



SAMOA NATIONAL ROAD CODE



**Ministry of Police
Vehicle & Driver License Registration
Section**

Studying this book

This book explains some of the most important parts of Samoa's Traffic Laws. It tells you about those parts of our traffic laws that every motorist **MUST KNOW AND UNDERSTAND**.

It is not, however a complete account of all our Traffic Laws.

It also gives a lot of sound advice about how to be a safe, good and careful driver.

This book has been put together to:

- prepare you for your learner, new driving licence and defensive driving course test and to explain driving laws and driving practices.
- keep you up-to-date with changing laws and driving practices.

For any queries or questions, please contact our Office below

Vehicle & Driver License RegistrationSection:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-------|
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DRIVE WISELY AND BE A RESPONSIBLY MOTORIST

INDEX

CHAPTER 1: DRIVERS LICENCES

1.1 LEARNER'S PERMIT

A person over the age of 16 years can apply for a Learner's Permit to drive a motor vehicle ONLY.

You must:

- Show your birth certificate/passport to the Office of the Land Transport Authority Licensing Section for registration
- Seat a theory test
- pay prescribed fee
- drive only in a light private vehicle [< 3 tons tare weight]
- drive only in a vehicle displaying the letter "L" on the front and back
- read and be fully familiar with your Samoan Road Code
- have your Learner's Permit with you when you drive.

DO NOT drive on your own. Someone who holds a current valid driver's licence must sit in the front seat beside you at all times when you drive. This person is your supervisor. He or she is responsible for you and both of you will be responsible for any offence you have committed on the road.

Your Learner's Permit is valid for 3 months only and can be renewed for further three monthly periods.

1.2 DRIVER'S LICENCE

A person who has reached the age of 17 years or over can apply for a Driver's Licence to drive a private and light goods motor vehicle or a motorcycle.[< 3 tons tare weight]

You must:

- show your birth certificate or passport to the Driver's Licensing Section at the Land Transport Authority for registration
- sit the theory test from 50 questions
- pass your theory test from 45 out of 50 question and then you take driving practical test on road

Practical Test

This is a test of how well you can drive. You must have a good and safe vehicle with a current registration to drive for this test.

The Examining Officer will test:

- your eyesight and hearing
- your knowledge of the rules of the road

- your driving skills.
- Preparing to drive
- Moving off
- Vehicle control
- General driving

If the Examiner is satisfied with your driving performance, you will pass the test. If he is not satisfied you will fail the test and you will need to be retested within a week.

If you pass all tests you will be issued a driver's licence upon payment of the allocated fee to the main office of the Land Transport Authority at Upolu and Salelologa Savaii.

1.3 **EXTENSION OF DRIVER'S LICENCE**

A licensed driver over 21 years of age who has been licensed for at least 6 months can apply to the Principal Licensing Authority for an extension of his or her driver's licence to a Commercial Drivers' License of any classes to allow him or her to drive a public service vehicles or trucks and other heavy duty vehicle or machinery except license for buses if you reach over 25 year of age and you can sit theory test before practical test drive on road on a particular vehicle you applied for your commercial license.

Practical Test

A practical test for the type of vehicle requested is required. You must also produce your current Samoan driver's license, police report, medical report [if required] and your birth certificate to the Examining Officer for registration.

The Examining Officer will test:

- your eyesight and hearing
- your knowledge of the rules of the road
- whether you can speak and read Samoan and English
- in the case of a bus or taxi, whether you have a good knowledge of the areas you vehicle will be servicing
- your knowledge of any special traffic rules relating to the particular type of vehicle
- your driving skills in using the vehicle.

If the Examiner is satisfied with your driving performance you will pass the test. If not you will fail the test and you will need to be retested in one week. If you pass your test an extension to your licence will be issued upon payment of the prescribed fee.

1.4 **WHEN WILL YOUR LICENCE EXPIRED?**

Your private driver's licence is valid for five years and a commercial license on any classes is valid for one year. It expires from the date it was issued. It is against the law to drive after your licence has expired. You will be prosecuted for being an unlicensed driver if you continue to drive without renewing your driver's licence.

1.5 **SHOULD YOU ALWAYS CARRY YOUR LICENCE?**

YES! You must carry your driver's licence with you whenever you drive at any time. You must show it to any Police Officer or Land Transport Authority Authorised Traffic Officers [ATOs] when you are asked for your Driver's License. If you are not carrying your driver's licence, you will be charged with an offence immediately without further notices.

1.6 **AGE LIMITS FOR DRIVER LICENSE**

| You must be | To get a licence for a |
|------------------------------|--|
| 16 years old and over | Apply for learner permit |
| 17 years old and over | car, motorcycle, pickup, light goods vehicle, van, moped, light machinery [< 3 tons tare weight] |
| 21 years old and over | taxi, truck, heavy duty vehicle and all forms of heavy machinery. [> 3 tons tare weight] |
| 25 years old and over | Buses only [> 3 tons tare weight] |

1.7 **PERSONS VISITING SAMOA APPLY FOR TDL.**

If you are a visitor to Samoa and you have a current valid FULL driver's license from your home country so you can apply for a Samoan Temporary Driver's License from LTA main office at Vaitele and at Salelologa Savaii and authorised rental companies and authorities.

Prohibited to issue any TDL on restricted/learner/probation/provision/court order and local driver license

1.8 **HOLDER OF INTERNATIONAL DRIVER'S LICENSE**

If you are a visitor to Samoa and you are a holder of a valid international drivers' licence issued outside Samoa under any International Convention relating to motor traffic to which Samoa is a party:

- you may drive a vehicle or a motorcycle on our roads using your international driver's licence for a period not exceeding 90 days in total in any one year
- your international driver's licence will only be valid if it has been presented to the Samoa Land Transport Authority for endorsement and they have exempted you from the requirement to hold a Samoan driver's licence
- You should apply to the Land Transport Authority for a Samoan driver's licence once the 90 days expires.

1.9 **PERMITTING UNLICENSED PERSON TO DRIVE**

You must not let your child or any member of your family, or your employee or anyone else who does not have a licence drive a motor vehicle or motorcycle or any type of commercial vehicles and machineries because it is an offence to permit an unlicensed person to drive.

CHAPTER 2: TRAFFIC LAWS, REGULATIONS AND ORDERS

2.1 **GENERAL**

You must obey all traffic laws when driving any type of vehicle, machinery or motorcycle.

2.2 **POLICE OFFICER**

You must obey all orders and directions of a Police Officer on duty.

2.3 **TRAFFIC SIGNALS, ROAD SIGNS AND MARKINGS.**

You must comply with all traffic signals, road signs, and road markings.

2.4 **DRIVING ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE ROAD**

You must drive at all times on the left of the roadway centre line.

It is essential to keep left, because if you don't you are likely to cause a head-on-crash. This is one of the worst type of crash, as it almost always results in death or serious injury.

2.5 **PASSING ON THE RIGHT WHEN OVERTAKING**

You may pass or overtake on the right half of the road when:

- Overtaking and passing a vehicle travelling in the same direction as you are if there is no immediate traffic coming from the opposite direction.
- Only overtake on broken line marking on the road at any places.

2.6 **OVERTAKING**

You are not allowed to overtake or attempt to pass any vehicle travelling in the same direction:

- at an intersection or within 30 feet (9 metres) before the intersection
- unless you have a clear view of the road for a distance of at least 90 metres [300 feet] in the direction you are travelling.
- When overtaking another vehicle you must signal and toot your horn to let others know what you plan to do. And it is the duty of the driver ahead of you not to increase his or her speed and to move as far as practicable to the left to allow your vehicle to pass.

You are not allowed to overtake or attempt to pass if the vehicle in front of you is itself overtaking another vehicle.

2.7. **PASSING ON THE RIGHT**

You may pass to the right of a vehicle in front of you only:

- when that vehicle is making a left turn and it is safe for you to do so.
- If the vehicle in front of you is moving slowly.

