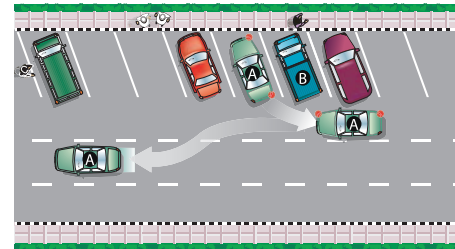


Fig 4.6.17

4.6.6 Hill / Incline Parking

When you park headed uphill, as in fig 4.6.18 (b), turn your front wheels away from the kerb and let your vehicle roll back a few inches until the rear of one front wheel gently touches the kerb. Then set the parking brake.

For either uphill or downhill parking, if there is no kerb, turn the wheels against the road so the car will roll away from the road if the brakes fail.

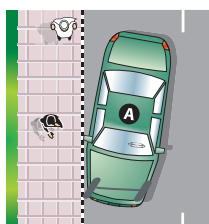


Fig 4.6.18 (a)
Downhill parking
with kerb

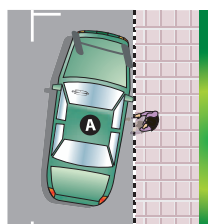


Fig 4.6.18 (b)
Uphill parking
with kerb

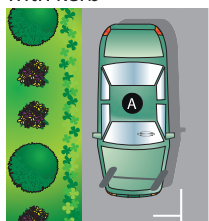


Fig 4.6.19 (a)
Downhill parking
without kerb

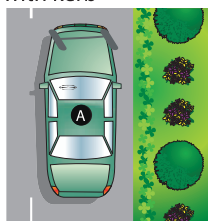


Fig 4.6.19 (a)
Uphill parking
without kerb

tip

Always set your parking brake. Leave the vehicle in gear. Use the parking position marked 'P' if your vehicle has an automatic transmission.

4.6.7 Road Side Stop / Emergency Parking

When you need to pull your vehicle over by the side of the road for a short time or in case of any emergencies, follow the given steps:

1. Whenever you pull over during any emergency, ensure it is in the direction of the traffic, not against it.

2. Whenever you decide to pull over, signal to drivers behind of your intention to do so using your hand signals or indicators. If you are moving from the middle lane to the right hand lane to pull over, ensure that you check your mirrors and blind spot for any traffic. Once assured that there is no traffic, steer onto the side of the road close to the pavement or side of the road. If you are exiting the vehicle, check for vehicles coming from behind, including your blind spot, before leaving the vehicle safely.

3. Before leaving the vehicle, if your vehicle has an automatic transmission, put the gear selector in 'Park' and engage the hand brake. If your vehicle has a manual transmission, engage the hand brake and shift into neutral if not turning off the engine, or shift into first gear or reverse gear if turning off the engine.

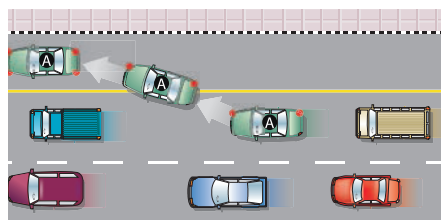


Fig 4.6.20

4. Turn on your four-way emergency flashers.

When pulling out from a roadside stop, turn off your flashers, release the parking brake and move the gear selector to 'Drive', or shift into first gear. Check your mirrors and if safe, signal. Check your blind spot and then making sure your way is clear, drive back onto the road.

4.6.8 No Parking

Never park or leave your vehicle where it will block traffic or create a hazard and inconvenience both to other drivers as well as pedestrians. For example:



Do not park where these signs appear

- On pedestrian crossings
- By kerbs painted yellow or where "No Parking" signs are posted
- Within approximately 15 feet of a fire hydrant
- Within 15 metres of an intersection

- On pavements

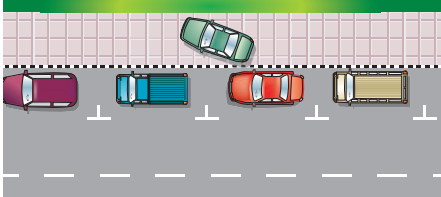


Fig 4.6.21

- At the entrance of an ambulance or fire station or a hospital.

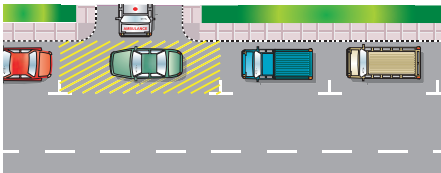


Fig 4.6.22

- On any bridge or overpass or in any tunnel
- Within 15 metres of any flashing signal, Stop Sign or traffic signal
- In such a way that you block or create a hazard for other vehicles

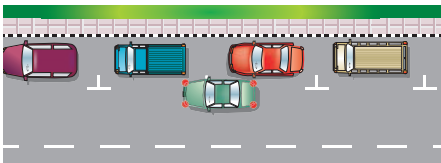


Fig 4.6.23

Special / Basic Parking Rules

- When you park alongside a kerb, the front and back wheels

must be parallel and within 1 to 1½ inches of the kerb. If there is no kerb, park parallel to the street.

tip

Parking too close to a high kerb could prevent sufficient wheel turning (steering) to pull away if space has been compromised by subsequent vehicles parking too close to the front or rear of your Vehicle.

- Never leave your car until you have stopped the engine and set the parking brake.
- Don't open your door on the traffic side unless it is safe and doesn't interfere with traffic.

4.6.9 Parking Privileges for the Disabled



This blue symbol marks parking spaces for disabled people. Disabled persons may apply for the special plates at the Dubai Police Traffic Department. These plates allow them to park in special areas. No one else may park there. Holders of disabled person plates may park for unlimited periods of time in parking spaces where a sign indicates a restricted time and also do not have to pay at the parking meter.

This blue symbol marks parking spaces for disabled people. Disabled persons may apply for the special

black points

4

Parking the vehicle at locations reserved for parking of handicapped vehicle.

Parking Lights

Parking lights must be used at night on any vehicle parked on a roadway. Indicators must not be used on a parked or disabled vehicle. Use your emergency flashers. Driving with parking lights only (in place of headlights) is against the law.

Parking Control Signs / Meters

Parking signs tell you whether or not you can park, for how long, during which hours, and if you have to pay. Some parking signs provide more details than others.

Meter Parking

A parking meter for the parking area nearby means you must purchase a ticket. Follow the instructions on the meter. Once purchased, the ticket must be displayed visibly on your dashboard for the parking inspector to see.



Review questions for this chapter: Page 156

Driving in fog or a sandstorm

It is advisable to avoid driving in fog or a sandstorm unless under compelling circumstances. When visibility is poor, reduce your speed and increase the 'stopping distance' from the vehicle ahead of you.

Switch on your headlights, but keep at low beam so as to decrease the glare caused from the reflection

of your headlights on the thick fog blanket. Do not drive with your hazard lights on during thick fog as the blinking orange lights are more likely to confuse drivers of vehicles following you. This happens especially when you intend to make a turn. When you switch on your directional indicators while your hazard lights are already switched

on, your intention to turn will not be clearly communicated to the other road users thereby creating an accident.

If it becomes impossible to see through the fog, pull your vehicle off the road, park and switch on your hazard lights. Wait until weather conditions improve.



module 5.1

Rules of the Road

Heavy Vehicles



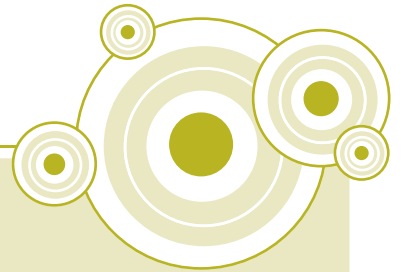
Objective

In this module you will learn to:

- Prepare effectively for trips, especially long-haul journeys
- Brake, turn, park and reverse safely
- Drive your heavy vehicle effectively, while watching out for commonly encountered perils
- Share the road with drivers of other vehicles

Contents

- 5.1.1 Inspecting Your Vehicle
- 5.1.2 Effective Driving
- 5.1.3 Sharing the Road
- 5.1.4 Other Considerations



“

If you are the driver of a large and heavy vehicle such as a truck, tractor or trailer, you will doubtless understand that the differences between your vehicle and a light vehicle are great. While many of the basic driving principles are similar to those governing light vehicles, manoeuvring and controlling a heavy vehicle vary in many respects.

