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GENERAL NOTICE

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General Notice

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GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 110 OF 2009**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT****NATIONAL ROAD TRAFFIC ACT, 1996 (ACT NO.93 OF 1996)****AMENDMENT OF THE NATIONAL ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATIONS**

I, Jeffrey Thamsanqa Radebe, Minister of Transport acting in terms of section 75 (6) of the National Road Traffic Act, 1996 (Act No.93 of 1996), herewith publish the regulations in the schedule for comments. All interested parties who have any objections, inputs or comments, within ten days from the date of publication of this Notice to:

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MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

SCHEDULE

Definition

1. In this Schedule "the Regulations" means the National Road Traffic Regulations published in Government Notice No. R. 225 of 17 March 2000, as amended by Government Notice No's. R. 761 of 31 July 2000, R. 941 of 22 September 2000, R. 726 of 3 August 2001, R. 2116 of 5 October 2001, R. 779 of 4 June 2002, R. 1341 of 25 September 2003, R. 881 of 23 July 2004, R871 of 2 September 2005, R1066 of 23 November 2005, R1318 of 2 December 2005, R1319 of 2 December 2005, R891 of 4 September 2006, R964 of 29 September 2006, R404 of 4 May 2007 and R865 of 28 September 2007.

Amendment of regulation 1 of the regulations

2. Regulation 1 of the regulations is hereby amended by the insertion after the definition of "**public transport vehicle**" of the following definitions:

"rapid transport bus or rapid transport bus-train" means a bus authorized to operate along a rapid transport lane in a bus rapid transport system, and which bus has a regulated floor height and door configuration designed to facilitate speedy access of passengers to and from dedicated loading facilities, and includes the following sub-categories:-

"rapid transport trunk bus or rapid transport trunk bus-train" means a bus designed to operate predominantly on a rapid transport lane which is a component of a bus rapid transport system;

"rapid transport complementary bus or rapid transport complementary bus-train" means a bus designed to operate on a public road that is designated as a formal route in a bus rapid transport system and on a rapid transport lane;

“rapid transport lane” means a lane designed for the predominant use of a rapid transport bus and rapid transport bus-train and which is a component of a bus rapid transport system.

“bus rapid transport system” means a network of rapid transport lanes and other designated formal routes on public roads as well as related dedicated loading facilities all of which are designed for the use of rapid transport buses and/or rapid transport bus-trains and which is under the control of a government entity or its representative through a control centre that monitors the daily operations of the above-mentioned rapid transport buses and/or rapid transport bus-trains.

Amendment of regulation 154 of the Regulations

2. Regulation 154 of the regulations is amended by the addition of sub-regulation (4)

“(4) No person shall operate on a public road a rapid transport bus or a rapid transport bus-train unless it complies with the requirements for anti-lock braking systems in SANS 20013 ”Uniform provisions concerning the approval of vehicles of categories M, N and O with regard to braking.”.

Amendment of regulation 221 of the regulations

3. Regulation 221 of the regulations is amended by the addition after paragraph (e) of the following proviso clause

“Provided that in the case of a rapid transport bus-train, the limit on overall length shall not apply.”.

Amendment of regulation 233 of the regulations

4. Regulation 233 of the regulations is amended by the insertion of sub-regulation 2(A)

“(2A) Subject to the provisions of regulation 231, no person shall operate on a public road, a rapid transport bus or a rapid transport bus-train if the number of persons on any seat exceeds the number of persons for whom seating accommodation is provided for, on such a seat at a rate of 420 millimeters per person, measured at the widest part of the seat with the doors closed.”.

Amendment of regulation 240 of the regulations

5. Regulation 240 of the regulations is amended by:-

(a) the addition after item (iii) of paragraph (c) of the following proviso clause

“Provided that in the case of a rapid transport bus-train the limit on the drive axle shall be 13 000 kilograms and on the other non-steering axle shall be 13 000 kilograms.”.