2.8. **GIVING WAY**

- Vehicles coming up a hill shall where necessary be given the right of way by going downhill vehicles.
- Where for any reason any vehicle is proceeding at a slow rate of speed, which is causing obstruction to other traffic. The driver of such vehicle shall keep close to his left side of the road or stop so as to enable other vehicles to pass.
- Always give way to your right at any vehicle approaching on your right side and at any intersection, roundabout and traffic lights when the system is failed.

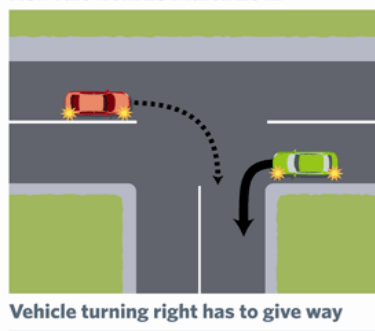
2.9 **TWO OF THE GIVING WAY RULE HAVE CHANGED**

- To make our roads safer, two of the give way rules changes at 6am on Saturday 03 September 2016
- This changes affected all drivers, riders, pedestrians, and cyclist.

2.9.1 **Change 1: THE LEFT -TURN VERSUS RIGHT-TURN RULE**

- This rule now requires all traffic turning right TO GIVE WAY TO A VEHICLE COMING FROM THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION AND TURNING LEFT.
- This applies at crossroads, T-Intersections and drive ways where both vehicles are facing each other with no signs or signals, or the same signs or signals

a) Both Vehicles Facing Each other with no signs or signals



b] Both Vehicles Facing Give Way Signs C] Both Vehicle Stop Signs



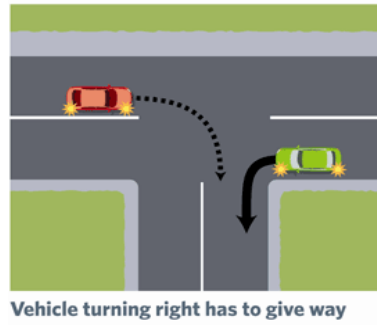
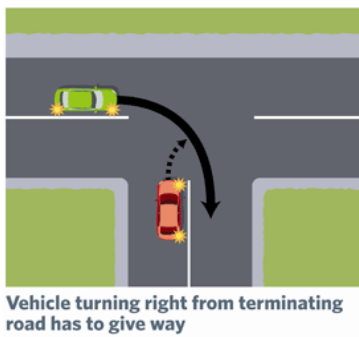
d] Both Vehicles Facing Green Traffic Signal



THINK: IF YOU ARE TURNING RIGHT.... GIVEWAY

2.9.2 Change 2: The Uncontrolled T-Intersections Rule

- Uncontrolled means when there are no signs or signals to tell you to do
- At an uncontrolled T- intersection all traffic from a terminating road [bottom of the T] should give way to all traffic on a continuing road [TOP of the T].
- This brings it into line with T- intersections where there are stop or give way signs on the terminating road: [Top of the " T" goes before me]
- The rule change also applies at uncontrolled driveways, such as at a Supermarket or Hospital.
- The traffic exiting the driveway should give way to all traffic on the road.
- All vehicles entering or exiting a driveway must to give way to pedestrians on a footpath, or cyclists and pedestrians on a cycle path or shared path
- Drivers should not pull out to block the footpath in front of pedestrians and cyclists.



2.9.3 **DID ALL THE GIVE WAY RULES AT INTERSECTIONS CHANGE?**

NO! Traffic signs and signals are placed at intersections to show road users what they need to do and this will not change.

HERE IS A SNAPSHOT OF THE GIVE WAY RULES THAT NOW APPLY

1. Road users should continue to obey all roads signs and signals
2. If you are turning, give way to all vehicles not turning
NOTE: if the road is marked with a centre line, you are deemed to be turning if you leave the path of the centre line. If you follow the path of the centre line, you are deemed to be not turning.
3. If you are turning right, give way to all vehicles coming towards you including those turning left.
NOTE: this applies if both vehicles are facing no signs or signals or the same signs or signals. **NEW RULE.**
4. At a T- Intersection or driveway, traffic on terminating road [bottom of the "T"] must give way to all Traffic on a continuing road [top of the "T"] **NEW RULE**
5. If all other give way rules [or signs or signals] do not determine who gives way, give way to vehicles coming from your right side. [An examples of this is at cross roads controlled by traffic signals when the signals have failed and all approaches have a flashing yellow light].

2.9.4 **DID THE RULES CHANGE AT ROUNDABOUTS?**

NO! You should continue to give way to all vehicles that will cross your path from your right Side as you enter a roundabout.

2.10 **OBSTRUCTION OF ROAD**

- No person in charge of a motor vehicle shall cause to permit the vehicle to stand on a road so as to cause any unnecessary obstruction thereof.

2.11 **DANGEROUS AND INCONSIDERATE DRIVING**

No driver of a motor vehicle shall;

- While the vehicle is in motion, remove both hands at the same time from the steering control and disengaged gear.
- Drive the vehicle in such a manner as shall result in splashing other road users in so far as it is reasonably practices to avoid doing so.
- Interrupt any funeral or lawful ceremonial.
- Leave his/her vehicle with any part thereof on or over any footpath.

2.12 **DRIVING ON ROADWAYS MARKED WITH TRAFFIC LANES**

When the street or road is marked with traffic lanes you must:

- drive in the middle of your lane
- drive in the proper lane as indicated by signs or road markings

You cannot change lanes until:

- you have checked that the change can be made safely; and
- you have signalled your intention to change lanes
- your signal must be made 100 feet (30 metres) before you change lanes.

DO NOT change lanes suddenly or without a signal – this can cause accidents.

THE LIFE YOU SAVE MAY BE YOURS.

You must get into your correct lane. If not, you may be unable to safely change lanes. If that happens you may have to go the wrong way.

2.13. FOLLOWING TOO CLOSELY

When following another vehicle you must:

- not follow closer than is safe, taking into account your speed, the other traffic and the road and weather conditions
- be alert and be ready to stop your vehicle when you see that vehicle's stop lights
- be able to safely stop if the vehicle in front of you stops suddenly.

2.14. REQUIRED GIVING SIGNALS

Signals enable you to tell other road users that you are changing your direction or position on the road.

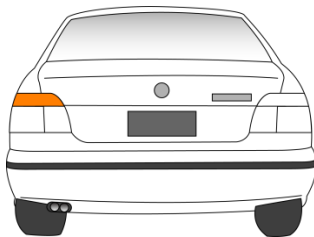
Because of this, knowing when and how to give signals is a very important part of being a safe and smart driver.

Drivers usually signal using their indicators. However, you may sometimes need to use hand signals, if your indicators can't be seen.

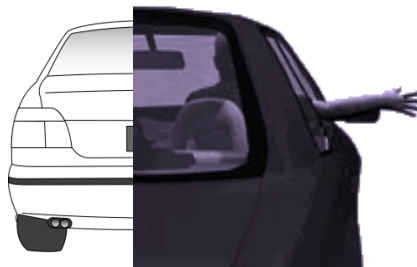
WHEN TO GIVE SIGNALS:

You must signal for **at least three seconds** before you:

- turn left or right
- move towards the left or right [for example; when you pull into the left lane after passing another vehicle]
- stop or slow down
- Move out
 - From parking space
 - To pass another vehicle
 - To change lanes



Left Turn

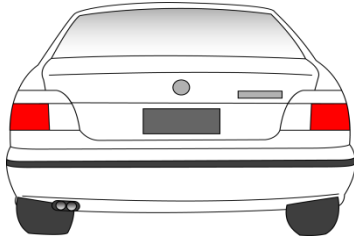


Right Turn

Right-turn hand signal

- Signals must be given at least 100 feet (30 metres).
- Signalling does not give you the right to do what you want. You must check to make sure your action can be safely completed without interfering with other traffic.

STOPPING LIGHTS



Stop Light

Slowing hand signal

- The stop lights [the red lights at the back of your vehicle] let people behind you know that you are slowing down or stopping.
- Stop lights come on automatically when you use the brake pedal [footbrake]
- Keep your foot on the brake pedal to keep the brake light on to warn other drivers.
- Use hand signal when the car stop lights failed or can't be seen properly.