It is also important to keep your vehicle in good working condition at all times. Be patient with other drivers on the road, and always drive defensively so as to protect yourself, your vehicle and the goods you are carrying, if any.

This chapter lists the most important recommendations with regard to driving a heavy vehicle, and as such, must be duly understood and implemented by all heavy vehicle drivers.

”

5.1.1 Inspecting Your Vehicle

1. The walk-around check

Refer to Fig 5.1.1 for the proper 'route' to take when performing the walk-around check. Inspect the vehicle for damage to the lights, bumpers and fenders. **Ensure that the tyres are not worn out, that they are properly inflated, and that the wheel lug nuts are secure. If your vehicle has two sets of tyres, make sure that there is no object lodged in between them.** Look under the truck for signs of fluid leaks.

Consult the owner's manual of your vehicle before performing all checks, and take special note of the recommended checks.

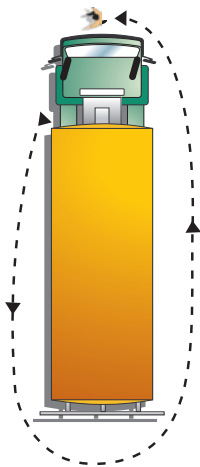


Fig 5.1.1

2. Under the hood

Check the radiator and other hoses for leaks, the coolant levels, the fan for bent blades, and belts for

tension, slack, and signs of wear and tear. Check the oil and levels of other fluids as well, and the battery for electrolyte levels, cracks and corrosion.

3. In the driver's cabin

Inspect the operation of all the pedals, the horn, the lights, your seat adjustments and your seat belts. Adjust your rear-view mirrors for optimum visibility.

4. With the engine running

The engine should be running smoothly, and the hand throttle, choke and accelerator pedal should all be in good working order. Also check the windshield wipers and instrument panels. It is extremely important to know the transmission shift patterns of your vehicle, so study this thoroughly before you begin your trip.

5. Equipment

Carry fire extinguishers, a first aid kit, essential spare parts, a toolbox, and your vehicle registration and other documents that may be necessary.

Driver Fitness: In order to be capable of driving a tractor or trailer truck ensure that the driver is fit and in good health to drive the vehicle

Rest inspections

During long haul trips, it is a good

idea to take regular breaks to refresh yourself and also to perform routine checks on your vehicle. Wherever you decide to stop, make sure you can get your vehicle entirely off the road, and ensure, as much as possible, that you are able to drive into and out of the rest stop without reversing the vehicle.

Once you alight from the vehicle, check the lights, wheels and tyres, and look for broken or loose items. If you are carrying cargo, ensure

Fine

Dhs.
3000

Not covering loads of trucks.

tip

Do not stop a heavy vehicle at the bottom of a hill or on an uphill slope, because gaining momentum from a stationary position is difficult at these spots.

that it is secure.

5.1.2 Effective driving

Braking

a) Braking distance

When you are driving a heavy vehicle, you will realise that, because of its weight, braking

to a complete halt takes more time. There are a few factors that influence the braking distance of your vehicle:

- 1) **Your brakes' condition:** If the brakes are not properly aligned or maintained, your vehicle will take a longer time to stop.
- 2) **Traction:** This depends on the condition of the road, the condition of your tyres and the weight of your vehicle and its cargo combined. The more the traction, the shorter the braking distance.
- 3) **Weight:** The more the weight of your unit, the longer it will take to stop. Double the

weight of your unit, and you need twice as long for the unit to come to a complete halt. (fig. 5.1.2)

- 4) **Speed:** The faster you are travelling, the longer it will take you to stop after you have applied the brakes. Double your speed, and your unit will take four times longer to stop after the brakes have been applied. (fig. 5.1.2)

remember

If both the speed and weight are doubled, the amount of time required to make the vehicle stop increases by about eight times. (fig. 5.1.2)

b) Braking time

There are a few factors that influence the amount of time required for your vehicle to stop:

c) Perception time

This is the amount of time you take to realise that you have to brake, and is usually about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a second. If you are not attentive, this time could extend longer, especially if you are mentally and physically fatigued or ill. Alcohol and other drugs also affect perception time adversely.

d) Driver reaction time

This is the time lapse between the decision to stop and actually

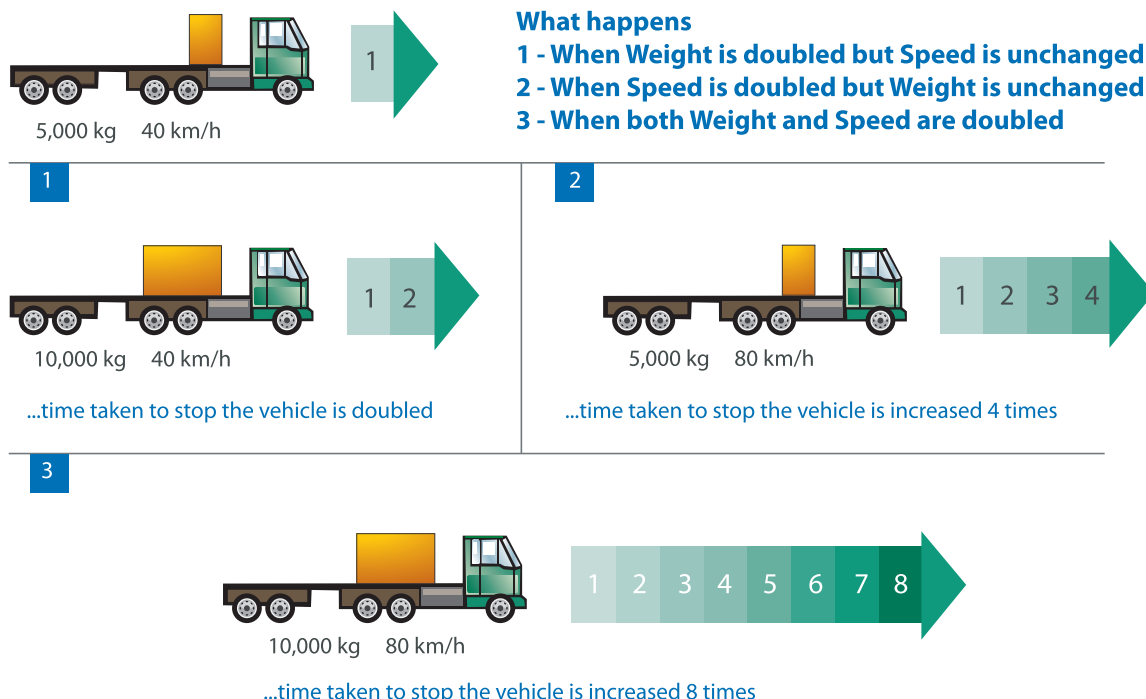


Fig 5.1.2 Stopping power is a factor of both weight and speed

depressing the brakes. Again, this is influenced by the factors mentioned above.

Lag time

This is the time lapse between when the brakes have been depressed and the system has actually responded. Air brakes do not respond immediately because compressed air takes time to flow through the system.

Braking time

This is the amount of time that the vehicle takes to stop after the brakes have been engaged, and it depends on service air pressure applied to the brake chamber, the condition of the brake lining and drums, and traction.

Other braking information

- Apply the brakes evenly, relieving pressure as the vehicle slows down, and just before the stop, release the brakes to alleviate the jerk-and-rebound effect.
- If you are carrying a cargo of pipes, timber etc. be careful when braking, as there is a possibility of the cargo crashing into your cabin.
- Finally, apply the brakes to hold the vehicle in its position when it has stopped completely.
- Do not apply and release the vehicle's air brakes in short intervals, especially on long

downhill slopes, as it wastes air pressure.

Off-tracking

definition

If your vehicle's rear axle cannot steer during a turning manoeuvre, the rear tyres will follow a path different from the steering tyres. This is called off-tracking

The two types of off-tracking are high speed off-tracking and low or moderate speed off-tracking.

The low speed kind is commonly seen in city driving, and can pose a great danger. During low and moderate speed turns, the rear tyres are drawn inwards of the steering path – the longer the wheelbase of the vehicle or the tighter the turn, the more the incidence of off-tracking.

At high speeds, because of centrifugal force, the rear tyres pull outward from the steering path. It follows that, when you are driving

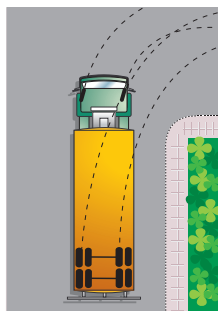


Fig 5.1.3

a large unit, you should maintain a moderate speed when entering curves on open highways.