(b) the addition after item (iv) of paragraph (c) of the following proviso clause:

“Provided that in the case of a rapid transport complementary bus , or a rapid transport trunk bus, this limit shall be 12 000 kilograms.”.

(c) The substitution for paragraph (g) of the following paragraph:

“(g) The axle mass load of an axle unit which consists of two axles, one of which is a drive axle with four wheels and the other is an axle with two

wheels, and which is fitted to a rapid transport bus, if the sum of the two axle mass loads exceeds 18 200 kilograms.”.

(d) the addition after paragraph (g) of the following proviso clause:

“Provided that the limitations on steering axles and steering axle units in paragraph (a), (b) , (d) and (f) above, do not apply to any axle or axle units which assist in reducing the turning circle of a rapid transport bus or rapid transport bus train, but which is not the front axle or front axle unit.”.

Amendment of regulation 242 of the regulations

6. Regulation 242 is amended by the addition of the following proviso clause after sub-paragraph (c):

“Provided that in the case of a rapid transport bus-train no limit shall apply.”.

Amendment of regulation 245 of the regulations

8. Regulation 245 is amended by the insertion of the following regulation:

“Special needs accessibility

245(B) (1) No person shall operate on a public road a rapid transport bus or a rapid transport bus-train, unless it is provided with:

(a) facilities and equipment to accept and secure wheelchairs in accordance with SANS 10370, and

(b) certain seats, known as priority seats for passengers with special needs, shall be a distinctive blue colour, and shall have labels with the words "Priority Seats" and shall comply with clauses 3.2 and 3.3 of Annexure 8 of SANS 20107.

2. The facilities and equipment in sub-regulation (1) shall be provided at the following minimum rates:-

- (i) In the case of a rapid transport bus at least one wheelchair; and 6 priority seats;
- (ii) In the case of rapid transport bus-train at least two wheelchairs, and 8 priority seats;

Amendment of regulation 251 of the regulations

9. Regulation 251 is amended by the substitution for sub-regulation (2) of the following sub-regulation

"(2) No person shall operate a midibus, a minibus or bus operating in terms of an operating licence issued in accordance with the provisions of the NLTTA registered for the first time after 5 October 2001 on a public road, unless the height, along the longitudinal center-line, between the floor and the lowest part of the roof structure of such bus or minibus, between the floor and the ceiling of the lower deck of a double deck bus, as the case may be, is in the case of a bus conveying standing persons, not less than 1,75 metres in the areas where persons may stand in terms of regulation 263; in the case of a minibus not conveying standing persons, is not less than 1,5 metres; and in the case of a midibus, is not less than 1,75 metres; and in the case of a rapid transport bus or a rapid transport bus-train is not less than 1,9 metres."

Amendment of regulation 252 of the regulations

10. Regulation 252 is amended by-

(a) the addition after paragraph (i) of sub-regulation (1) of the following proviso clause:

“Provided that in the case of a rapid transport bus or a rapid transport bus-train, which shall have exits on the right-hand side in addition to any on the left-hand side.”.

(b) The addition of sub-regulation (3) after subregulation (2)

(3) Notwithstanding the requirements of sub-regulation (1) and (2) above, rapid transport buses and rapid transport bus-trains shall have at least the following number, size and position of doors:-

- a) rapid transport trunk bus - 2 doors on the right and 1 emergency door on the left;
- b) rapid transport trunk bus-train – 3 doors on the right and 2 emergency doors on the left;
- c) rapid transport complementary bus – 1 door on the left and 2 doors on the right; and
- d) rapid transport complementary bus-train – 1 door on the left and 3 doors on the right.
- e) doors on the right shall provide a clear opening of at least 1100 millimetres and doors on the left shall provide a clear opening of at least:
 - (i) 650 millimetres in the case of a rapid transport trunk bus or rapid transport trunk bus-train, and
 - (ii) 850 millimetres in the case of a rapid transport complementary bus or rapid transport complementary bus-train

f) the pitch of the various door configurations on the right shall be 6, 0 metres, and 3, 8 metres, and for any double doors 1, 4 metres.