HAZARD LIGHTS

When you turn on your hazard lights, both indicator lights flash at the same time as a warning to other road users.

You should only turn on your hazard lights when your vehicle becomes a temporary hazard to other road users when:

- You're changing a tyre on the side of the road
- Your vehicle has broken down and is being towed.

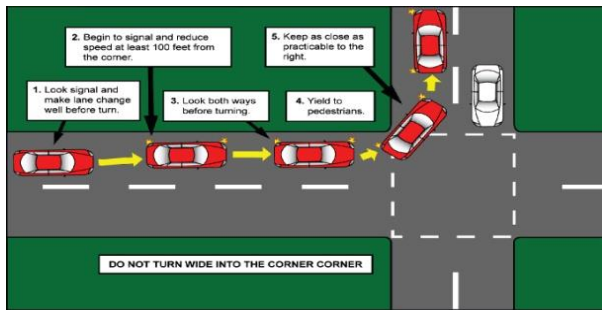
2.15 INTERSECTIONS

TURNING LEFT TURN – If you are turning left into another road or street:

- Keep to the Left side of the road, or in the left turn lane.
- When the green light is on

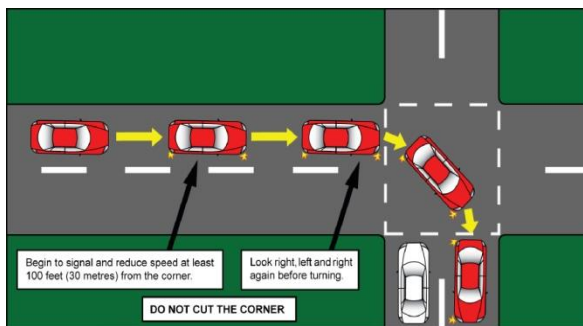
2.16 FREE LEFT TURN

- All vehicles are allowed to make a free left free turn at all intersection when clear, except an intersection controlled by traffic lights with left turning lights arrows.



2.17 **TURN RIGHT** – If you are turning right into another road or street

- Move into the inside lane or the right turn lane
- Signal at least 30 meters from the intersection and only turn when the green lights or arrows are on.
- Turn into the lane beside the centre line of the road you are turning into



2.18. **GIVING WAY AT UNCONTROLLED INTERSECTIONS**

Be ready to stop when you approach a GIVE WAY sign at an intersection. Watch out for:

- Vehicles ascending [go up] or descending [go down] a hill; or
- Emergency vehicles using a siren and/or flashing lights.




A **GIVE WAY** sign means you need to stop only when there is other traffic that has the right of way.



2.19 **SPEED LIMITS**

Samoan law says NO person shall drive any motor vehicle at such a speed that the vehicle cannot be brought to a standstill within half the length of clear road in front of you.

You must not drive any motor vehicle or motorcycle in excessive of the following speeds:

| MILES PER HOUR | TO BE USED |
|--|---|
| 24 kph OR 15 mph  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When going round the curve or a corner • When going through any intersection • When passing any school or church when pupils and churchgoers are entering or leaving. • When going through any raised pedestrian crossing • When going through any bridge • When passing any Court, or Parliamentary sittings • When passing any stationary vehicle |
| 40 kph OR 25 mph  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In any place within a radius of 2 miles (3 km) from the intersection of Ifiifi Street and beach Road (Court house Intersection) the 2 miles boundary is Moataa in the east, Vailoa in the west and south at Robert Louis Stevenson gates at Vailima. |
| 56 kph OR 35 mph  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any place outside the two miles (3 km) radius of town area |

Speed limits are always indicated by road signs. But you should always drive carefully and reduce your speed when:

- near schools;
- near children's playgrounds;
- at areas marked with SCHOOL CROSSING sign;
- School patrol
- in residential areas;
- Approaching a Pedestrian Crossing.
- Court house
- Parliament house
- Around corner
- Funeral services
- Village curfew

BEWARE: DON'T FOOL YOURSELF, KILL YOUR SPEED SAVES LIFE

2.20 **PARKING**

Many times it is difficult to find a parking place. When parking your vehicle you should be considerate of others and park as close as possible to the edge of the road or road curb. Where angle parking is provided you must park your vehicle in the centre of the parking space.

You must not stop, stand or park your vehicle whether attended or unattended:

- where there is a NO STOPPING sign
- where there is a sign NO PARKING or NO PARKING except during specified hours
- on the wrong side of the road
- at a curve, corner or intersection or within 10 feet (3 meter) thereof.
- In front of any driveway
- On a pedestrian crossing or within 5 feet thereof
- Within 6 feet (2 meter) of any fire hydrant.
- At any designated marking area for fire truck station
- Emergency marking zone at hospital out patients and emergency area and any fire station
- Footpath
- Median range lines

2.21 **EMERGENCY VEHICLES**

When you hear the warning signs (siren, bell or horn) or see the warning lamps of any emergency vehicle [Police, Ambulance, Fire truck] you must pull over to the side of the road, stop your vehicle and provide a clear path for the emergency vehicle. Do not panic or brake suddenly.



2.22 **ONE-WAY STREETS**

- Calliope Street between NPF plaza and Bartley's store at Matafele is a one-way street going inland. You are only allowed to turn into it from Main Beach Road.

2.23 **PROHIBITING SOUND SIGNALS IN SPECIFIED AREAS**

Do not use your horn or sound signal, except in the case of an emergency when:

- in any hospital area

- near churches where services are being held
- in any area where a Court sitting is being held
- in any place where a session of the Legislative Assembly is being held.
- In any public area
- Funeral service
- Village curfew
- Near school

2.24 CLEAR DRIVER'S VISION

- Your rear view and side mirrors should be adjusted to give you the maximum view of the side and the rear of your vehicle.
- Your car front and rear windscreen and side mirrors are important to you. It will give you a clear view of what is happening at both front and rear or near your vehicle while driving or parking.
- Tinted windscreen and windows are not allowed in all public service vehicles.
- Private vehicle front and rear windscreen must be clear at all the time from any tints and any obstruction

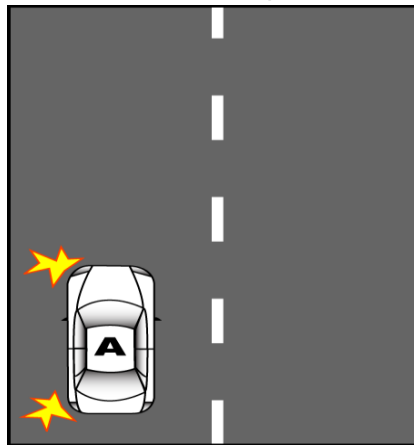
2.25 USE OF INDICATORS

Your indicators are usually flashing yellow lights on both sides of the front and rear of your vehicle.

They signal your intentions to other road users.

2.26 USE OF YOUR LEFT INDICATOR WHEN YOU ARE:

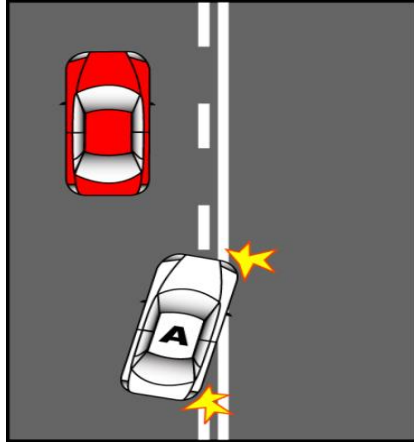
- Turning left.
- Moving towards the left [for example...when you pull back into the left lane after passing another vehicle or when returning to the kerb].
- I am pulling over to the left side to park.



2.27 USE OF YOUR RIGHT INDICATOR WHEN YOU ARE:

- turning right

- Moving towards the right [for example.. when moving out of a parking space]



HAZARD LIGHTS

When you turn on your hazards lights, both indicator lights flash at the same time as a Warning to other road users.