Turning

Turning a heavy vehicle is more challenging than turning a light vehicle such as a passenger car. Apart from the general turning, lane changing and other rules covered earlier in this manual, you also need to keep in mind the off-tracking tendencies of your vehicle and the fact that it needs a wide turning radius.

remember

The path your rear wheels traverse while turning is shorter than that of the steering wheels, and you should consider this at every turn you make so as to avoid hitting another vehicle or stationary object.

Note the dangerous position of the motorcyclist in fig 5.1.4

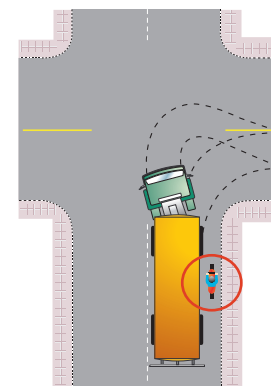


Fig 5.1.4

On narrow streets, you will need to drive well into the intersection (fig 5.1.4) before initiating the turn and might even need to cross the centre line of the street you are entering, or into the second traffic lane, provided that it is safe to do so.

As the driver of the vehicle, you must ensure that no other vehicles are on the inside path of your turn, as your vehicle could make contact with, and crush any vehicle in this position. (fig 5.1.4)

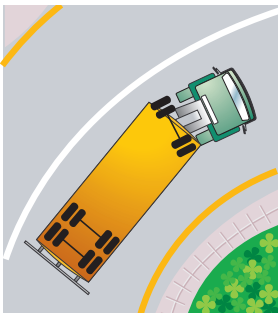


Fig 5.1.5

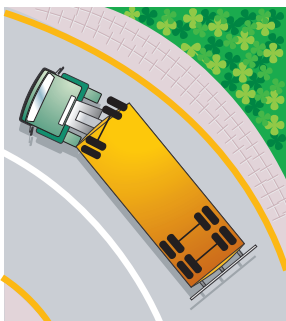


Fig 5.1.6

When making right turns, (fig 5.1.5) the front of the vehicle must be towards the centre of the road so that the back end doesn't mount the pavement. When turning left,

(fig 5.1.6) keep the front of the vehicle towards the outside of the curve so that the back end doesn't cut into the opposite lane of traffic.

When you are carrying inflammable or other liquids take care while turning, particularly on road embankments, where there is a chance of the liquid toppling the tanker.

Parking

After your vehicle is parked and the engine has been turned off, you must always engage the parking brake as well as the lowest forward gear or the reverse gear. If the vehicle has a two-speed axle, put the axle in low range when parked.

For particularly large vehicles, use wheel chocks or square blocks of a minimum of 15 cm x 15 cm.

Reversing

As much as possible, avoid circumstances where you have to reverse, and plan ahead to minimise or eliminate reversing manoeuvres. Remember that in a semi-trailer, you have to turn the steering wheel in the direction opposite to where

remember

Vacuum brakes may not hold when the engine is off because the vacuum pressure may leak, thereby releasing the brakes.

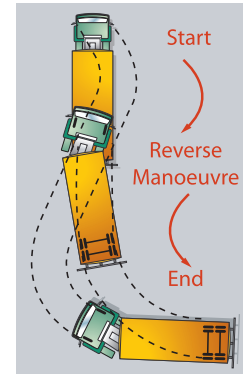


Fig 5.1.7

you want to go while reversing. The tractor (the towing part of the vehicle), must follow an S-shape in order to reverse the trailer smoothly. (fig 5.1.7)

Sound the horn to warn drivers of vehicles or pedestrians to move out of your back-up path (at every distance covered equal to the length of your vehicle) before you actually start reversing. Do not assume that the sound of the engine is enough of a warning. When you can, request someone outside the vehicle to guide you.

tip

When reversing a truck keep in mind at all times that you have a blind spot at the back that does not show up in the mirrors. If necessary, the driver should walk to the back of the truck to ensure that the area is clear. Also ensure that your vehicle's hazard lights are ON.

5.1.3 Sharing the road

Following distance

Following distance is subject to the condition of the road, your vehicle, the traffic, your physical and mental condition, and lighting and weather conditions. If any of these conditions is less than ideal, you must increase your following distance.

Heavy vehicles need more time and distance to stop. The ideal following distance for heavy vehicles is 4 seconds. In less than ideal conditions (refer Module 4.1 - Observing Lane Discipline) double the number of seconds and adjust your following distance.

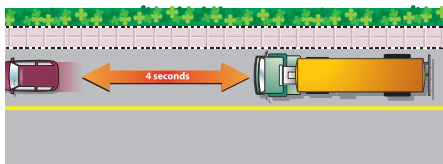


Fig 5.1.8

Traffic flow

While abiding by the speed limit, you must match your speed with the flow of traffic. If you drive faster than the flow, you could crash into vehicles ahead of you, and if you drive slower, the traffic behind could collide into your vehicle. When you are unable to keep pace with the traffic, it is advisable to stay in the right-most lane.

Tailgaters

Allow tailgaters to pass when you have a chance and watch for potential tailgaters approaching from behind, in your rear-view mirrors. A tailgater who is too close behind your vehicle may be in your blind spot, so always consider slowing down gradually to avoid sudden impact.

5.1.4 Other considerations

Inexperienced Truck drivers or those who have not adjusted entirely to weather or road conditions may experience jack-knifing where a semi-trailer could skid to an acute or right angle position and cause damage or block the road. In the worst case, even a roll-over could occur. (fig 5.1.9)

During break downs, especially on highways, park your vehicle on the right side of the road as soon as possible. Turn on your emergency hazard lights and place authorised warning devices in line with the

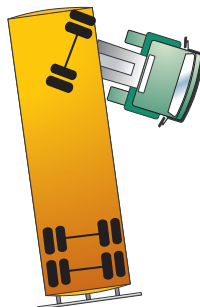


Fig 5.1.9: Jack-knifing

vehicle about 30 metres in front of and behind the vehicle, and during night time, increase this distance to about 75 metres in front and behind. The earlier you place the sign, the better in order to warn approaching traffic as soon as possible which is an important safety factor.

In urban areas, always drive on the routes and in the lanes designated for heavy vehicles and vehicles carrying dangerous cargo.

tip

Always pay special attention to traffic signs that are intended specifically for heavy vehicles.



Review questions for this chapter: Page 157

When driving in the rain

Rain and wet roads make it harder to start, stop, and turn. Hard rain, like fog (see page 128), can also reduce your visibility dramatically. Turn on your headlights whenever you are using your windshield wipers.

Here is a list of things-to-do when driving in the rain:

1. Increase your stopping distance
2. Keep within limits of what you can see ahead.
3. Ensure that your windshield wipers (and window defoggers) are in good condition.
4. Always use your directional indicators.
5. Avoid driving through puddles. Brakes do not normally work properly when wet. If you drive through a large puddle, keep applying your brakes lightly as soon as you can, to dry them until you feel them working normally again.



module 5.2

Rules of the Road Motorcycles



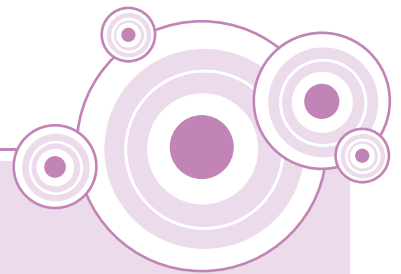
Objective

In this module you will learn to:

- Inspect your motorcycle thoroughly before trips
- Ride your motorcycle effectively and safely, while watching out for commonly encountered perils
- Ride in uncommon circumstances and dangerous road conditions
- Share the road with drivers of other vehicles

Contents

- 5.2.1 Inspecting Your Vehicle
- 5.2.2 Effective Driving
- 5.2.3 Sharing the Road
- 5.2.4 Other Considerations



“

With the thrill of riding a motorcycle comes the need for safety, and this is particularly true in a country like the UAE, where speeds on highways and main roads tend to be high. Although traffic rules for all types of vehicles are the same for the most part, there are still differences in how you use and share the road when you are riding a motorized two-wheeler.

Just as with any other vehicle, it is important to ensure that your motorcycle is in good working condition at all times. Be patient with other drivers on the road, and always drive defensively so as to protect yourself and your vehicle.