(4) The floor height above the ground at the doorways on the right-hand side of a rapid transport bus or a rapid transport bus-train shall be equal to or less than 970 millimetres.

Amendment of regulation 255 of the regulations

11. Regulation 255 is amended by addition after item (ii) of sub-regulation (2) of the following proviso clause:

“Provided further that in the case of a rapid transport bus or rapid transport bus-train the widths of the passageways shall be at least:-

- (i) 620 millimetres wide measured at any point for vehicles with a floor height of at least 500 millimetres, and
- (ii) 450 millimetres wide measured at any point for vehicles with a floor height of less than 500 millimetres.”.

Amendment of regulation 256 of the regulations

12. Regulation 256 is amended by-

(a) Substitution for sub-regulation (2) of the following sub-regulation

“(2) Subject to sub-regulation (3), no person shall operate on a public road a minibus first registered on or before 4 September 2006, operating in terms of an operating license issued in accordance with the provision of the NLTTA, unless a seat provided for a passenger in such minibus has-

(b) By the addition after paragraph (e) of sub-regulation (6) of the following proviso clause:

“Provided that in the case of a rapid transport bus or rapid transport bus-train the pitch measured from one part of a seat to the same part of the seat in front at seat level shall be at least 730 millimetres;”.

(c) By the addition after paragraph (f) of sub-regulation (6) of the following proviso clause:

“Provided that in the case of a rapid transport bus or rapid transport bus-train it shall be at least 1 460 millimetres.”.

(d) By the addition after paragraph (g) of sub-regulation (6) of the following proviso clause:

“Provided that in the case of a rapid transport bus or rapid transport bus-train this shall be at least 730 millimetres.”

(e) By the addition of sub-regulation 10:

(10) In the case of a rapid transport bus or a rapid transport bus-train the following additional requirements shall apply:-

- i) seats that are forward or rearward-facing shall be arranged such that there shall be no more than 4 seats in a row and no more than 2 pairs of seats in a row except that for the rear row there may be more seats;
- ii) seats shall be permitted in the turntable area of a rapid transport bus-train provided that the passengers are protected from the effects of relative movement of parts of the bus when the bus-train turns;

iii) seats which can be tipped up to provide more floor space are not permitted, except in cases of providing room for a wheelchair; and. iv) seats facing sideways shall be permitted.

Amendment of regulation 262 of the regulations

13. Regulation 262 is amended by:-

(a) The substitution for sub-regulation (1A) of the following sub-regulation:

(1A) No person shall operate a minibus, midibus or single deck bus on a public road after 4 September 2006, unless such minibus, midibus or single-deck bus is capable of being tilted sideways at an angle of at least 28 degrees in either direction from the upright position without overturning while each seat is loaded with a mass of 68 kilograms and the floor is loaded with a mass of 68 kilograms per standee with a centre of gravity 875 millimetres above the floor, and tested as such.

(b) By the insertion of sub-regulation (1C) after sub-regulation (1B)

(1C) In the case of a bus-train the test may be carried out by separating the bus train into compartments and testing such compartment separately.

Amendment of regulation 263 of the regulations

14. Regulation 263 is amended by the addition after paragraph (c) of sub-regulation (2) of the following proviso clause

“Provided that in the case of a rapid transport bus or rapid transport bus-train this figure shall be zero comma one six.”.

Amendment of regulation 293 of the regulations

15. Regulation 293 is amended by:-
- (a) The addition of item (v) after item (iv) of sub-regulation 1(a)
- (v) a rapid transport bus and a rapid transport bus-train.
- (b) By the substitution for item (i) of sub-regulation (b) of the following item:
- (i) a bus, except as provided for in sub-regulation (1)(a)(iv) above; and

Short title and commencement

16. These Regulations are called the Sixteenth Amendment to the National Road Traffic Regulations, and shall come into operation on the date to be determined by the Minister.
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