You should only turn on your hazards lights when your vehicle becomes a temporary hazards to other road users, such as when:

- You're changing a tyre on the side of the road
- You're vehicle has broken down and is being towed.

2.28 POLICE OFFICER ON DUTIES



When a Police Officer is directing traffic, do what the Officer directs you. His or her signals overrule:

- traffic signals
- all traffic signs
- The normal traffic rules.

Show the Officer where you want to go by using your indicators or your hands when indicators have failed.

2.29 GOODS VEHICLES

All goods vehicles including buses and taxis whether loading or unloading **MUST**:

- Be so parked as to leave the roadway clear and safe for other road users.

2.30 NO U-TURN

You cannot at any time, day or night:

- Make a U-Turn anywhere between the front of the TanoaTusitala Hotel at Sogi and the Vaisigano Bridge.

2.31 NO RIGHT TURN

You are **NOT** permitted to turn right at any time:

- From the Main Beach Road into Reclaimed area.
- Street between RSA bar and DBS bank from east and exit from fish market to west
- Exit from main NPF building opposite Nelson Library to east

2.32 PROHIBITED SPECIFIED ROAD

The Saleufi road commencing from the intersection of Saleufi and VaiteleStreet running towards the north and ending at the intersection of Saleufi road and Convent Street is hereby declared to be the main road.

All vehicles using the Savalalo Street from west to east shall at all times stop and give way to all vehicles using Saleufi main road unless controlled by Traffic Signals.

2.33 MAIN ROADS

The following road are hereby declared to be main roads:

- (a) The road running from Falefa in the east continuously along the northern coast of the Island of Upolu in a westerly direction through the town of Apia (via Main Beach Road) to a point in Fugalei street 50 yards north-east of its intersection with Vaitele Street.
- (b) The road from a point in Vaea Street also known as Taufusi Road 50 yards south of its intersection with Main Beach Road aforesaid running continuously in a southerly direction along Vaea Street aforesaid to the direction of Vaea Street aforesaid with Vaitele Street hence in a westerly direction along Vaitele street aforesaid and the northern coast of the Island of Upolu to the Mulifanua Wharf in the West.
- (c) Ifiifi Street from a point 50 yards south of its intersection with Main Beach Road to the southern boundary of the grounds surrounding the MotootuaHospital.

- (d) Falealili Street(also known as Vailima Road or Tivoli Road) from a point 50 yards south of its intersection with Main Beach Road to the entrance gates of Government House at Vailima.
- (e) Tufuiopa Main Road running from the southern direction of the Vaitele Street intersection at Lalovaea to the south ending at the T intersection near Sam Spares Company Limited.
- (f)Taufusi Main Road running from the southern side of the 4 corners of the Vaitele Street near AST building towards south ending at the inland side of the T intersection of the Convent Street.

Rule

Every driver of a motor vehicle when approaching an uncontrolled main road shall give way to the vehicle on the main road and allow the same to pass before him, and if necessary for that purpose stop his vehicle.

2.34LEFT TURN AGAINST THE RED LIGHT AT INTERSECTIONS

- All vehicles at an intersection controlled by traffic signals shall stop when the red lights is on and shall not move until the lights changes to green.
- However at T intersections and 4 intersections controlled by traffic signals. Vehicle turning left are hereafter permitted a free turn against the red light if there are NO LEFT TURNING ARROWS and only in strict compliance with the following rules:
 - (a) Left turning vehicles must use the outside lane at all times
 - (b) Left turning vehicles must first stop at the red light and check to see whether the road is clear before execution a left turn.
 - (c) Execute your left turn only if the road is clear, and it is safe to do so.
 - (d) Left turning vehicle must give way to pedestrians at all times.

CHAPTER 3. USE OF MOTOR VEHICLE

3.1BRAKES

(1)Every motor vehicle, other than a trailer, or articulated vehicle, shall be equipped with entirely independent braking systems or with one efficient braking system having two independent means of operation.

(2)The breaking system on any motor vehicle shall be so constructed and maintained as to bring the motor vehicle to a stop in a distance of twenty – five feet when running at a rate of twenty miles per hour on level ground.

3.2 SECURING OF LOAD

The load carried by any motor vehicle shall be so secured that danger is not likely to be caused to any person on a road by reason of any part thereof falling off the vehicle. The fact that any part of the load falls off a vehicle shall be *prima facie* evidence that the load was not so secured.

3.3 TYRES

- (1) No motor vehicle (other than a track-laying vehicle or a roller) shall be driven on any road roads unless it is fitted with wheels and pneumatic tyres, or other wheels or tyres of a type approved in writing by the Minister.
- (2) The wheels and tyres of any vehicle on a road shall be adequate to carry safely and without undue damage to the road surface.

3.4 MAINTENANCE OF TYRES.

(1) All the tyres of a motor vehicle shall at all times while the vehicle is used on a road be maintained in such a condition as to be free from any defect which might cause damage to the surface of the road or danger to persons on or in the vehicle or to other persons using the road.

3.5. USE OF WARNING DEVICE

- (1) No driver of a motor vehicle shall,
 - Except in a case of emergency use or permit to be used any warning device with which it is equipped otherwise than for reasonable traffic needs.
 - No person shall use any device in such a manner as to produce an offensive noise on a road.

3.6. LAMPS

- (1) Every motor vehicle when in motion on a road at night shall carry and use two headlamps which shall:
 - (a) be placed in such manner that they direct a beam of light ahead of the vehicle: and
 - (b) display beams of light of sufficient power to illuminate clearly the road for at least fifty yards ahead

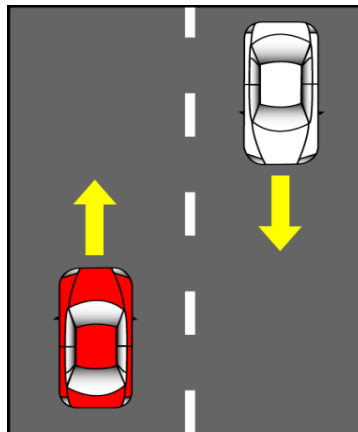
CHAPTER 4: ROAD MARKINGS, SIGNS AND TRAFFIC SIGNALS.

4.1. ROAD MARKINGS

Road markings and lines are words and figures marked on the road with paint, reflectors and other markers.

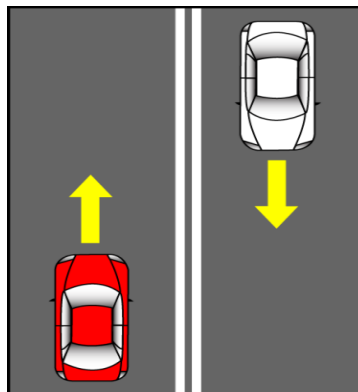
Centre Lines

Centre lines are used to separate traffic moving in opposite directions and allow to overtake other car when is cleared and only one car can overtake with signal on.



Double Lines

Double unbroken centre lines are used to mark the centre of the roadway where overtaking is **at all times** prohibited in both directions. You may cross these lines **only when leaving or entering the roadway**.

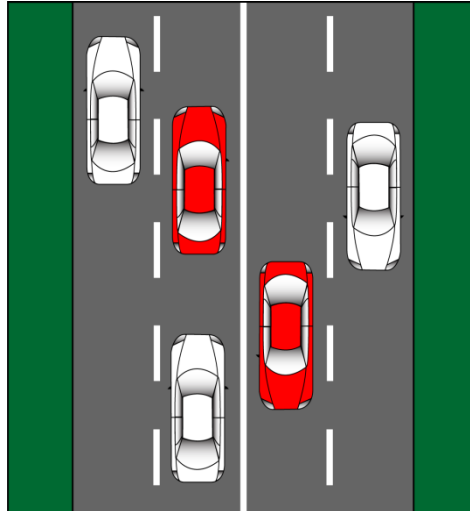


SINGLE LANE ROAD

Broken Centre Lines

Broken centre lines are used to separate the road into lanes

You must drive to the left of the centre line but when it is safe you may cross this line to overtake another vehicle.