Essentially, this chapter aims to provide motorcyclists with general and specific information related to driving safely and effectively.

”

5.2.1 Inspecting your vehicle

When checking your motorcycle, especially before long trips, it is a must to inspect it thoroughly so as not to be faced with an inconvenient or dangerous situation while riding.

Cables

Worn, frayed, kinked or broken cables must be attended to, and should be well lubricated at all times. Check the clutch and brakes for proper cable adjustment. Both, the front and rear brakes must be applied one at a time to ensure they are working properly.

Fluid levels

Gas, water and oil levels must be reviewed periodically, as an engine seizure can lock your rear wheel and cause your bike to skid.

Handlebars and footrests

The handlebars and footrests must be positioned and secured correctly.

Horn

Check that the horn is working effectively and that it is not too weak or too loud. It should be capable of being heard from at least 60 metres away.

Lights

Check your headlights' high and low

beams, as well as your directional indicators and brake lights. The rear lamp should be working, and the licence plate should be illuminated.

Lubrication and adjustment

The owner's manual for your motorcycle will provide specific information on your bike's chain, drive belt or drive shaft, with recommendations for lubrication and adjustment. For motorcycles with drive shafts, oil levels must be checked regularly.

Nuts and bolts

Due to vibration, nuts, bolts and cotter pins might come loose, so it is necessary to tighten and secure them at regular intervals.

Mirrors

Mirrors should be clean, and must be adjusted so that you can see about half of the lane behind you and as much as possible of the lane beside you. Remember to never make these adjustments while moving, as it can be dangerous to do so.

Tyres

Check with an air pressure gauge that your tyres are properly inflated, and look for signs of wear and tear such as nicks, cuts and bulges, as well as worn-out tyre treads. Badly worn tyres are a hazard, and are more so in wet weather.

5.2.2 Effective Driving

Posture and position

When sitting on your motorcycle, sit far enough forward so that your arms are slightly bent when you hold the grips. To maintain your balance during turns, press your knees against the gas tank and look in the direction that you want to go, and not down at the road.

Properly place your feet on the footrests and angle them slightly upwards so that they do not get caught between the road and the footrests.

Safety Gear

Helmet and goggles

You should wear a helmet that has a visor or separate goggles. It should sit snugly enough so as not to slip forward or backward on your head, and should be fastened at the chin.



4

black points

Failure to wear a helmet while driving a motorcycle.

Clothing and gloves

Leather clothing is best for driving, but with the UAE's high temperatures, denim jackets and long pants are more practical. Gloves are also recommended, particularly the ones designed for motorcycle driving. Padded clothes made especially for motorcyclists are also available, and are a good idea when driving. It is advisable to wear bright colours such as red, orange or yellow for maximum visibility to other motorists.

Footwear

Shoes that fit loosely or ones that have laces might snag and get trapped in the motorcycle's controls. Heavy nylon boots are your best option, with soles of hard material and an emphasised tread pattern.

Braking and stopping

Most motorcycles have two brakes, the front and the rear brake, both of which have to be used together to stop the bike effectively.

Check the owner's manual to find out if your motorcycle's brakes have an integrated braking action or anti-lock brakes, and if it has either, refer to the instructions on how best to use them.

Braking tips

- Downshifting your gears also causes braking, so use this action to your advantage.

- Be very careful when braking at a turn, especially if there is a possibility of the front wheel skidding on oil or another substance or object. It is best to apply the brakes when you have fully straightened the bike.
- Do not lock your wheels by braking too hard when on slippery surfaces, or the motorcycle could skid.
- Shift to first gear when you have stopped so that you can move on at the first instance without having to change gears again.
- Do not ride with the brakes partially applied, especially since it could confuse other road users who might think that you want to stop.
- Check your mirrors often and leave a safe distance from the vehicle behind you so that when you brake, it does not collide into you.
- Avoid sudden braking on roads with loose stones and gravel, and on painted, metal or slippery surfaces. Roads are particularly dangerous during the first few minutes of rain.

Skids

Skids are caused when you turn too sharply, brake too hard or

accelerate too fast. Do not panic when your bike starts to skid. When your rear wheel skids slightly, you can correct it by steering in the direction of the skid and gently releasing the brake.

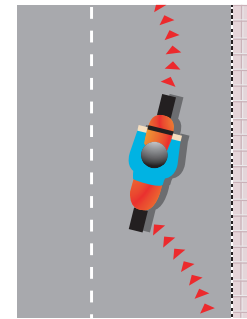


Fig 5.2.1

Turning and cornering

There are two ways to turn your motorcycle. The first involves turning the handlebars in the direction you want to go at speeds less than 20 kmph, while controlling your balance and the clutch and throttle effectively.

The second, called counter-steering, occurs when you turn a corner at speeds higher than 20 kmph. When you turn a corner at high speeds, centrifugal force pushes the motorcycle outwards, and to counter this effect, you must lean inwards, towards the curve. Do not go too fast into a curve, or you could lose your balance or crash into a pedestrian or vehicle, or go off the road altogether.

Use a light but firm grip on the handlebars during all turns, and

always lean in the direction of the turn, while decelerating and accelerating gradually. Do not slow down more than is necessary, and slowly straighten your motorcycle as the turn ends, with counter-steering again.

Changing lanes

Avoid unnecessary lane changes. When you do have to change lanes, check the traffic ahead, and use your mirrors to check the traffic behind. Execute a quick over-the-shoulder check, as mirrors have blind spots. Finally, indicate your intention to turn with the directional signal and make the lane change.

Parking

Dismount your bike from the left, and engage the centre stand or the side stand which is usually on the left. Park with the transmission in first gear and with the front wheel locked. Avoid parking on a hill or incline.

Driving at Night

At night, when visibility is low, driving your motorcycle becomes a bit more hazard-prone. During this time, you should keep to speeds that are lower than your daytime speeds, while also allowing a greater following distance. It is also advisable to signal earlier and brake sooner.

Bright clothes or clothes with reflectors help other road users see you more easily, and it is also essential to clean your bike's headlights and reflectors. Wear goggles, or a visor that allows proper visibility, one that is not scratched, chipped or cracked.

Passing

If someone indicates that they want to pass, let them do so, and do not speed up as they are passing. Instead, slow down to allow them the space to move back into your lane.

Remember never to pass at the crest of a hill, within an intersection, on curves or at any area where your view ahead is restricted or obstructed, as well as on the road's shoulder, and past a vehicle that has stopped for a pedestrian.

When you are passing, check your rear view mirror, execute the over-the-shoulder check, signal, look for oncoming traffic ahead, execute a

final over-the-shoulder check, and then start the passing manoeuvre. Once you have passed, make sure you can see the passed vehicle in your rear-view mirror, perform the over-the-shoulder check, signal, allow a sufficient space to separate your bike and the passed vehicle, and then move back into the original lane when it is safe.

Intersections

Most motorcycle collisions occur at intersections, mainly with oncoming vehicles executing a left turn in front of the motorcycle, and vehicles entering from a side street. (see fig. 5.2.3)

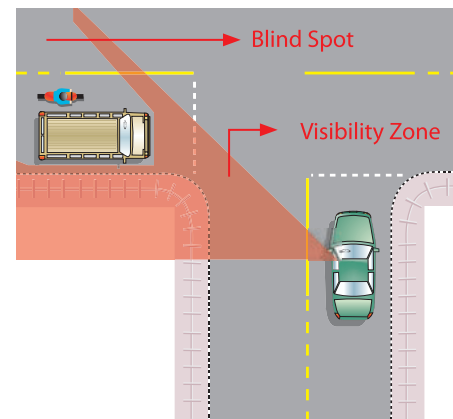


Fig 5.2.3

remember

It is never legal to exceed the speed limit when you are passing another vehicle. Avoid at all costs trying to pass by squeezing past cars in your lane.

To prepare for these hazards, always slow down when you approach an intersection of any sort in the road, and be prepared to stop. Be prepared to move to whichever side of the lane will give you the most room, while always checking for traffic from behind.

Riding with another passenger

Do not ride with a pillion rider behind until you are fully experienced with motorcycle riding. The added weight affects the way the motorcycle handles, turns, accelerates and slows down.

tip

Both you and your passenger are required by law to wear a helmet. It is advisable for motorcyclists to keep their headlights turned on even during day time, to alert drivers of other vehicles of their presence.

Maintain a greater following distance, brake more gradually, and ride at lower speeds on bumps, curves and corners.

