

The Highway Code Guernsey Laws & Driving Abroad Information



Guernsey Supplement to the Highway Code & Theory Test Driving Abroad Information

The Road User & the Law

This sets out some of the main demands of the law upon road users in Guernsey, some of which vary from those stated in the Highway Code.

It is not a complete list. For full information, you should refer to the various Order in Council, Ordinances, and Regulations indicated in the margin.

A list of abbreviations used is given below.

LRA	Loi Relative aux Automobiles, 1926
TV29	Ordonnance Provisoire relative aux Trafic Vehiculaire en Cette Ile of 2nd March 1929
LUIA	Loi pour Empecher L'Usage Illicitte D'Automobiles, 1930
TV35	Ordonnance ayant rapport au Traffic Vehiculaire en cette Ile, 1935
CTPI	The Road Traffic (Compulsory Third-Party Insurance) (Guernsey) Law 1936 as amended
TO46	The Road Traffic Ordinance (1946)
FRDO	The Foreshore (Riding and Driving) Ordinance, 1951
PCO	The Road Traffic (Pedestrian Control) Ordinance, 1957
MPO	The Motor Vehicles (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, 1962
PPO	The Road Traffic (Parking Places) Ordinance, 1963/Parking Places Order 1991
WAO	The Motor Vehicles and Pedal Bicycles (Warning Apparatus) Ordinance, 1966

C&U	The Road Traffic (Construction and Use of Motor Vehicles) Ordinances, 1971 and 2002
MVRN	The Road Traffic (Motor Vehicles at Roadside by Night) Ordinance, 1974
PRO	The Places of Recreation Ordinance, 1975
RTCO	The Road Traffic (Clearways) Ordinance, 1999 as amended
PHO	The Motor Cyclists' Protective Helmets Order, 1987
VNO	The Vehicle Noise etc Ordinance, 1986
DIDD	The Road Traffic (Driving under the Influence of Drink or Drugs) (Guernsey) Law 1986
SLO	The Road Traffic (Speed Limits and Trials) Ordinance, 1987 as amended
LVSO	The Lighting of Vehicles and Skips Ordinance, 1988
SBO	The Seat Belts Ordinance, 1988
TSTL	The Traffic Signs and Traffic Light Signals Ordinance, 1988
DLO	The Driving Licences (Guernsey) Ordinance, 1995 as amended
SBO4	The Seat Belts (amendment) Ordinance, 2004

To Drivers of all Motor Vehicles

1. Documents

Before driving you **MUST** make sure that you have

- A **valid driving licence** which has not expired. DLO
- **Third party insurance** covering the use of the vehicle. A certificate of insurance must be obtained from an authorised insurer and must be produced to a Police Officer on demand. If this is not possible, it must be produced in person at the Police Station within seven days of the time the certificate was demanded. In addition an insurance disc must be displayed in the windscreen of the vehicle. CPI
- A valid insurance disc must be displayed on the inner surface of the windscreen of the near side of your vehicle or where the vehicle is not fitted with a front windscreen be contained in a holder with a

transparent cover on the near side of the vehicle. The printed face surface of the disc must be conspicuous, unobstructed, visible and readily accessible for inspection from the outside of the vehicle. CTPI

- In order to supervise a **learner driver**, you must have held a full driving licence in the relevant category for at least one year. DLO

2. Your Vehicle

The law requires that the condition of the vehicle, any trailer it is drawing, its load, and the number of passengers and the way in which they are carried are such that they do not endanger yourself or others. C&U

- **Brakes** must be in good working order and properly adjusted. C&U
- **Tyres** must have a continuous tread depth of at least 1mm across at least 3/4 of the width. They **must** also be properly inflated and free from cuts and other defects.

NOTE: a minimum tread depth 1.6mm across the centre $\frac{3}{4}$ of the width is recommended. C&U

- **Exhaust** must be sound and there must be no excessive noise due to an inefficient silencer or to defects or lack of repair. VNO
- **Horn** must be in working order. It must not be sounded between 11pm and 7am, nor when stationary except to prevent collision. WAO
- **Lights** must be in good working order and properly adjusted so as not to dazzle other road users. LVSO

3. Seat Belts

Cars and light goods vehicles manufactured after 1st January 1965 must have an approved type of seat belt fitted to the front seats. SBO

The driver and any front seat passengers must wear an approved type of seat belt when the vehicle is in motion, unless they are exempt. SBO

Children and young people up to and including the age of 14 years travelling in the rear of the vehicle may be required to wear a seat belt or restraint. Further information is available in a leaflet titled “The New Seat Belts Law” published by the Guernsey Police. SBO4