DOUBLE LANE ROAD

Laned Road

Most roads in Samoa have lanes marked on them with a white lines.

When driving on a laned road, it is important to drive your vehicle within your lane.

Where there are two or more lanes on your side of the centre line:

- keep in the left-hand lane as much as you can
- don't use the lane closest to the centre line if you will hold up other vehicles.

The lane closest to the centre line should only be used when:

- you want to pass another vehicle
- you want to turn right
- the left-hand lane is full with other traffic or is blocked.



Laned road

UNLANED ROAD

Keeping left on an unlaned road is a road with no marked white lines.

To stay well out of the way of oncoming vehicles, **always keep as close as possible to the left side of the road.**



Unlaned road

Driving tip

When driving on an open road with a centre line, your driver's seat should normally be in the centre of your half of the road (except when driving a left-hand drive vehicle).

Reduce your speed to stay in this position when driving around bends.

ON ROAD CURVE

Keep well to the left when you are driving around a curve (a bend in the road), whether you are **on a laned or unlaned road.**

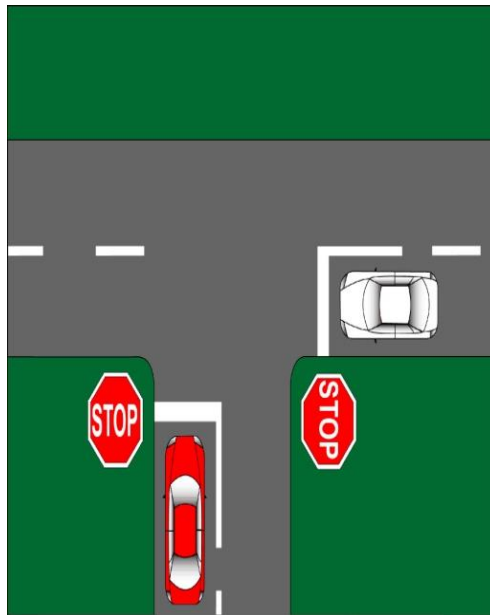
This is particularly important because you can't always see what's around the corner. As well as other vehicles coming the other way, there could be cyclists, horses, pedestrians or an object on your side of the road.



Curves in the road

Stop Lines

- Stop lines are solid lines painted across traffic lanes at intersections and before pedestrian cross walks indicating the exact place at which to stop.

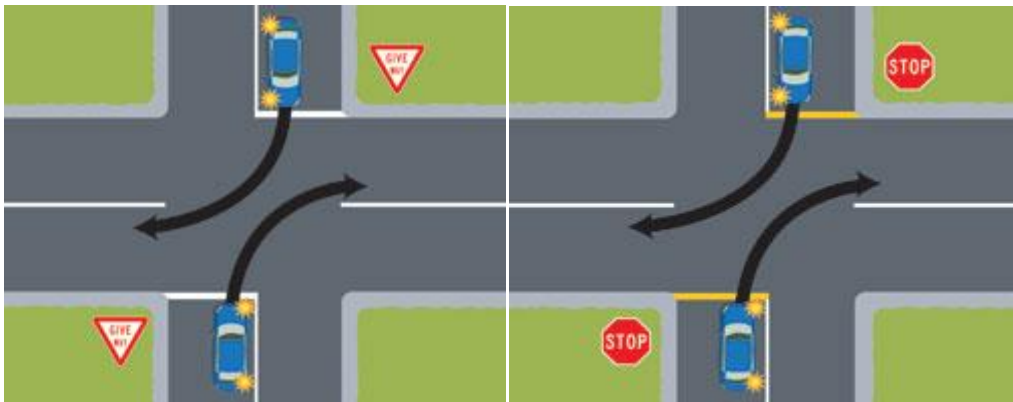


What are the give way rules?

- Road users must stop or give way as necessary at Stop signs, Give Way signs and traffic signals.
- If you are turning, give way to vehicles not turning. Note: if you are leaving the path of a marked centre line, you are deemed to be turning and must give way to vehicles that are following the centre line.

- If you are turning right, give way to all vehicles coming towards you including those turning left. Note: this applies if both vehicles are facing **no signs or signals or the same signs or signals**.
- At a T-intersection or driveway, traffic on a terminating road or driveway (bottom of the T) must give way to all traffic on a continuing road (top of the T).
- **In all other situations, give way to all vehicles coming from your right, e.g. at a crossroad controlled by traffic signals, when the signals have failed and all approaches have flashing yellow lights.**

Two vehicles coming towards each other and turning right



When two vehicles are coming towards each other and both are turning right, **no one should have to give way**.

This is because normally neither will cross the other's path, so both vehicles can turn safely. However, be careful if the other vehicle is a large truck or bus, as they may need more room to make the turn.

Remember to check for traffic coming towards you that is going straight through the intersection (**see the give way rules**). Your view might be blocked by the turning vehicle.

Important

Giving way means that the road user you're giving way to (whether they are a driver, cyclist, pedestrian or any other kind of road user) doesn't need to stop, brake or slow down, swerve or take any other evasive action to avoid you.

At many intersections traffic is controlled by Stop signs, Give Way signs and traffic signals. See below for when to use the give way rules at these intersections. If a police officer is directing traffic you must obey his/her directions as they overrule the give way rules.

Stop sign

At an intersection controlled by a Stop sign:

- come to a complete stop (do not just slow down)

- stop where you can see vehicles coming from all directions
- stay stopped until you have given way to all other vehicles (this includes cycles and motorcycles, etc)
- if you and another vehicle are both facing Stop signs, use the give way rules
- you must not go until it is safe.

The word STOP and a single yellow line will be painted on the road.



Intersection with a Stop sign

Smart thinking

If you are turning right, give way to all vehicles coming towards you who are turning left.

Give Way sign

At an intersection controlled by Give Way sign:

- slow down and be ready to stop
- give way to all other vehicles, except those facing a Stop sign
- if you and another vehicle are both facing a Give Way sign, use the give way rules (see The give way rules)
- you must not go until it is safe.



A triangle gives way marking and a white line will be painted on a sealed road.

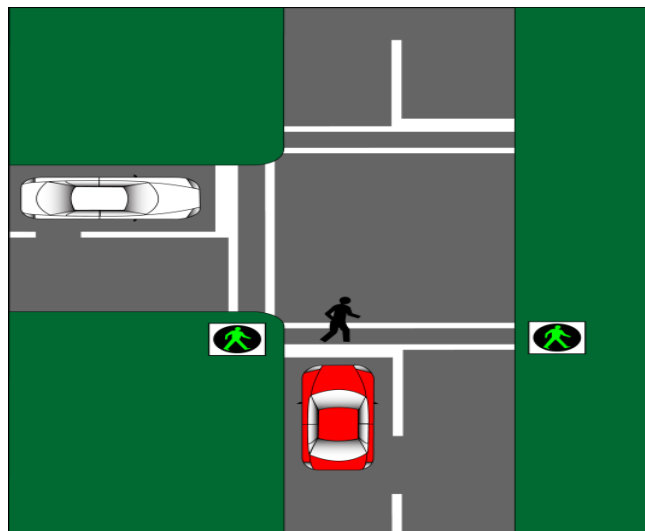


A car facing a Stop sign gives way to a car facing a Give Waysign.

Cross Walk Lines

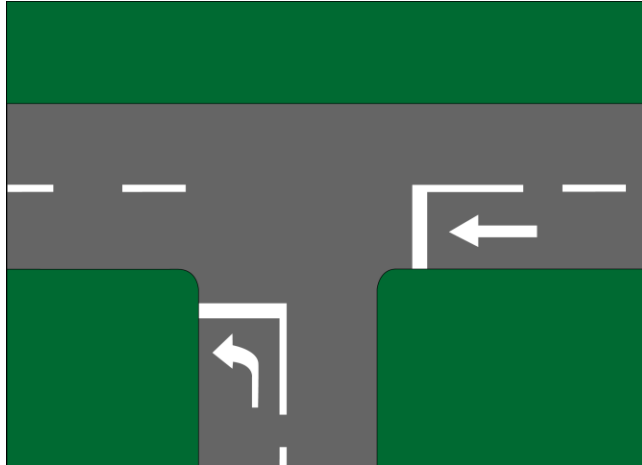
Cross walk lines are two solid lines painted across the traffic lanes. When pedestrians are in the cross walk, they have the right of way over motor vehicles when the walk signal appears.

