



## Motor Vehicle Law

Motor Vehicle Law approved.

(2015, Union Parliament Law No. 55)

(7 September 2015)

The Union Parliament has approved this law.

### Chapter (1)

#### Name and Definitions

- (1) This law shall be called the “Motor Vehicle Law”.
- (2) The expression included in this law are defined as follows:
  - (a) “**Ministry**” means the Ministry of Rail Transportation (Myanmar).
  - (b) “**Administration department**” means the Ministry of Rail Transportation, Road Transport Administration Department.
  - (c) “**Motor vehicle**” means a vehicle with wheels using mechanical power or electrical power or any other energy.
  - (d) “**Trailer**” means a vehicle with wheels which is pulled by a motor vehicle.
  - (e) “**License officer**” means a person who has been authorized by the Road Transport Administration Department to approve licenses for drivers and assistants.
  - (f) “**Registration officer**” means a person who has been authorized by the Road Transport Administration Department to register motor vehicles.
  - (g) “**Motor vehicle registration certificate**” means the detailed record evidencing the registration of a motor vehicle which shows that the vehicle is allowed to be driven on public ways.
  - (h) “**Registered person**” means a person who is registered by his/her name in the motor vehicle registration record.
  - (i) “**Owner**” refers means a person who is registered in the motor vehicle registration record or a person who is the guardian or has agreed to be liable if the actual owner is underaged.
  - (j) “**Responsible person**” means a person who is registered in the motor vehicle registration record or who is in charge in association with a vehicle.
  - (k) “**Commercially used motor vehicle**” means a motor vehicle which transports either people or goods for money.
  - (l) “**Main parts of a motor vehicle**” refers to the appearance of a vehicle, its body, engine, gear, frame, axis and steering system.



- (m) **“Loading capacity”** means the net weight amount of goods or the number of passengers or the total of goods and passengers allowed by the Road Transport Administration Department.
- (n) **“Private business of inspecting motor vehicles”** means a person or an organization who has a permit to operate a business of inspecting motor vehicles for compliance with rules and regulations.
- (o) **“Motor vehicle trading business”** means the selling of motor vehicles in showrooms or the storing of motor vehicles in storerooms.
- (p) **“Motor vehicle inspection certificate”** refers to a certificate of evidence with regard to the aptitude of a vehicle after it was inspected by the administration department.
- (q) **“Motor vehicle registration number plate”** means a plate which shows registration numbers and is given by the administration department to be affixed at the front and at the back of the car.
- (r) **“Public place”** means places that people can go to, enter and leave, road sides, roads, streets and ways.
- (s) **“Directive road symbols and signs”** means directive symbols, signs and instruments used for the safety of road users including drivers.
- (t) **“Driving license”** means an official document that states that a person has permission from the license officer to drive a particular type of motorized vehicles on a public roadway.
- (u) **“Assistant permit”** means an official document for a person who helps drivers and passengers either with vehicles for goods or with vehicles for passengers.
- (v) **“Environmental conservation associated with motor vehicles”** means taking actions to conserve the green environment and the reduction in pollution of air, water, land and noises caused by motor vehicles.

## Chapter (2)

### Objectives

- (3) The main objectives of this law are as follows:
  - (a) For the safe driving of motor vehicles in public areas through registration according to official rules and regulations.
  - (b) To provide driving licenses for driving particular types of motorized vehicles after qualification checks.
  - (c) For the easy flow of road users and for the protection against road risks and vehicle perils.



- (d) To avoid traffic congestion and to use high technology transportation systems efficiently in order to implement protection against road risks and vehicle perils.
- (e) To reduce environmental pollution caused by motor vehicles.

### **Chapter (3)**

#### **Motor vehicle registration**

- (4) Every owner of a motor vehicle must register the vehicle with the registration officer.
- (5) The owner of a motor vehicle must maintain the vehicle in a safe condition equal to the standard condition.
- (6) The registration officer may not register the motor vehicle if the vehicle is disqualified for failing to comply with safety standards or the engine is broken or if the applicant has failed to disclose previous facts about former registrations of the vehicle.
- (7) The administration department must make rules for the initial registration of a motor vehicle. And it must also make rules for the yearly renewal of the registration, and any other kinds of registration.
- (8) (a) The owner of the vehicle can request the registration officer to issue a temporary registration according to the regulations.  
  