Riding in poor weather

As far as possible, avoid riding in bad weather. Exercise extra caution when there is rain, hail, strong winds, dust or fog.

5.2.3 Sharing the road

Maintaining a safety cushion

Never stay beside other vehicles while riding as they may suddenly move into your lane and collide with you. Always keep your distance, because following or tailing someone closely could result in a crash if the driver in front decides to slow down without sufficient warning.

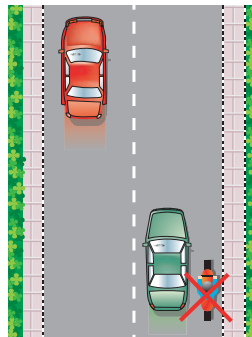


Fig 5.2.2

This way, you avoid stopping abruptly and being hit from behind, and it also gives you the time, distance and space to escape a crash.

Lane position

Change your lane position according to the changing traffic conditions. Keeping towards the left of the lane is best, as oil slicks form in the centre of the lane from the drippings of other vehicles.

Besides, you can also see oncoming vehicles more easily, and they can see you easily as well. You will also see better into, and be easily seen from, road junctions on the right.

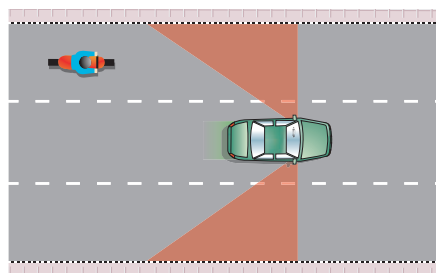


Fig 5.2.4 Keeping away from the blind spot of another vehicle

However, there are times when riding in the centre or right of the lane are safer options, so discretion is advised.

5.2.4 Other considerations

Anticipate dangerous situations well in advance by being attentive and cautious, and always maintain a safe distance from the vehicles in front and behind.

Be especially aware of children playing next to the street and prepare your course of action, should one run onto the street in front of you. If you spot loose gravel, an oil slick or other hazards ahead, prepare to slow down or stop while duly considering the traffic following you.

Refer to the owner's manual of the motorcycle to learn how to deal with blowouts, punctures, stuck throttles and other mechanical hazards.

tips

Drive in a position that does not allow other vehicles to take up the space beside you.

When riding behind another vehicle, stay out of its blind spot and well behind the vehicle.



Review questions for this chapter: Page 157

module 6

Owning a Vehicle



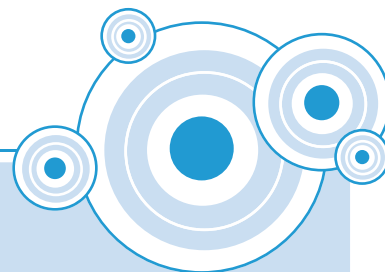
Objective

In this module you will learn:

The rules and regulations regarding registering and insuring a motor vehicle

Contents

- 6.1 Application for Registration of a Motor Vehicle
- 6.2 Documents to be Submitted Along with the Application
- 6.3 The Motor Vehicle Technical Inspection
- 6.4 Validity and Renewal of Registration
- 6.5 Transfer of Ownership
- 6.6 Other Related Registration Issues
- 6.7 Motor Vehicle Insurance



“

As a vehicle owner in the UAE, you should abide by the country's laws and should endeavour to keep your vehicle registered and insured at all times. This will enable you to claim your rights and privileges should your vehicle meet with an accident.

This module has been drawn verbatim from the relevant portions contained in the Ministerial Order No. 130 of 1997 issuing the Executive Bylaws of Federal Law No. 21 of 1995 dealing with vehicle registration and insurance issues.

”

6.1 Application for Registration of a Motor Vehicle

Article 124

A motor vehicle may not be driven and no one may be allowed to drive the same on the road, unless it is registered and licensed in accordance with the provisions of the law and resolutions issued in execution thereof as well as with the provisions hereof

Fine

**Dhs.
500**

Driving a vehicle without carrying the registration card.

black points

23

Driving a vehicle without number plates.

black points

2

Not fixing number plates in designated places.

Article 126

The Application for registration to place a motor vehicle in circulation shall be submitted by the owner or his representative, on the form prepared for the purpose, to the Licensing Authority, after payment of the prescribed fees.

Article 127

The application for registration shall be submitted with the following attachments:

- 1 Proof of the owner's identity, place of residence, capacity, nationality, and profession.
- 2 Proof of ownership of the vehicle to be registered
- 3 In cases where the appointment of a legal representative is required, the deed of appointment of the owner's representative, stating his place of residence, capacity, nationality and profession
- 4 The technical inspection form
- 5 Vehicle accident insurance policy. Such policy may be submitted after the technical inspection is undertaken and the validity of the vehicle established.
- 6 The copy of the Commercial Activity licence (Trade Licence), in case the vehicle to be licensed is to be reserved for public service or allowed for use for that purpose.

may submit his passport, individual civil status extract or identity card issued by competent authorities.

For Expatriates:

As for proof of identity and place of residence of an expatriate vehicle owner, the latter must submit a valid passport with a valid residence permit and a certified letter from his employer.

6.2.2 Proof of Ownership of Motor Vehicle:

Article 129

In order to prove one's ownership of a motor vehicle, any of the following documents is accepted:

- 1 A deed of sale regarding same issued by the manufacturer or by one of the motor vehicle sale agencies duly entered as such in the Commercial Register in the State.
- 2 The document containing the ownership transferring the legal disposition in cases other than those stated in the foregoing clause, with the signature of the seller duly notarized. Otherwise, the owner must sign the sale contract before the competent Licensing Authority official, after due verification of his identity and the competent official must make a note of the same on the written deed.
- 3 The Vehicle Customs Clearance Certificate for vehicles imported from abroad for the first time

6.2 Documents to be Submitted Along with the Application

6.2.1 Proof of Identity:

Article 128

*For UAE Nationals:
As proof of identity, a UAE National*

- 4 Legal documents proving death, heir-ship and limitation of succession, if the reason for the ownership transfer is succession, plus a declaration signed by all heirs, stating the one whom they choose to be in charge of the vehicle.
- 5 An official transcript of the judicial order issued in regard to the ownership of the vehicle.

6.2.3 Where the owner intends to appoint a representative:

Article 130

In case where the Traffic or any other law stipulated the necessity of appointing a representative for the Owner, any of the following documents is accepted:

- 1 In case of multiple owners of the same vehicle, a declaration issued by them and delegating one of them to be in charge thereof must be submitted
- 2 If the owner of the vehicle is a corporate entity, proof must be submitted regarding appointment, by such corporate entity, of the individual in charge of the vehicle in addition to his position and capacity
- 3 The official document appointing the guardian, custodian, or caretaker of the vehicle owner, in case the latter is incompetent or missing
- 4 In case of a litigation regarding the ownership of the vehicle, an official copy of the judicial order placing the vehicle under

guardianship or the declaration placing the same under consensual guardianship and in the guardian's name must be submitted

6.3 The Motor Vehicle Technical Inspection

Article 131

The Technical Inspection is performed by the competent department in the Licensing Authority.

Article 132

Upon submittal of the applications for registration, licensing, and renewal thereof, motor vehicles shall undergo the technical inspection, at the time and place set by the Licensing Authority.

tip

New private motor vehicles are exempted from such inspection for two years as of the day of first licensing unless the Licensing Authority decides to perform the inspection for reasons which it may deem appropriate.

Article 133

The inspector shall verify the veracity of the data stated in the papers and their correspondence with the details of the vehicle. The inspection shall include testing the vehicle and all its components to ascertain their integrity and verify their compliance with all

the provisions of the Traffic Law, of these bylaws, and of resolutions issued in execution of the law. It shall namely verify that the vehicle satisfies all safety, solidity and health requirements and other stipulations stated in any other legal regulations.

tip

The weight of the vehicle is determined by taking into account the number of seats or maximum load capacity as well as all other data stated in the form.

The date and result of the inspection must be mentioned on the license form and on the technical inspection sheet. Also, the name of the inspector must be clearly written on the said sheet.

Article 134

If the technical inspection shows that the concerned vehicle does not satisfy any of the safety, solidity, or any other requirements stipulated by any other law, the result is then noted on the technical inspection sheet and the Applicant is notified that his application has been rejected, stating the reason for such rejection.