YOU MUST STOP FOR PEDESTRIANS IN THE CROSS WALK.



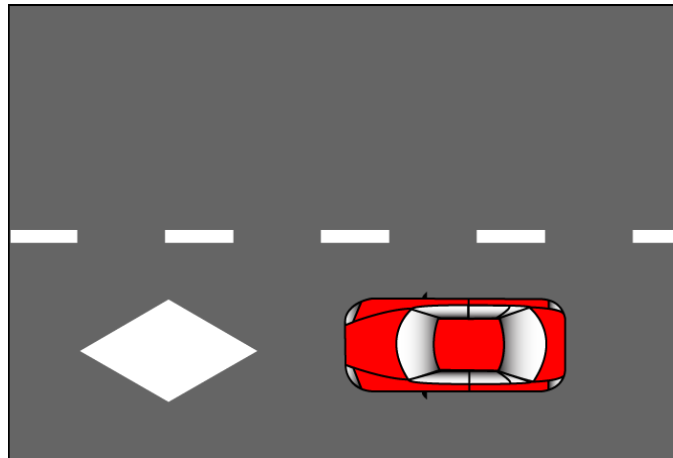
Painted Arrows

Painted arrows are arrows painted on the road at some intersections. They tell you the direction which traffic in each lane must go.



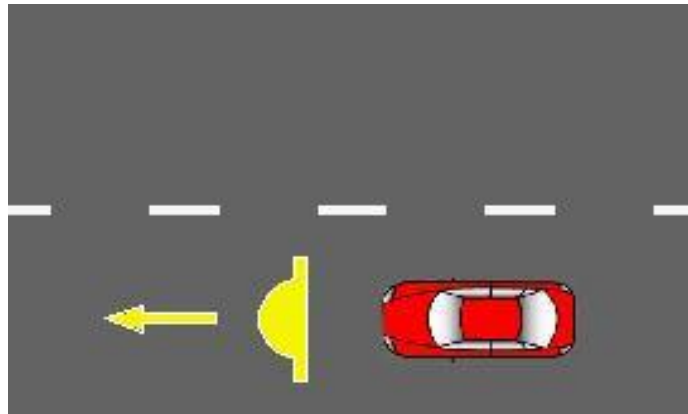
Painted Diamond

A diamond painted on the road is to warn you of a pedestrian crossing ahead.



Road Humps

Road Humps are there to slow down the movement of speeding vehicles. It helps to calm our roads.



4.2. **REGULATORY COMPULSORY SIGNS**

Compulsory Signs tell you what you must or must not do.

Stop Sign



When facing a STOP sign you must stop

Give Way Sign



When facing a GIVE WAY sign you must slow down and prepare to stop on other traffic has the right of way:

Speed Limit Signs

These signs indicate special speed limits that apply in the area at all times. You must not go faster than the posted maximum speed limit.



No Left Turn

No left turn means you cannot turn left at any time.



NO ENTRY SIGN

You must not drive into this road.



No U-Turn Sign

No U-Turn means you must not make U-turn in this area at any time.



No Parking

This No Parking sign means you may stop briefly while picking up or dropping off people or goods but you must not park. If you stop but are not picking up or dropping off people or goods this means you have parked even if you stay in your vehicle.

Maximum time that you can stop in a No Parking area is 5 minutes. After that you must move your vehicle. The arrow indicates the area controlled by the sign.



No Standing

This No Standing sign means you cannot stop at any time anywhere in the area controlled by the sign.



The arrow indicates the area controlled by the sign.

This No Standing sign means no standing during the times stated on the sign.

You may stand or park after designated hours



Buses Only Sign

This sign means this area is for Buses Only to load and unload. You may not stop here at any time. Only buses can stop here



Taxi Only Sign

This sign means this area is for Taxis Only.

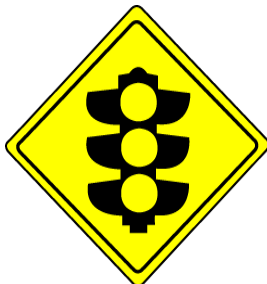


WARNING SIGNS

Warning signs alert you to particular hazard on the road ahead. They warn you to be careful for your own safety, the safety of other road users or the safety of road workers carrying out maintenance.

Traffic Lights Ahead

Warn you of traffic lights ahead.



Roundabout Ahead

Warn you of a roundabout ahead.



Form One Lane

Warn you that the road ahead is forming into one lane.

**Road Bend**

Warn you of a road bend ahead.

**Sharp Bend**

Warn you of a sharp road bend ahead.

**Winding Road**

Warn you of a winding road ahead.

**PERMANENT WARNING SIGNS**

Pedestrian crossing



Look for children crossing

Speed Hump



Speed Hump is also a road sign; they are there to slow down the movement of the speedy vehicles. It helps to calm our road.

Speed hump sign are either installed on the left side of the shoulder of the road at 70 meter from the hump, or painted hump sign on the road lane 70 meters from the hump. Compliance with our speed limits is simple, but your non-compliance with our speed limits will send you to jail.

School patrol



School patrol - you must stop

Single Lane Bridge



Warns you of a single lane bridge coming up.

**Shallow Stream****Loading Zone sign**

Warn you of a shallow stream ahead

any vehicle can stop here to unload goods or people, but the vehicle must not be left unattended for more than five minutes

Sharp Left Turn Sign**Sharp Right Turn Sign****Disabled Parking Sign****Parallel Parking**



Only disable people vehicle can park

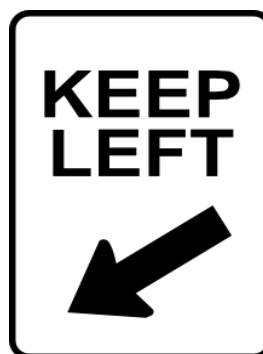


There are also road construction and maintenance signs used to notify you of roadwork being carried out ahead. Slow down, watch out for workmen and machinery working and follow the road signs



Keep Left

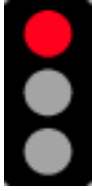
Remind you to keep left of the centre line of the road at all times



4.3. TRAFFIC SIGNAL

The following rules apply at an intersection controlled by traffic signals (also known as **TrafficLights**):

RED SIGNAL



A red signal means **STOP**

GREEN SIGNAL

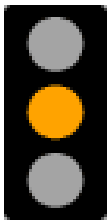


A green signal means you can go, provided it is safe and:

If you are turning right, you give way to vehicles coming towards you that are going straight through or vehicles turning left.

You give way to pedestrian crossing. This includes riders of mobility devices and wheel recreational devices.

YELLOW SIGNAL



A yellow signal means stop, unless you are so close to the intersection that you can't stop safely. A yellow signal indicates that the lights will soon turn red.

Flashing yellow signal

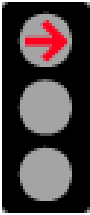


A flashing yellow signal means the traffic signals are not working. In this case, you must apply the give way rules for uncontrolled intersections.

ARROW TRAFFIC SIGNAL

When arrows are displayed on traffic signals, they apply only to vehicles going in the direction the arrow is pointing. For example:

Red arrow



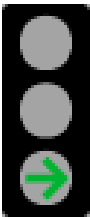
A red arrow means you must stop if you are travelling in the direction the arrow is pointing.

Yellow arrow



A yellow arrow means you must stop if you are travelling in the direction the arrow is pointing, unless you are so close to the intersection that you can't stop safely.

Green arrow







A green arrow means you can go if you are travelling in the direction the arrow is pointing, provided it is safe.

