

PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE THE USE OF THE GREEN LIGHTS AND SIRENS ARE SUSPENDED AS DECIDED BY THE RCCF COMMITTEE.

21 Use of Lights and Sirens

21.1

National Road Traffic Act, 1996

National Road Traffic Regulations 1999

Chapter VI : Fitness of Vehicles

Part II : Equipment on or in respect of vehicles

176. Identification lamps

1) A bus or a goods vehicle, the gross vehicle mass of which exceeds 3 500 kilograms, and which is not a motor vehicle referred to in sub regulation (2), (3) or (5), may be fitted above the windscreen with two or more identification lamps and each such lamp shall –

- a) not exceed a capacity of 21 Watts;
- b) be visible from directly in front of the motor vehicle to which it is fitted; and
- c) emit a green or amber light.

2) An ambulance, fire-fighting or rescue vehicle may be fitted with a lamp or lamps emitting an intermittently-flashing red light in any direction.

3)

- a) Subject to paragraph (b), no person shall operate a motor vehicle fitted with, or in or on which is displayed, a lamp or lamps emitting a

blue light or capable of emitting a blue light.

b) The provisions of paragraph (a) does not apply to a motor vehicle operated by a member of the Service or a member of a municipal police service, both as defined in section 1 of the South African Police Service Act, 1995 (Act No. 68 of 1995), or a traffic officer, or a member of the South African Defence Force authorised in terms of section 87(1)(g) of the Defence Act, 1957 (Act No. 44 of 1957) to perform police functions, in the execution of his or her duties.

c) A motor vehicle referred to in paragraph (b) may be fitted with a lamp or lamps emitting an intermittently-flashing –

i) blue light;

ii) blue and amber light;

iii) blue and red light; or

iv) blue, amber and red light,

in any direction which may, at the will of the driver, display the word "stop".

4) A motor vehicle which is –

a) a vehicle employed in connection with the maintenance of public road;

b) engaged in the distribution and supply of electricity;

c) engaged in the supply of other essential public services;

d) operated in terms of the authority granted by the MEC in terms of section 81 of the Act;

e) a breakdown vehicle;

f) a refuse compactor vehicle;

g) a vehicle carrying an abnormal load and the vehicle escorting it if any,

may, but a breakdown vehicle shall, be fitted with a lamp or lamps capable of emitting an intermittently-flashing amber light in any direction: Provided that such lamp shall only be used at the place where the breakdown occurred, where the maintenance or other work or an inspection is being carried out, when such breakdown vehicle is towing a motor vehicle, or in the event of a vehicle carrying an abnormal load.

5) A motor vehicle used by a medical practitioner may be fitted above the windscreen with one lamp emitting an intermittently flashing red light in any direction: Provided that such light may only be used by such medical practitioner in the bona fide exercise of his or her profession.

6) A vehicle driven by a person while he or she is engaged in civil protection as contemplated in section 3 of the Civil Protection Act, 1977 (Act No. 67 of 1977), may be fitted with a lamp or lamps emitting an intermittently-flashing green light in any direction.

21.2 Regulation 201 that applies to Audible warning devices (Hooters) suggests the following

Quote:

a) it is not clearly audible to a person of normal hearing at a distance of at least 90m;

b) the pitch varies, unless –

i) the vehicle is an ambulance, a rescue vehicle, a civil protection vehicle, a police vehicle or a fire-fighting vehicle; or

ii) the sound is emitted from an anti-theft device that incorporates a siren, or

c) the hooter is not operated by a button or switch that breaks contact automatically when it is released.

or similar from here in the RTA

Quote:

Warning devices

201. (1) Subject to the provisions of sections 58(3) and 60 of the Act, no person shall operate on a public road—

(a) a self-propelled motor vehicle, unless it is equipped with an efficient warning device which is in good working order and, when used, capable of emitting a sound which, under normal conditions, is clearly audible by a person of normal hearing from a distance of at least 90 metres;

(b) a pedal cycle, unless it is equipped with an efficient warning device which is in good working order and, when used, capable of giving adequate warning of its approach;

- (c) a vehicle to which a siren is fitted; or
- (d) a vehicle to which a device is fitted which emits a sound of which the tone of pitch varies:

Provided that the provisions of paragraphs (c) and (d) shall not apply to a motor vehicle to which an anti-theft device which incorporates a siren is fitted, or to a fire-fighting vehicle, a rescue vehicle, ambulance or vehicle driven by a traffic officer in the carrying out of his or her duties, or to a vehicle driven by a person while engaged in civil protection as contemplated in section 3 of the Civil Protection Act, 1977 (Act No. 67 of 1977).

(2) The device referred to in paragraph (b) of the proviso to sections 58(3) and 60(b) of the Act shall be capable of emitting a sound of which the tones of pitch shall—

(a) be—

(commonly known as the “Klaxon”)

(b) sweep rapidly between 400 and 1 500 Hertz at a rate of between 120 and 180 cycles per minute (commonly known as the ‘yelp’); or

(c) sweep slowly between 400 and 1500 Hertz at a rate of between six and nine cycles per minute (commonly known as the ‘wail’).

21.3

Amendment of section 58 of Act 93 of 1996

15. Section 58 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3) The driver of a fire-fighting vehicle, a fire-fighting response vehicle, rescue vehicle, an emergency medical response vehicle or an ambulance who drives such vehicle in the performance of his or her duties, a traffic officer or a person appointed in terms of the South African Police Service Act, 1995 (Act No. 68 of 1995), who drives a vehicle in the carrying out of his or her duties or any person issued with the necessary authorisation and driving a vehicle [while engaged in civil protection as contemplated in any ordinance made in terms of section 3 of the Civil Protection Act, 1977 (Act No. 67 of 1977)], may disregard the directions of a road traffic sign which is displayed in the prescribed manner: Provided that—

- (a) he or she shall drive the vehicle concerned with due regard to the safety of other traffic; and
- (b) in the case of any such fire-fighting vehicle, fire-fighting response vehicle, rescue vehicle, emergency medical response vehicle, ambulance or any vehicle driven by a person [while he or she is so engaged in civil protection,] issued with the necessary authorisation, such vehicle shall be fitted with device capable of emitting a prescribed sound and with an identification lamp, as prescribed, and such device shall be so sounded and such lamp shall be in operation while the vehicle is driven in disregard of the road traffic sign.”.

Substitution of section 60 of Act 93 of 1996

16. The following section is hereby substituted for section 60 of the principal Act:

“Certain drivers may exceed general speed limit

60. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 59, the driver of a fire-fighting vehicle, a fire-fighting response vehicle, a rescue vehicle, an emergency medical response vehicle or an ambulance who drives such vehicle in the carrying out of his or her duties, a traffic officer or a person. appointed in terms of the South African Police Service Act, 1995 (Act No. 68 of 1995), who drives a vehicle in the carrying out of his or her duties or any person issued with the necessary authorisation and driving a vehicle [while engaged in civil protection as contemplated in any ordinance made in terms of section 3 of the Civil Protection Act, 1977 (Act No. 67 of 1977)], may exceed the applicable general speed limit: Provided that—

- (a) he or she shall drive the vehicle concerned with due regard to the safety of other traffic; and
- (b) in the case of any such fire-fighting vehicle, fire-fighting response vehicle, rescue vehicle, emergency medical response vehicle, ambulance or any vehicle driven by a person [while he or she is so engaged in civil protection,] issued with the necessary authorisation, such vehicle shall be fitted with a device capable of emitting a prescribed sound and with an identification lamp, as prescribed, and such device shall be so sounded and such lamp shall be

in operation while the vehicle is driven in excess of the applicable general speed limit.”.