

20073-24-041

AUCKLAND CITY COUNCIL



Please Quote: JJN:ADM

Traffic Department

19 August 1982.

The Secretary,
The New Zealand Home Birth Association,
P.O. Box 7093,
Wellesley Street,
AUCKLAND 1.

Administration Building, 1 Greys Avenue,
Private Bag, Wellesley Street,
AUCKLAND, New Zealand.

Telephone: 792-020 Telephone: 792-039
8.30am-5pm, Mon to Fri (All other times)

Superintendent of Traffic: J.J. Nielsen, M.B.E.

Dear Ms. Macfarlane,

In reply to your letter of 17 August, I regret to advise you that I have no authority to authorise the use of flashing blue lights.

The fitting of such lights is specified by the Traffic Regulations 1976 and I have attached a copy of the pertinent regulation for your information. Sub-clause 8 provides for the Secretary of Transport being empowered to approve the fitting or use of flashing or revolving lights on specialist vehicles and I suggest you write to him at the Head Office, Ministry of Transport, Road Transport Division, Private Bag, Wellington.

Yours faithfully,


J.J. NIELSEN,
SUPERINTENDENT OF TRAFFIC.

Attach.

the nearest edge of the roadway in such circumstances that regulation 36 (2)(b) hereof applies; or

(c) A taxicab driver in distress.

This regulation generally re-enacts the provisions of subcls. (1) and (2) of regulation 40A. It provides for hazard lights. Most new vehicles are now fitted with a "hazard" switch which causes all four direction indicators (two at the front and two at the rear) to flash simultaneously to indicate that the vehicle has been immobilised by a mishap or that it has stopped at the site of a temporary hazard in traffic. A minor drafting amendment was made by S.R. 1978/72.

The regulation restricts the use of hazard lights to vehicles which have been immobilised or stopped and to goods service vehicles which are double parked in certain circumstances provided that the vehicle is not left unattended for more than 5 minutes.

In some overseas countries vehicles are equipped with an automatic hazard switch that operates immediately the vehicle is involved in an accident so that the hazard lights are automatically switched on in those circumstances. This regulation does not provide for the automatic operation of hazard lights.

The new subclause (2)(c) inserted by S.R. 1980/31 is a consequence of the new provisions for warning devices introduced after public concern over assaults on taxicab drivers.

67. Special provisions as to lights on specialist vehicles—(1) A motor vehicle equipped for attendance at fires and approved by a fire authority may be fitted with—

(a) Two flashing red lights at the front of and shining directly ahead of the vehicle;

(b) One or more flashing or revolving red lights on top of the vehicle and visible in all directions—

for use while on urgent fire-brigade service.

(2) A motor vehicle equipped for ambulance duty and approved by the Ambulance Transport Advisory Board may be fitted with one or more flashing or revolving red lights for use while on urgent ambulance service.

(3) A motor vehicle while used for official purposes by a traffic officer or police officer may be fitted with one or more flashing or revolving red, blue, or amber lights.

(4) A motor vehicle used by a registered medical practitioner may be equipped with one flashing or revolving green lamp on top of the vehicle and visible from the front or from all directions for use while on urgent medical service only.

(5) A breakdown vehicle may be fitted with not more than 2 flashing or revolving yellow or amber lights on top of the vehicle and visible in all directions for use on a road only at a place where a disabled vehicle has met with an mishap or at a place from which a vehicle is being removed at the direction of a police officer or traffic officer.

(6) Automobile association patrol vehicles, vehicles used primarily for road maintenance, construction, cleaning, repair, or marking, or for the servicing of underground or overhead services, may be fitted with one flashing or revolving yellow or amber light on top of the vehicle and visible in all directions, provided the vehicle is painted a conspicuous colour and the light is used only while the vehicle is stationary and unable to avoid creating a traffic hazard or is moving slowly in the performance of its duties.

(7) Unless traffic is under the control of a police officer or traffic officer, adequate warning signs shall be erected as soon as practicable in advance of any hazard indicated by flashing or revolving yellow or amber lights authorised under subclause (5) or subclause (6) of this regulation.

(8) The Secretary may, by notice published in the *Gazette*, approve or require the fitting and use of one or more flashing or revolving lights of a specified colour to any specified motor vehicle or class of motor vehicles or motor vehicles to be driven by specified classes of persons, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the Secretary.

This regulation replaces old regulation 39 and makes provision for specialist lights on specialist vehicles. The vehicles and lights are as follows:

(a) Fire brigade on urgent fire brigade service — two flashing red lights at the front and one or more flashing or revolving red lights on top.

(b) Ambulances on urgent ambulance service — one or more flashing or revolving red lights.

(c) Traffic and police cars while used for official purposes — one or more flashing or revolving red blue or amber lights. Provision for blue lights made by S.R. 1978/72.

(d) Doctor's cars while on urgent medical service — one flashing or revolving green light on top.

(e) Breakdown vehicles while used at breakdowns — not more than two flashing or revolving yellow or amber lights on top.

(f) A.A. patrol vehicles and certain maintenance vehicles provided the vehicles are painted in a conspicuous colour — one flashing or revolving yellow or amber light on top used only while the vehicle is stationary and unable to avoid creating a traffic hazard or is moving slowly in the performance of its duties.

In the case of breakdowns and road maintenance adequate warning signs shall be erected unless traffic is under the control of a police or traffic officer.

The regulation also provides for the Secretary by notice published in the *Gazette* to approve or require flashing or revolving lights on other specialist vehicles.