READING THE TRAFFIC SIGNALS

The following examples will help you get to know what traffic signals and arrows mean.

| Signal | Vehicle path | Action |
|--------|--------------|--------|
|--------|--------------|--------|

| | | |
|---|------------------|--|
|  | Turning left | Must stop. The red arrow protects pedestrians crossing the road. |
| | Straight through | May go, provided it is safe. |
| | Turning right | May go provided: > it is safe, and > you give way to vehicles coming towards you that are going straight through the intersection. |
|  | Turning left | May go, provided it is safe. |
| | Straight through | May go, provided it is safe. |
| | Turning right | Must stop, unless it is not safe to do so. |
|  | Turning left | May go, provided it is safe. |
| | Straight through | May go, provided it is safe. |
| | Turning right | May go, provided it is safe. All vehicles coming towards you should be stopped. |
|  | Turning left | Must stop. |
| | Straight through | Must stop. |
| | Turning right | May go, provided it is safe. All vehicles coming towards you should be stopped. |

NOTE:

ALL TURNING VEHICLES MUST GIVE WAY TO PEDESTRIANS USING THE PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK.

Be especially alert for children. They are your neighbour's son and your neighbour's daughter.

4.4. LINES

- Single broken centre lines should not be crossed unless the road is clear
- Double or single unbroken centre lines should not be crossed at all times unless leaving or entering the road

- A broken lines at an intersection or a roundabout has the same meaning as a lines used with a Give Way signs.

4.5. LANES

- Lanes are marked with lines on the road, and vehicles are to keep in the middle of your lane of driving.
- Vehicles may cross from one lane to another across broken lines only if it is safe to do so and by the use of your appropriate indicators.

4.6. MERGING LANE



- Where two lanes merges into one lane, vehicle using the outside lane, that is the lane nearest to the road curb must give way to vehicles using the inside lane.

4.7. ARROWS

- Arrows are painted on the road surface within lanes to show traffic directions.
- When approaching an intersection, vehicles must follows the directions of arrows.
- If the driver of a vehicle does not intend to follow the directions of the arrow, he or she should change lanes before reaching the arrow, otherwise he cannot change lanes but must follow the directions of the arrows.

CHAPTER 5. USE OF ROUNDABOUT

5.1. Operation of The Tower Clock Roundabout

1. When approaching the roundabout, you must be in the right lane, depending on where you are travelling to:
2. Keep left of all traffic islands when approaching the clock roundabout.
3. Give Way to all vehicles coming from your right
4. All traffic must travel in a clockwise direction
5. For multi – lane approaches – you must observe and understand the arrow markings
 - The left lane (or outside lane) is for turning left or going through.
 - The right lane (or inside lane) is for turning right or generally going through.

The drawings below illustrates the lane entries and exits for all approaches

REMEMBER: “**YOU CAN NOT CHANGE LANES WITHIN THE ROUNDABOUT**”

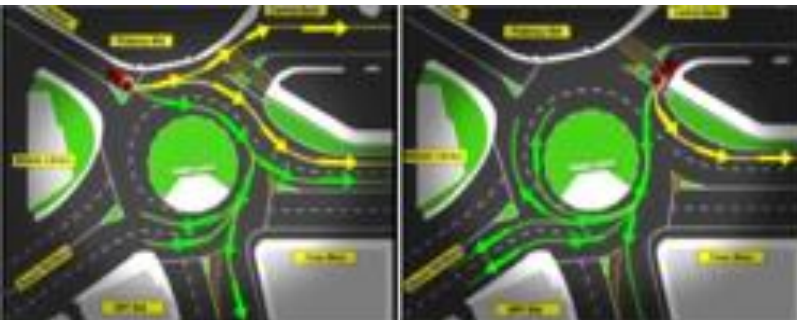
1 Approach from Mulivai.

2 From Vaea St

3 From Savalalo



4 From Fish Market 5 From Central Bank



CHAPTER 6: DUTIES OF DRIVERS

6.1. CAR ACCIDENTS

If you are involved in an accident, whether directly or indirectly from the use of your motor vehicle, you must:

- STOP your vehicle unless it is unsafe for you to do so. In which case you must drive directly to the nearest Police Station and report the accident.
- find out whether any person is injured.
- immediately take the injured person to the nearest hospital.
- if no one is injured you must give your name, address, registration details of the vehicle and the name and address of the owner of the vehicle to any Police Officer or to any other person concerned.

If anyone is injured or killed you must:

- report the accident to a Police Officer or the nearest Police Station as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours after the accident unless you are unable to do so due to injuries to yourself.

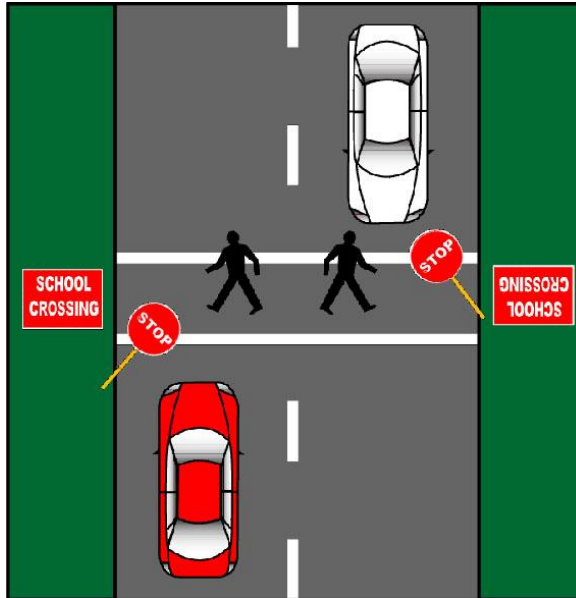
6.2. PEDESTRIANS AND CROSSINGS

- Pedestrians walking along a road must use the footpath.
- A pedestrian crossing the roadway must use a Pedestrian Crossing.
- If a Police Officer is on duty at a Pedestrian Crossing, pedestrians must comply at all times with the Police Officer's directions.
- You must not sleep, lie, sit or loiter on any roadway.
- When nearing a Pedestrian Crossing, slow down and be ready to stop.
- Do not overtake any vehicle that is slowing down or has stopped at a Pedestrian Crossing.
- Give way to any pedestrian on your side of a Pedestrian Crossing. If there is no centre line you must give way to all pedestrians walking along the crossing.

6.3 SCHOOL PATROL

You must slow down and be ready to stop when you are nearing an area where a SCHOOL PATROL is operating.

- when any SCHOOL PATROL sign is being used traffic from both directions MUST STOP until all signs have been removed.



6.4. YOUNG CHILDREN

- Please watch out for children, especially young children getting on or off a school bus or any other vehicle. You must **slow down** and always **beware** because children are likely to run across the road unexpectedly and without looking.

KILL YOUR SPEED NOT YOUR CHILD

CHAPTER 7: MISCELLANEOUS

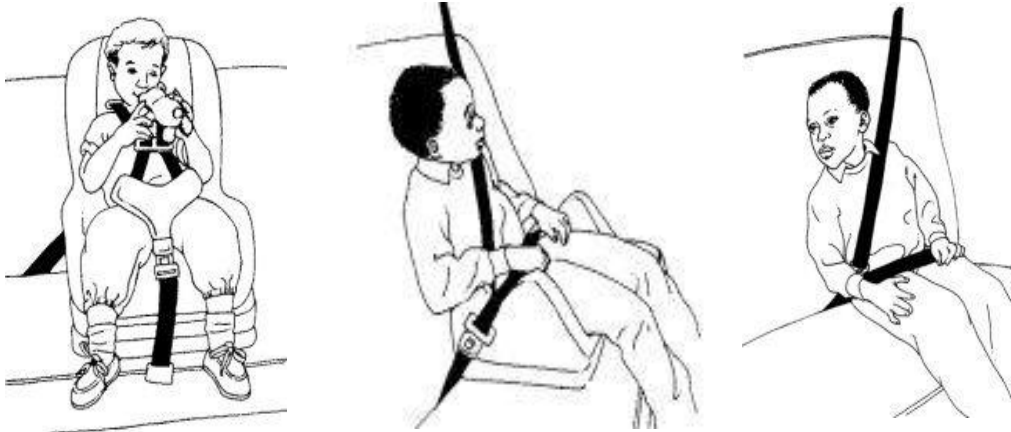
7.1. SEAT BELTS AND CHILD SAFETY SEATS



Children

Children under 12:

- must use a seat belt or a child safety seat.
- if there is no Safety Seat, the child must use a seat belt if it fits.
- if the seat belt does not fit, the child must sit in the back seat.