In such case, the inspection is repeated by another inspector on the same form and the finding made at the end of the repeated inspection shall be considered final.

tip

Where an application for registration has been rejected as a result of the technical inspection, the vehicle owner may file a grievance against the technical inspection result on a form submitted to the Licensing Authority within 10 days.

FineDhs.
400

Failure to have vehicle examined after carrying out major modification to engine or body.

6.4 Validity and Renewal of Registration

Article 136

tip

The validity of the registration shall be for one year subject to renewal. This validity is extended for 2 years for new Light Motor Vehicles as of the date of its first registration.

Upon expiry of the registration, a registration renewal application must be submitted within one month from the expiry, provided that the insurance coverage remains effective through out that period.

FineDhs.
500

Not renewing vehicle registration after expiry.

Article 137

The vehicle registration renewal application shall be submitted on the form reserved for that purpose along with the registration and the result of the inspection confirming the road worthiness of the vehicle, plus a statement confirming payment of fines for violations committed by the Applicant inside the State and an insurance policy against vehicle accidents, provided that the Insurance is valid throughout the renewal period.

6.5 Transfer of Ownership

Article 138

In case of vehicle ownership transfer, the original owner must, within 14 days, notify the competent section of the Licensing Authority. He shall attach to his notification, a copy of the ownership transfer confirmation deed.

The new owner must, within 14 days, submit an ownership transfer application to the competent section of the Licensing Authority on the form reserved therefor and shall attach thereto the vehicle licensing permit, the ownership

transfer deed, and all documents proving the identity, domicile, capacity, and nationality of the new owner, in addition to an insurance policy covering at least third party liability and a certificate proving payment of fines for violations committed inside the State up until the date of the ownership transfer application. The holder of the first license shall remain liable for the vehicle until the registration is transferred to the other party.

6.6 Other Related Registration Issues

6.6.1 Intimation of Change of Address of Vehicle Owner

Article 139

The owner of the vehicle, or his legal representative, must notify the Licensing Authority, within 14 days, in case of any change in his address stated in the Administration records, by submitting valid proof confirming his new address.

6.6.2 Alteration of Body of Motor Vehicle

Article 140

A motor vehicle's body may not be altered, nor may its colour be changed except by virtue of the Licensing Authority's prior consent. The motor vehicle owner undertakes to ask the Licensing Authority to inspect the vehicle after any major substantial changes in the engine, body or colour.

Fine

Dhs.
500

Writing phrases or placing stickers on vehicle without permission.

6.6.3 Loss of Registration and Damage of Registration Plates

Article 141

The owner of the vehicle or his legal representative must notify the Licensing Authority within 14 days in case the motor vehicle registration card is lost or damaged as well as in case one or both licence plates are also damaged along with an application for a replacement in lieu of the lost or damaged plate, submitted on the form reserved therefor in addition to paying fees for same.

6.6.4 Registration of Vehicle In Absentia

Article 142

If the vehicle is located outside the State at the time of renewal of its registration, such renewal will be effected on time by submitting proof that the vehicle is outside the State such as an international passbook (trip ticket) or the international registration certificate provided that the vehicle be inspected and insured in the relevant States if possible. The

results of the inspection must be certified by the UAE Embassy in the said State and a note regarding the same will be added to the registration book in addition to written notice that it is imperative to contact the Licensing Authority as soon as the vehicle arrives in the State in order to submit the insurance policy as per the law.

6.7 Motor Vehicle Insurance

Article 145

All motor vehicles imported into or transiting through the UAE territory must have a valid insurance policy. The following vehicles will be considered as in compliance with in this provision:

- 1 *Motor vehicles bearing insurance policies covering accidents which may occur inside the UAE territory.*
- 2 *Motor vehicles bearing unified insurance policies issued by virtue of the unified insurance agreement applicable throughout Arab countries.*
- 3 *Motor vehicles insured at entry posts on the UAE frontiers according to applicable*

tip

In order to license any motor vehicle or to renew such license in accordance with the Traffic Law, the said vehicle must be insured at least against third party liability (Article 143)

regulations. In implementation of the provisions hereof, insurance companies operating at such entry posts must comply with the short-term insurance rates set in regulations issued in that regard.

Article 147

The term of the insurance policy regarding a given vehicle must cover the full period for which it has been registered plus an additional 30 days beyond the expiry date of the registration.

As for vehicles reserved for rental, public transport vehicles, and driving instruction vehicle, the policy must include a paragraph stating that the vehicle is insured to third party benefits including their drivers.

Such insurance issued in the benefit of the drivers of these vehicles shall include a cover of their full civil liability resulting from bodily injuries or material losses.

Article 148

The insurer may not include in the insurance policy any provision which may lessen or prevent a cover of his full civil liability resulting from death, bodily injuries or material damages.

Fine

Dhs.
400

Not producing the vehicle registration card at request.

Review Questions



2.0 Responsible Driving

1. Is it safe to drive at the posted speed limits at all times?

- a. Yes and even a little faster
- b. Yes
- c. Always
- d. No, not always

2. Road safety should be passed on to young people by:

- a. Punishment when mistakes are made
- b. Repetitive instruction
- c. Setting a good example
- d. Showing them pictures of car crashes

3. You are planning a long journey. Do you need to plan rest stops?

- a. Yes, you should plan to stop every half hour
- b. Yes, regular stops help concentration
- c. No, you will be less tired if you get there as soon as possible
- d. No, only fuel stops will be needed

4. Your mobile phone rings while you are travelling. You should:

- a. Stop immediately
- b. Answer it immediately
- c. Pull up in a suitable place
- d. Pull up at the nearest kerb

5. You are about to drive but you feel unwell. You should:

- a. Take suitable medicine before driving

- b. Shorten the journey if you can
- c. Not drive
- d. Promise yourself an early night

6. The most common factor in causing road accidents is:

- a. Bad weather
- b. Driver error
- c. Turning right only
- d. Mechanical failure

7. A friend has had a few alcoholic drinks. Advise him to:

- a. Go home by public transport
- b. Wait a short while and then drive home
- c. Have a strong cup of coffee and then drive home
- d. Drive home carefully and slowly

8. Is it alright to drive under the influence of alcohol?

- a. Yes, if you have had only one drink
- b. Yes, if you have eaten before consuming alcohol
- c. Yes, if you can walk in a straight line
- d. No, it is not alright and is also illegal

9. Lap and shoulder seat belts in your car:

- a. Are not effective at slow speeds
- b. Are usually safer than lap belts only
- c. Are most effective in busy traffic

10. When are you required to use your headlights?

- a. All the time
- b. Between 30 minutes after sunset and 30 minutes before sunrise
- c. Whenever you cannot see 150 metres ahead because of bad light
- d. B. and C. are correct.

11. To help prevent hitting an animal you should:

- a. Scan the sides of the roadway ahead for animals.
- b. Watch for animal crossing signs
- c. Be extra cautious at dusk and dawn.
- d. All of the above

12. You must report an accident to the police:

- a. Always.
- b. If the estimated damage is over \$1000
- c. If someone has been hurt or killed
- d. B. and C. are correct

13. Driving more slowly than surrounding traffic is:

- a. A good idea if the weather is bad
- b. Often a hazard since other drivers may become frustrated and try to pass you
- c. Appropriate if you don't know the speed limit
- d. Always appropriate if other people are speeding

Review Questions

14. You should never coast in neutral or with the clutch depressed because:

- a. You need to be in gear to safely control your vehicle
- b. It is illegal
- c. You can't stop the car while in neutral
- d. A. and B. are correct

3.0 Your Vehicle

1. Accelerating suddenly could cause:

- a. The engine to seize
- b. The air bag to deploy
- c. The wheels to spin

2. At every oil change, you should check your alternator's:

- a. Drive tension belt
- b. Pencil batteries
- c. Spark plugs

3. The safety feature 'SRS' stands for:

- a. Speed Reducing System
- b. Supplemental Restraint System
- c. Steering Reclining Shaft

4. What kind of water should be used in your vehicle's battery?

- a. Tap water
- b. Mineral water
- c. Distilled water

5. The level of engine oil present in your vehicle can be gauged by using:

- a. The dipstick
- b. The fuel gauge

- c. A straw

6. One of the poisonous gases expelled through the exhaust system of vehicle is:

- a. Nitrous oxide
- b. Carbon monoxide
- c. Carbon dioxide

7. Head restraints are designed to prevent an injury to the neck called:

- a. Whiplash
- b. Spondylosis
- c. Cervical sprain

8. Which of the following is not an automobile safety innovation?

- a. Anti-lock braking system
- b. Side-impact beams
- c. Cruise control

4.1 Observing Lane Discipline

1. The following statement(s) about blind spots is/are true:

- a. They are eliminated if you have rear-view mirrors
- b. Large trucks have bigger blind spots than most passenger vehicles
- c. Blind spots can be checked by looking in your rear view mirrors
- d. All of the above

2. At regular intervals a driver should look:

- a. Ahead

- b. Behind
- c. To the sides
- d. All of the above

3. What is a basic consideration before deciding to overtake?

- a. The weather conditions
- b. How fast the car can speed up
- c. Is it really necessary?
- d. What will traffic behind think if I stay back?