4. Fitness to Drive

You must report to Driver & Vehicle Licensing any health condition likely to affect your driving. DLO

Your eyesight must be up to the standard required for the driving test (22.50m) at all times when you drive. DLO

Drinking & Driving

You **MUST NOT**

- Drive under the influence of drink or drugs. DIDD
- Drive with a breath alcohol level higher than 35 microgrammes in 100 millilitres (equal to a blood alcohol level of 80 microgrammes in 100 millilitres). DIDD

5. On the Road

You **MUST**

- Observe speed limits, 35mph Island-wide except where lower limits are indicated.
- Drive on the left of all continuous white centre lines, except to make a right turn, to avoid an accident, or to pass a stationary vehicle or obstruction. You may cross a broken line only when it is seen to be safe to do so. TSTL
- Observe traffic signals and signs. TSTL
- Observe directions given by a Police officer. TV29

At junctions you **MUST**

- When approaching a major road, whether or not controlled by 'Give Way' lines, give way to all traffic proceeding on that major road. If in doubt give way. TV29/TSTL
- When approaching a major road which is controlled by a solid yellow line, **STOP** and give way to all traffic proceeding on that major road. TSTL
- At a junction which is controlled by 'Filter in Turn' signs, all directions have equal priority, so give way **IN TURN** to vehicles which also intend to enter the junction. As these are also usually box junctions, you **must not** enter the box unless your exit is clear. TSTL



You **MUST NOT**

- Drive recklessly. TV29
- Drive in a manner, or at speed, dangerous to the public. TV29
- Drive without due care and attention. TV29
- Drive without reasonable consideration to other road users. TV29
- Drive on the pavement. If the road is too narrow for two vehicles to pass, you may slowly mount the pavement and stop to allow the other vehicle to pass. TV29
- Drive on a beach or foreshore during the daytime in the summer. FRDO
- Operate four-way flashing hazard lights when moving, or otherwise than to indicate an unavoidable stationary hazard. LVSO

6. Pedestrian Crossings

You **MUST**

- Give way to pedestrians on a pedestrian crossing (Zebra, Pelican or Puffin), including when an amber light is flashing on a Pelican crossing. TSTL

You **MUST NOT**

- Stop on a pedestrian crossing unless forced to do so by circumstances beyond your control or to avoid an accident. TSTL

The carriageway on the approach to a pedestrian crossing is normally marked by zig-zag lines. In this area you **MUST NOT**

- Park. TSTL
- Stop, except to allow pedestrians to cross, unless forced to do so by circumstances beyond your control or to avoid an accident. TSTL
- Overtake any other vehicle or animal. TSTL

7. Driving at Night or in Poor Visibility

You **MUST**

- Between sunset and sunrise, ensure that all obligatory lamps, including headlamps, are lit. LVSO
- Ensure your headlights do not dazzle other road users. LVSO
- Use headlights when visibility is reduced eg. by fog or rain, but do not switch on front or rear fog lights unless visibility is seriously reduced. LVSO

8. Stopping, Parking & Waiting

You **MUST**

- If in a disc park, set a parking clock to indicate the time of arrival, day or night. PPO
- At night, unless in a disc park or approved parking space, ensure that both side lights are lit. LVSO
- Park on the left-hand side of the road at night, unless it is a one way street. MVRN

You **MUST NOT**

- Stop alongside a yellow line on the side of the road for any reason other than to avoid an accident, or unless you have written permission from Traffic and Highways Services. TSTL
- Park in a disc zone for longer than the period stated on the sign unless you have a permit, or unless the period ends after 6.00pm, when the vehicle can remain until 8.00am the following morning.
- Re-park in a disc zone for 30 minutes after you have left, unless you have a permit.
- Stop on a road scheduled as a clearway or an urban clearway at such times as the clearway is in operation. RTCO
- Stop on a pedestrian crossing or within the limits of the zig-zag lines. TSTL
- Wait or park on the same side of the road as signs indicating this is prohibited, or in an area indicated as an un/loading area, longer than is necessary to pick up or set down persons or goods. TSTL
- Stop, wait or park where to do so would cause danger, obstruction, or inconvenience, including obstruction to property access. TV29

9. Accidents

If you are involved in an accident you **MUST**

- **Stop immediately.** TV29
- Give your own and, if necessary, the vehicle owner's name and address and the registration number of the vehicle to anyone having reasonable grounds for requiring these details. TV29
- If you do not give these details at the time, report the accident to the Island Police as soon as reasonably practical, and in any case within 24 hours of the occurrence. TV29

If anyone is injured you MUST

- Produce your certificate of insurance at the time to a Police Officer or to any person who, having reasonable grounds for doing so, has required its production, and in any case, within 24 hours to a Police Officer. TV29
- Report the accident to the Police Station or to a member of the Island Police as soon as possible and in any case within 24 hours. TV29