(b) The temporary registration according to this section cannot be valid for more than three months. And this law does not allow temporary registration more than one time.
- (9) The administration department must create separate types based on the structure of the motor vehicle and its loading capacity.
- (10) The owner of a vehicle must notify the registration officer if the main parts of his/her vehicle needs to be changed or repaired.
- (11) Commercially used motor vehicles have to be registered as “rental vehicles (taxi)”.
- (12) If the ownership of a motor vehicle has changed, the new owner or the inheritor has to ensure that the name of the registered person is changed according to the regulations.
- (13) The registered person has to notify the administration department to record the new address if the current address has changed.
- (14) The registration officer-



- (a) Has, after scrutinizing the requirements, authority to approve, deny or request to recheck in association with section 10 or 11 based on the motor vehicle inspection unit's report.
  - (b) Has, after scrutinizing the requirements, authority to approve, deny or request to recheck in association with section 12 or 13.
- (15) The law does not allow any owner of a motor vehicle to change the major parts of the vehicle without permission of the registration officer.
- (16) The ministry must prescribe the time of validity or expiration of the motor vehicle registration.

#### **Chapter (4)**

##### **Temporary suspension or cancellation of the motor vehicle registration**

- (17) The registration officer has authority to temporarily suspend the motor vehicle registration for any of the reasons below:
- (a) A serious deficiency in the motor vehicle which can have severe effects on the public or the natural environment has been detected.
  - (b) Failure to appear, without reason, in spite of being summoned in relation to the motor vehicle registration.
  - (c) Changing the major parts of the motor vehicle without the permission.
  - (d) Request by a related department or person with proven right to the vehicle according to the regulations.
  - (e) Request by a person offering proof of accident [risks], road risks or damage to the natural environment because of the vehicle.
- (18) The registration officer must cancel the registration of a motor vehicle for any of the reasons below:
- (a) Deterioration of the motor vehicle to a degree that it can never be driven safely.
  - (b) The motor vehicle is permanently moved outside the area of Myanmar.



- (c) Failure to renew or change an expired registration after five years of the expiry date.
  - (d) Expiry of the vehicle's life time recognized by the ministry
  - (e) It is detected that the type, year, structure or part of the body of the vehicle has been changed without permission.
  - (f) Request to cancel the registration by the registered person with evidence.
- (19) (a) The Appellant can appeal to the related Road Transport Administration Department of the state or region within 30 days after that the registration according to section 6 or 14 was denied, or the registration was temporarily suspended or cancelled according to section 17 or 18,

If the appellant does not agree with the decision of the Road Transport Administration Department of the state or region, the appellant can appeal to the executive director of the Road Transport Administration Department within 30 days after having been notified of the decision.

If the appellant does not agree with the decision of the executive director of the Road Transport Administration Department, the appellant can appeal to the minister of the Ministry of Rail Transportation within 30 days after having been notified of the decision.

- (b) The decision of the Ministry according to sub-section (a) is final and not changeable.

## Chapter (5)

### **Approval, rejection, temporary suspension, cancellation and lifetime cancellation of driving licenses, assistant licenses and driving trainings**

- (20) The administration department has to categorize driving licenses based on the drivable types of motor vehicles.
- (21) Applicants have to apply to the license officer with completed and capable of rules; the license officer has to approve after he has checked [the applicant's aptitude] and is satisfied that the standard tests have been met.
- (22) The license officer-
- (a) Has authority to deny approval of the driving license and to temporarily suspend or cancel the current driving license for the reasons below. He can also disqualify a



person for any of the reasons below during the waiting period for approval or keeping the license:

- (1) The person is not believed to be fit to drive because of disease or disability;
  - (2) The person is not believed to be fit to drive in public areas because of mental problems;
  - (3) The person is not believed to be fit to drive because of alcoholic problems or crimes committed in association with driving;
  - (4) The person is believed, on the basis of records, to be harmful;
  - (5) It has been detected that the person committed crimes in association with driving and the court requests not to approve, or cancel, or suspend, the driving license.
- (b) Has to create a written record of the decision made, or the activity done, according to sub- section (a).
- (23) The administration department can approve or reject the change of a driving license from one type to another after checking with standard tests.
  - (24) The administration department can approve or reject the application for an international driving license after checking with standard tests.
  - (25) The administration department can approve or reject the application to drive within the country with a foreign driving license after checking with standard tests.
  - (26) The applicant for an assistant permit has to apply to the license officer and fulfill the qualifications.
  - (27) The license officer can approve or reject the application for an assistant permit after checking the qualifications according to section (26).
  - (28) The license officer has to create a record if a person with a driving license or assistant permit fails to follow the rules for safe driving. This record is one of the points to consider when renewing or changing, suspending or cancelling the driving license or assistant permit.
  - (29) The license officer is authorized to suspend the assistant permit for a specific period, cancel it, or cancel it for life if the assistant failed to follow one of the sections of this law.



- (30) An applicant wishing to operate motor vehicle driving trainings can apply to the administration department for a business license.
- (31) The administration department can approve or reject the application filed according to section (30) after testing the qualifications.
- (32) The appellant can appeal to the Ministry within 30 days after having been notified of the rejection according to sections 23, 24, 25 or 31; the Ministry's decision is final and not changeable.
- (33) (a) The appellant can appeal to the executive director of the Road Transport Administration Department if the decision according to sections 23, 24, 25 or 31 is not made within 30 days after the filing of the application.

If the appellant does not agree with the decision of the executive director of the Road Transport Administration Department, he or she can appeal to the minister of the Ministry of Rail Transportation within 30 days after having been notified of the decision.

- (b) The decision of the Ministry according to sub-section (a) is final and not changeable.

## Chapter (6)

### **Import of motor vehicles, manufacturing, selling, equipping, repairing, maintenance, inspection**

- (34) The administration department has to make rules and set standard requirements for environmental conservation and safety in connection with the import, manufacturing, equipping, repair and maintenance of motor vehicles.
- (35) An applicant wishing to operate a business associated with manufacturing, selling, equipping or maintaining motor vehicles or to operate a private business for inspecting motor vehicles has to apply for a business license to the administration department with everything to show that he or she fulfills the requirements.
- (36) The administration department can approve or reject the application made according to section (35) after testing whether the requirements are fulfilled.
- (37) The appellant can appeal to the Ministry within 30 days after having been notified of the rejection according to section 36; the Ministry's decision is final and not changeable.



## Chapter (7)

### The Ministry's authority

(38) The Ministry-

- (a) Has to form a “national vehicle and road accidents prevention council” with the approval of the Union Government and specify the major duties and responsibilities of the council in order to implement measures preventing vehicle and road accidents.
- (b) May also form respective committees and specify the major duties and responsibilities of each.
- (c) May hire specialists in the area of road accident prevention technology in order to implement duties effectively.
- (d) May make calls for suggestions or commentaries on preventing accidents with regard to construction in a public area during the time of preparation, construction or use.

(39) (a) The “national vehicle and road accidents prevention council” has to form “state/region vehicle and road accidents prevention councils” for each state and region in the country with the approval of the Union Government and specify the major duties and responsibilities of the councils in order to implement measures to prevent vehicle and road accidents.

- (b) The “state/region vehicle and road accidents prevention council” has to form “district/township vehicle and road accidents prevention councils” and specify the major duties and responsibilities of the councils in order to implement measures to prevent vehicle and road accidents.

(40) The Ministry has to implement the following duties with the approval of the Union Government-

- (a) Categorizing and defining motor vehicles imported from abroad based on types, manufacturing date and the numbers that can be imported.
- (b) Defining places in the country where it is allowed to drive based on the types of motor vehicles.
- (c) Making rules for the transport of goods to or from other countries and for international travelers.



- (41) The Ministry, with the approval of the Union Government, has to fix the penalties and other charges for the following reasons in accordance with this law -
- (a) Charges for registration of imported vehicles, initial registration charges, charges for exchanging vehicles, inspection fees and other charges dealing with registration cases.
  - (b) Charges for registration of drivers and assistants, testing fees and other charges dealing with driving licenses.
  - (c) Charges for manufacturing, selling, equipping and maintaining motor vehicles and other charges for driving trainings.
- (42) The Ministry can change the penalties and services charges with the approval of the Union Government.
- (43) The Ministry is free to publish special orders allowing the registration of any vehicle free of charges.