Adults

Adults:

- must use seat belts at all times
- the driver is responsible for making sure all passengers use their seat belts.
- \$ 100.00 fine



Non-Wearing of Seat Belts

People do not have to wear seat belts when:

- reversing or backing if it is difficult to see while wearing a seat belt.
- seated in the back seat.
- driving any machinery or any vehicle previously imported without seat belts.

IMPORTANT:

**NEVER PUT AN ADULT AND A CHILD TOGETHER
IN THE SAME SEAT BELT**

7.2. **MOTORCYCLE SAFETY**

Motorcycles do not protect their riders in a collision. In any collision the riders are likely to suffer severe injury.

IMPORTANT:

The rider and any pillion passenger **MUST** wear a safety helmet at all times. This is for your own protection –
**THINK SMARTER – DENT YOUR HELMET, NOT
YOUR HEAD.**

- only one pillion passenger may be carried at a time.
- drivers of vehicles have a duty to keep a special look out for motorcycles and bicycles especially when turning.

7.3. **RECKLESS OR DANGEROUS DRIVING**

The public you can:

- go to prison for up to 2 years.
- and / or be liable to maximum fine of \$1,000.00.
- and / or lose your licence.

7.4. **NEGLIGENT DRIVING CAUSING DEATH OR INJURY**

If you are driving negligently and cause bodily injury or death you can:

- go to prison for up to 5 years.
- and / or be liable to a maximum fine of \$2,000.00.
- and / or lose your licence.

7.5. **DRIVING WHEN DRUNK OR DRUGGED**

If you are driving or attempting to drive or are in charge of a motor vehicle on a road or other public place, and you are under the influence of drink or drugs, and you are incapable of having proper control of the vehicle you can:

- go to prison for up to 2 years.
- and / or be liable to a maximum fine of \$1,000.00.
- and / or lose your licence.

Any alcohol or drugs will affect your driving. They affect your understanding and your senses.



IT'S SIMPLE if you DRINK, don't DRIVE, if you DRIVE, don't DRINK

7.6. **WET WEATHER DRIVING**

The car:

- Check brakes, tyres, steering, windscreen wipers, horn and all lights.
- make sure your car is safe and solid.

The road:

The legal definition of a road is very broad. It includes not only streets and highways, but also any place the public has access to - including bridges, beaches, riverbeds, car parks, reserve lands, wharves and road shoulders,

- a wet road is always slippery.
- you should drive carefully and slowly.

Seeing:

- keep windows and inside and side mirrors clean.
- use your wipers regularly.

Following:

- keep back. It takes more time to stop on wet roads.
- leave plenty of space between vehicles.
- Drive and keep left at the edge of the road

7.7. **NIGHT DRIVING**

Dim your lights:

- when traffic is coming towards you.
- when you are following traffic.
- when you see any person coming towards you.

7.8. **ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT**

The following motor vehicle equipment is prohibited:

- a red, blue, green ,yellow or any extra lights excepted from normal light on the outside of your vehicle excepting for all emergency vehicles.
- a tinted front or rear windscreen for private vehicle
- tints for any public service vehicle
- a gong, bell or siren excepting for emergency vehicles.
- Noisy vehicle muffler
- Over size tyre
- DVD player on any public services vehicle
- Colour tyre for all public service vehicle

7.9. **WHAT IS A GOOD DRIVER?**

A good driver must:

- drive at all times with care, attention and consideration for other road users.
- protect the safety of the public on roads.
- comply with all Traffic Laws.
- drive a safe vehicle.
- Check vehicle before using

7.10. **USE OF MOBILE PHONE WHILE DRIVING.**

A driver of a vehicle shall not:

- (a) Use a mobile phone while the vehicle is moving.
“Mobile phone”

- (b) does not include a two-way radio or does not include a hands-free phone car kit or
- (c) a hands-free phone head set.



“Use” includes the following:

- (d) holding the mobile phone to, or near to, the ear whether or not engaged in a phone call or phone conversation.
- (e) writing, sending or reading a text message on the mobile phone.
- (f) Turning the mobile phone on or off
- (g) Operating any further function of the mobile phone.
- (h) \$ 200.00 fine

Offence

A person who contravenes these Regulations is guilty of an offence and on conviction shall be liable to a fine of up to 4 penalty unit.

7.11 REVERSING

When reversing, take special care to make sure that the way is clear. Every year, young children are killed and injured by reversing vehicles. If you are in any doubt about whether the way behind you is clear, get out and check.

Reversing guidelines

Follow the guidelines below whenever you are reversing:

- Before you move off, make sure it is safe to reverse. The best way to do this is to walk around the vehicle and make sure there are no children or other obstacles in your path.
- Don't rely on your mirrors alone. Always turn around and look over your shoulder.
- Try to reverse in a straight line.

7.12 FOLLOWING DISTANCE

It's very important to make sure you have a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front, so you will have enough time to stop if you need to stop suddenly.

Several seconds can pass from the time you see the hazard until you come to a complete stop. This is because you need time to react to the hazard and take action – putting your foot on the brake – as well as time for the brakes to slow the vehicle down.

The faster you are going, the longer it will take to stop. This means you must increase your following distance as you increase your speed.

Important

Some people take longer to react to hazards than others.

If you're tired, or your reaction times are slower than normal, take this into account and increase your following distance.

Keeping a safe following distance

A good way to make sure you always keep a safe following distance is to use the two-second rule or the four-second rule, which are explained below.

The two-second rule

Under normal conditions, the two-second rule is an easy way to make sure you have allowed enough following distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front, no matter what speed you're travelling at.

To check if you are travelling two seconds behind the vehicle in front:

- watch the vehicle in front of you pass a landmark – such as a sign, tree or power pole – at the side of the road
- as it passes the landmark, **start counting 'one thousand and one, one thousand and two'**
- if you pass the landmark before you finish saying those eight words, you are following too closely - slow down, pick another landmark and repeat the words to make sure you have increased your following distance.



The four-second rule

In bad weather, when the road is wet or slippery, or when you're towing a trailer, you need to increase your following distance to four seconds, because you'll take longer to stop if you need to.

To check that you are travelling four seconds behind the vehicle in front, follow the instructions above for the two second rule, **but count 'one thousand and one, one thousand and two, one thousand and three, one thousand and four' instead.**

Important

When you're following another vehicle and you don't intend to overtake them, you must leave enough space in front of your vehicle for vehicles behind to pass you.

INTERSECTION

What is an intersection?

An intersection is where two or more streets or roads join or cross. Intersections can include where a public entrance or exit joins a street or road.

Intersections can include entrances to and exits from supermarkets, petrol stations and other public parking areas, such as airports and hospitals. There are a number of different types of intersections, depending on how many roads meet at the intersection.



Different kinds of intersections

Driving up to an intersection

If any other vehicle is approaching or crossing an intersection, do not speed up when approaching. As you drive up to an intersection, use the system of car control. This method helps you deal with hazards safely.

- **Course (look ahead for a safe and legal path).**

- **Mirrors** (look behind and in your blind spots).
- **Signal** for at least three seconds.
- **Brakes** (slow down so that you can give way if required).
- **Gears** (change if necessary)

When it is safe:

- Accelerate up to traffic speed.

Approaching an intersection

As you ride up to an intersection:

- slow down and look in all directions: ahead, behind and to both sides
- be ready to stop if you have to.

Life is Precious..... Use the Roads Responsibly
Together, we can make our Roads Safer.