To Motorcyclists

Most of the requirements of the law relating to drivers of motor vehicles also apply to you. In addition

You MUST

- Always wear an approved type of safety helmet. This also applies to your passengers. MPO/PHO
- Carry no more than one passenger on a two wheeled machine, and the passenger must sit astride a proper seat securely fitted behind the driver's seat. TV29

You MUST NOT

- Carry a passenger if you are under 17 years of age, or if you are the holder of a provisional driving licence. MPO
- Park in a disc parking area. PPO

To Pedal Cyclists

You MUST

- Observe the same rules as other drivers.
- Observe traffic signals and signs. TSTL
- Observe Police Officers' directions. TV29
- Ensure both brakes work efficiently. TV35
- At night, ensure that front and rear lamps are lit, and that your cycle has a clean and efficient rear reflector. LVSO

You **MUST NOT**

- Ride dangerously, without due care and attention, or without reasonable consideration for other road users. TV29
- Ride under the influence of drink or drugs. DIDD
- Ride on a footpath or cliff path. TV29/PRO
- Carry a passenger on a bicycle not constructed or adapted to carry more than one person, except a child under 5 years old who must be properly secured in a suitable seat securely attached to the bicycle. TV29
- Hold on to a moving vehicle or trailer. LUIA
- Ride more than two abreast. TO46
- Ride on a beach or foreshore during the daytime in the summer. FRDO

To Pedestrians

You **MUST NOT**

- Remain on a pedestrian crossing longer than is necessary to cross from one side to the other without loitering. TSTL
- Without authority or reasonable excuse, hold on to, or get onto, a moving vehicle; or tamper with the brake or any other part of the mechanism of a stationary vehicle. LUIA
- Cross the road if ordered to stop by a Police Officer carrying out traffic duty. PCO

Theory Test – Driving abroad information

Essential information that you will be required for your multiple choice theory test. The information has been split into the relevant category for the test.

Category P, A & B – Moped, Motorcycle & Car

When driving in France you are legally required to:-

- be at least 18 years of age
- display a GBG sticker on the rear of your vehicle
- carry a warning triangle and reflective jacket
- carry a breathalyser
- have fitted headlight deflectors

In France if you are the last vehicle in a queue of slow moving traffic you must use your hazard warning lights until another vehicle joins the queue behind you.

In the UK you need to be 17 years of age to drive a car.

Category C – Lorry

The driver of any vehicle is liable if it is found to be carrying illegal immigrants.

In France if you are the last vehicle in a queue of slow moving traffic you must use your hazard warning lights until another vehicle joins the queue behind you.

Before starting an international journey into Europe you must always:-

- record the place from where you start your journey on the centre field of your tachograph chart
- ensure you comply with the international driver's hours, rules & regulations
- ensure the vehicle tachograph calibration date is not expired

If you break EC tachograph regulations you will be heavily fined and may lose your licence.

In the UK long vehicles may only park in a lay-by or service area.

Category D - Bus

The driver of any vehicle is liable if it is found to be carrying illegal immigrants.

If in an emergency you exceed normal driver's hours (under EC rules) you must continue using the same tachograph chart and add a written explanation on the reverse.

Before starting an international journey into Europe you must always:-

- record the place from where you start your journey on the centre field of your tachograph chart
- ensure you comply with the international driver's hours, rules & regulations
- ensure the vehicle tachograph calibration date is not expired

If you break EC tachograph regulations you will be heavily fined and may lose your licence.

In the UK the minimum height of a bridge is 5 metres (16 feet 3 inches).

In France if you are the last vehicle in a queue of slow moving traffic you must use your hazard warning lights until another vehicle joins the queue behind you.

Approved Driving Instructor

When driving in France you are legally required to:-

- be at least 18 years of age
- display a GBG sticker on the rear of your vehicle
- carry a warning triangle and reflective jacket
- carry a breathalyser
- have fitted headlight deflectors
- carry your Driving Licence

In France if you are the last vehicle in a queue of slow moving traffic you must use your hazard warning lights until another vehicle joins the queue behind you.

In the UK you need to be 17 years of age to drive a car.

A child under 10 years of age must not travel in the front seat of a car in France.

In France it is illegal to carry in a vehicle radar detection equipment or GPS devices that locate fixed speed cameras.

Driver & Vehicle Licensing
Bulwer Avenue Office
Bulwer Avenue
St Sampson
GY2 4LR
Telephone: 01481 243400
Fax: 01481 241177
Open 8.45am -5.00pm Monday to Friday
Website: www.gov.gg/traffic