4. City driving is more dangerous than highway driving because of the:

- a. Lower speed limits
- b. Narrower driving lanes
- c. Cross traffic and pedestrians
- d. Worse road conditions in bad weather

5. To reduce the effects of headlight glare at night, you should look:

- a. Straight ahead
- b. Over your shoulder
- c. At the centre of the road
- d. To the right edge of the road

6. These add up to the total stopping distance for your vehicle:

- a. Reaction distance, Braking distance
- b. Observation distance, Reaction distance
- c. Response distance, Reaction distance

7. If you plan to pass another

vehicle, you should:

- a. Not assume the other driver will make space for you to return to your lane
- b. Assume the other driver will let you pass if you use your turn signal
- c. Assume the other driver will maintain a constant speed

8. If you drive faster than other vehicles on a road with a one-way lane and keep passing the other cars, you will:

- a. Get you to your destination much faster and safer
- b. Increase your chances of an accident
- c. Help prevent traffic congestion

9. On the highway, the vehicle in front of you is a large truck. You should drive:

- a. Closely behind the truck in bad weather because the driver can see farther ahead
- b. Farther behind the truck than you would for a passenger vehicle
- c. No more than one car length behind the truck so the driver can see you

10. Should you always drive slower than other traffic?

- a. No, you can block traffic when you drive too slowly
- b. Yes, it is a good defensive driving technique

- c. Yes, it is always safer than driving faster than other traffic

11. While driving, you should:

- a. Keep to the right-hand side of the lane
- b. Keep to the left-hand side of the lane
- c. Keep to the centre of the lane
- d. It depends on the lane you are in and the hazards around

12. When changing lanes you must:

- a. Signal and then proceed
- b. Check your mirrors and your blind spot and then proceed
- c. Check your mirrors, signal, check your blind spot, mirrors and then proceed
- d. Check your mirrors, signal and then proceed

13. You are allowed to pass in the oncoming lane when:

- a. When there is a yellow double solid line in the centre of the road
- b. When there is a broken yellow line in the centre of the road
- c. When there is a broken white line in the centre of the road
- d. You should never pass in the oncoming lane

4.2 Obeying Traffic Signs

Identify these signs

1.



- a. No overtaking
- b. Give Way
- c. Priority to traffic on right

2.



- a. Look to your left and right
- b. Slow down
- c. Priority to oncoming traffic

3.



- a. No parking
- b. No speeding
- c. No entry

4.



- a. No offloading
- b. No waiting
- c. Access not allowed

5.



- a. Use of horn prohibited
- b. No loud music allowed
- c. Do not cross


Review Questions


6. 
- Pedestrian crossing ahead
 - Road works ahead
 - Children playing ahead

7. 
- Waves ahead
 - Uneven road ahead
 - Camels ahead

8. 
- Risk of falling rocks
 - Hailstones falling
 - Collapsed bridge

9. 
- No pets allowed
 - Zoo ahead
 - Beware of animals


10. 
- Oncoming train
 - Tunnel ahead
 - Crossroads ahead


11. 
- Road narrows on both sides ahead
 - Dual carriageway ends ahead
 - Right lane closed ahead


12. 
- Old people crossing
 - Pedestrian pick-up point
 - Children present


13. 
- Beware of oncoming traffic
 - Traffic merges on left ahead
 - Road narrows on both sides ahead

14. 
- Unspecified dangers
 - High voltage lines overhead
 - No entry


15. 
- Move in a circle
 - Intersection ahead
 - Roundabout ahead

16. 
- Dead end
 - T-junction ahead
 - Trucks only

17. 
- Passing allowed
 - Priority to vehicles from opposite direction
 - Priority over vehicles from opposite direction

18. 
- Diversion to opposite carriageway ahead
 - Right hand lane closed ahead
 - Bend to the left ahead

19. 
- Potholes ahead
 - Glass pieces on road ahead
 - Loose chippings – reduce speed

20. 
- Use handbrake
 - Steep incline (or hill) upwards
 - Slippery road ahead
 - Road works ahead
 - Children playing ahead

21. 
- Quayside or riverbank ahead
 - Beach ahead
 - Waterlogged area ahead

22. You are approaching traffic lights and they change to yellow/amber. You should:
- Accelerate - so that you beat the red light
 - Proceed - if safe to do so
 - Stop - unless unsafe to do so

Review Questions

23. What light follows red at a traffic light?

- a. Green
- b. Yellow/Amber
- c. Flashing amber

24. This sign means:

- a. Do not enter
- b. Merge
- c. Give way
- d. Slow down



25. This sign means:

- a. No turn
- b. No left turn
- c. Detour
- d. No U-turn



26. This sign means:

- a. No left turn
- b. No right turn
- c. Keep to the left
- d. No turning



Sign-game:

Compare these two traffic signs and evaluate the differences.



4.3 Intersections

1. At an intersection, you can enter the yellow box even if the exit is not clear, provided:

- a. You have already waited through two red lights
- b. You allow sufficient space on the yellow box for the

oncoming traffic to move around you

- c. You are always prohibited from entering the yellow box if the exit is not clear

2. Pedestrians are crossing the road you are turning into. You should:

- a. Sound your horn
- b. Give way and wait until they cross
- c. Drive around them
- d. Accelerate to pass them quickly

3. Which of the following statements about intersections is correct?

- a. Most major intersections have slip lanes for turning right
- b. At a red signal, you have to stop your vehicle after the stop line, preferably on the pedestrian crossing
- c. For taking a U-turn at an intersection, you have to position your vehicle in the extreme right lane

4. At an intersection, you notice that there are Police officers directing traffic despite the presence of traffic signals and traffic signs. Who would you obey?

- a. The traffic signs
- b. The traffic signals
- c. The police officers

5. What do you call an intersection where two roads

meet perpendicularly and one of them ends?

- a. A Controlled Intersection
- b. An Uncontrolled Intersection
- c. A T-intersection

6. Which of the following statements about approaching intersections are correct?

- a. You do not have to bring your vehicle to a total halt when approaching a busy intersection
- b. In a busy intersection, you have to gradually bring your vehicle to a total halt before the Stop Line
- c. If there are pedestrians attempting to cross, sound your horn and do not slow down




7. In what manner is a Give Way Line marked on the road?

- a. A continuous straight line
- b. A broken line
- c. Two parallel lines across the road, with the words 'Give Way' written between them

4.4 Roundabouts

1. When you arrive at a roundabout or traffic circle, you should:

- a. Slow down as you approach the circle
- b. Yield to traffic already in the circle
- c. Yield to vehicles on your left

- if they arrive at the same time you do
- d. All of the above
2. **When you come to a roundabout where there is a flashing yellow light, you must:**
- Stop before entering the roundabout
 - Wait for the green light
 - Slow down, scan for traffic in the roundabout and enter the roundabout if found safe
3. **Which indicator will you switch on when you generally exit a roundabout?**
- Right
 - Left
 - You do not have to indicate when you exit a roundabout
4. **At the entrance of the roundabout, which indicator must you switch on if you want to go straight across a roundabout?**
- Left
 - Right
 - Do not indicate
5. **Which among the following traffic signs will you find at the entrance of roundabout?**
- 
 - 
 - 
6. **At the entrance of the roundabout, what indicator**

must you switch on if you want to take a roundabout U-turn?

- Left
 - Right
 - Do not indicate
7. **Which of the following statements regarding a roundabout is correct?**
- Vehicles entering a roundabout have priority over vehicles already on the roundabout
 - Always turn on the left indicator when you exit a roundabout
 - If you want to make a U-turn on a roundabout, you must take the left-most lane when entering the roundabout

4.5 Signalling & Turns

1. **When making a turn at an intersection, you should adhere to the following routine:**
- The MSPSL routine
 - The EASY turning routine
 - The COMPLEX turning routine
2. **At a U-turn, it is dangerous to stop:**
- Before the Stop line
 - On the Stop line
 - Beyond the Stop line
3. **When you are at a U-turn, the vehicle from the perpendicular side road:**
- Gets right-of-way
 - Should give you right-of-way
 - It doesn't matter who proceeds first
4. **The 'M' of the MSPSL routine stands for:**
- Move Lanes
 - Mirror Check
 - Manoeuvre
5. **Which one of the following sentences is true?**
- Signalling gives you the right-of-way when changing lanes
 - Signalling shows your intention but does not necessarily give you the right-of-way when changing lanes
 - Signalling is sure to make other drivers slow down to allow you to change lanes
6. **Pointing your hand upward outside your window means:**
- You intend to make a right turn
 - You intend to make a left turn
 - You intend to stop
7. **A U-turn is a turn on the road that:**
- Facilitates transiting to the other side of the road
 - Allows you to turn left
 - Is only for the use of heavy vehicles

8. Try to avoid making a U-turn into:

- a. The extreme left lane
- b. The extreme right lane
- c. The centre lane

9. Should you signal even when you don't see any vehicles around?

- a. Yes, you might collide with a vehicle in your blind spot
- b. No, there is no need to signal
- c. Yes, to maintain good signalling habits

10. You must watch out for motorcycles before you change lanes or make a left turn because they:

- a. Have the right-of-way
- b. Are hard to see
- c. Are driven too fast

11. Before turning left, it is important to:

- a. Sound your horn
- b. Yield to oncoming vehicles in the road you are entering
- c. Swing to the right side of your lane
- d. Wait until oncoming traffic has a red light

12. When should you use your hazard lights?

- a. When you park near a junction
- b. When you need to park on the pavement
- c. When your car has broken down
- d. When you wish to stop on yellow lines

4.6 Parking

1. Which of the following are traffic offenses?

- 1. Parking in front of fire hoses
- 2. Parking a vehicle in a way that is dangerous to pedestrians
- 3. Leaving a vehicle on the road with its engine running

- a. 1
- b. 2 and 3
- c. All the above

2. What is meant by parallel parking?

- a. Parking a vehicle next to another vehicle
- b. Parking vehicles in a line front to rear next to the pavement
- c. Parking a vehicle parallel next to a handicapped plot

3. Which of the following statements is an incorrect procedure for parallel parking?

- a. In the absence of a marked parking bay, before parking your vehicle, check whether the space you intend to park in is ideally one-and-a-half times the length of your vehicle
- b. When the vehicle has been properly parked, set the handbrake and move the gear selector to Park (in the case of auto-transmission

vehicles)

- c. When positioning your vehicle within a parking bay, ensure that your vehicle is parked on the left edge of the bay away from the pavement

4. Which of the following statements is an incorrect procedure for pulling out of a parallel parked position?

- a. Check whether there is enough space ahead of you to steer the vehicle out of the parked position
- b. If the space ahead of you is insufficient to turn the vehicle out of the parked position, you may reverse slowly, checking the rear for pedestrians moving behind our vehicle
- c. Switch on your left indicator and move out. You do not necessarily have to do the mirror or over-the-shoulder checks prior to coming out of a parallel parked position

5. Which of the following statements on angle parking is incorrect?

- a. Most angle parking bays are at 90° or around 60° to the road
- b. When parking into a 90° parking bay, it is advisable to reverse into the parking bay

c. When parking into a 60° parking bay, it is advisable to reverse into the parking bay

6. When you park your car headed uphill, you should

- a. Turn your front wheels away from the kerb
- b. Turn your front wheels towards the kerb
- c. Keep your front wheels straight

5.1 Heavy Vehicles

1. For a heavy commercial vehicle, a pre-trip inspection should be completed:

- a. At least once a week
- b. If any problems occurred the last time the vehicle was driven
- c. Before operating the vehicle

2. When a long commercial vehicle swings wide while making a turns, it is called:

- a. Sidetracking
- b. Off-tracking
- c. Fishtailing

3. A cracked or leaking exhaust system is particularly dangerous in a heavy or long commercial vehicle because:

- a. Exhaust noise is irritating
- b. Toxic fumes and gases could enter the cab or sleeper berth
- c. The leaking exhaust smoke pollutes the air

4. Stay well behind large trucks and buses, and out of their blind spots because:

- a. You may not be visible to the driver if you follow too closely
- b. You will not be able to see very well if you follow too closely
- c. You could get crushed between one of these vehicles and the kerb if they are turning at an intersection
- d. All of the above

5.2 Motorcycles

1. Which statement is true with reference to motorcycle riding?

- a. Passengers only are required to wear helmets
- b. Motorcycle riders and passengers are required to wear helmets
- c. Helmets are not required while driving on city streets

2. Grabbing a motorcycle's front brake or depressing the rear brake hard:

- a. Can cause the brakes to lock
- b. Is the best way to stop in an emergency
- c. Is the best way to slow down when the streets are wet

3. Passengers on motorcycles should:

- a. Put their feet on the ground when the motorcycle is stopped
- b. Not ride without a back rest
- c. Sit as far forward as possible without crowding the driver

4. Eye protection when on motorcycle:

- a. Is not required if your motorcycle is equipped with a windshield
- b. Is only required in bad weather
- c. Should give a clear view to either side

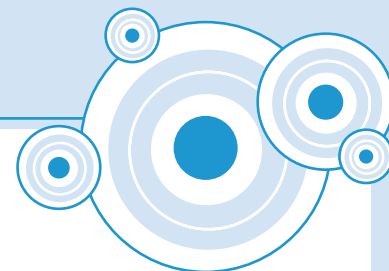
5. When on a motorcycle at night you should:

- a. Move closer to the vehicle in front
- b. Keep driving at your normal speed because slowing down would increase the chance of being struck from behind
- c. Reduce your speed because it is harder to see the road ahead

6. When sharing the road with a motorcycle:

- a. You have plenty of room to drive beside it in the same lane
- b. You should stay well behind it and pass allowing extra space than you would to a normal car
- c. You can drive close behind it
- d. A. and C. are correct

Answers to Review Questions



2.0 Responsible Driving

1. d 2. c 3. b 4. c 5. c 6. b 7. a
8. d 9. b 10. c 11. d 12. a 13. b 14. a

3.0 Your Vehicle

1. c 2. c 3. b 4. c 5. a 6. b 7. a
8. c

4.1 Observing Lane Discipline

1. b 2. d 3. c 4. c 5. d 6. a 7. a
8. b 9. b 10. a 11. c 12. c 13. b

4.2 Obeying Traffic Signs

1. a 2. c 3. a 4. b 5. a 6. b 7. b
8. a 9. c 10. c 11. b 12. c 13. c 14. c
15. c 16. b 17. c 18. a 19. c 20. c 21. a
22. b 23. a 24. c 25. b 26. b

4.3 Intersections

1. c 2. b 3. a 4. c 5. c 6. b 7. b

4.4 Roundabouts

1. d 2. c 3. a 4. c 5. a 6. a 7. c

4.5 Signalling and Turns

1. a 2. c 3. a 4. b 5. b 6. c 7. a
8. a 9. a 10. b 11. b 12. c

4.6 Parking

1. c 2. b 3. c 4. c 5. c 6. a

5.1 Heavy Vehicles

1. c 2. b 3. b 4. d

5.2 Motorcycles

1. b 2. a 3. c 4. c 5. c 6. b

Acknowledgements:

Translations of certain portions of the Ministerial Order No. 130 of 1997 issuing the Executive Bylaws of UAE Federal Law No. 21 of 1995 regarding Traffic has been provided by M/S G.O.S.B. Abu Dhabi.

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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

2 Year Calendar

2019

JANUARY 2019

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FEBRUARY 2019

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APRIL 2019

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JUNE 2019

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AUGUST 2019

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DECEMBER 2019

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2020

JANUARY 2020

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FEBRUARY 2020

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MARCH 2020

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APRIL 2020

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JUNE 2020

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JULY 2020

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AUGUST 2020

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29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER 2020

S	S	M	T	W	T	F
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

OCTOBER 2020

S	S	M	T	W	T	F
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

NOVEMBER 2020

S	S	M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

DECEMBER 2020

S	S	M	T	W	T	F
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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