## **Chapter (8)**

### **Power of the administration department**

- (44) The powers of the administration department are as follows:
- (a) Establishing the procedures for motor vehicle registrations.
  - (b) Establishing the rules and standard requirements for motor vehicle registrations.
  - (c) Establishing the procedures for inspecting motor vehicles.
  - (d) Cooperating with foreign countries with respect to the temporary or permanent import of motor vehicles registered abroad or with regard to the temporary or permanent import of locally registered vehicles in compliance with international road transport agreements.
  - (e) Establishing rules and regulations with regard to the business of manufacturing, selling, equipping and maintaining motor vehicles.
  - (f) Establishing rules and regulations with regard to the private business of inspecting motor vehicles.
  - (g) Establishing rules and regulations for inspecting, identifying, permitting, driving and using in connection with applications for driving licenses and assistant permits.



- (h) Establishing rules and regulations to avoid vehicle accidents and road accidents; educating and cooperating with related government departments, government organizations and NGOs.
- (i) Developing signs, signals and road indicators.
- (j) Testing the quality of roads with a view of safe driving; analyzing; sending experts; making suggestions to related government organizations.
- (k) Using high technology for preventing accidents and avoiding traffic congestion.
- (l) Reviewing vehicle accidents; cooperating with related government departments, government organizations and NGOs in order to prevent vehicle accidents.
- (m) Educating about environmental pollution caused by motor vehicles; researching; cooperating with related government departments, government organizations and NGOs.
- (n) Setting speed limits with a view of the safe driving of motor vehicles on public roads.

## Chapter (9)

### **Prohibitions**

- (45) No one is allowed to drive, request someone to drive, or park, motor vehicles in public places under the following conditions:
  - (a) The motor vehicle is not registered.
  - (b) The registration has been suspended, revoked or expired; the registration card is not displayed.
  - (c) The registration card has been revoked or is expired.
- (46) No one is allowed to drive, or allow to drive, motor vehicles in public places without risk insurance for others. This prohibition does not extend to passengers.
- (47) (a) No one is allowed to drive a motor vehicle in public places without carrying the driving license with him/her.
  - (b) No one is allowed to drive a motor vehicle in public places without a driving license.



- (c) The owner of, and the person responsible for, a motor vehicle are not allowed to give permission to someone without a driving license to drive in public places.
- (48) No one is allowed to drive, or allow to drive, a motor vehicle in public places if the vehicle does not match with the drivable types as recorded in the driving license.
- (49) No one is allowed to do the following in public places:
- (a) Driving above the speed limit or below the minimum speed.
  - (b) Driving a motor vehicle which endangers others.
  - (c) Driving a motor vehicle after the consumption of narcotic drugs or alcohol.
- (50) No one is allowed:
- (a) To operate a business of manufacturing, selling or equipping motor vehicles without a business license.
  - (b) To operate a business of maintaining or repairing motor vehicles without a business license.
- (51) No one is allowed to offer motor vehicle driving training without business driving license.
- (52) No one is allowed to operate a private business of inspecting motor vehicles without a business license.
- (53) No one is allowed to do the following:
- (a) Making a motor vehicle registration number plate undistinguishable.
  - (b) [Altering] a motor vehicle registration number plate so that it can be confused [with others].
  - (c) Using a fake motor vehicle registration number plate on the vehicle.
- (54) No one is allowed to do the following:
- (a) Working as a motor vehicle assistant without assistant permit.
  - (b) Driving a motor vehicle while in an inappropriate mental or physical state.
  - (c) Driving a motor vehicle loaded above the loading capacity.



- (d) Failing to wear a helmet while driving a motor-cycle.
  - (e) Failing to wear a safety belt while driving vehicles; this includes passengers.
  - (f) Driving a motor vehicle in places reserved for pedestrians.
  - (g) Changing, without legal permission or reasons backed up by evidence, the original type of a vehicle, its main parts, or the facts in a motor vehicle inspection certificate.
  - (h) Driving a motor-cycle without back mirror or silencer over the shock absorber.
- (55) The law prohibits anyone who has motor vehicle from doing the following:
- (a) Failing to request to change the name of the registered person within 30 days starting from the date of selling or transferring the motor vehicle from one owner to another.
  - (b) Failing to request to change the name of the registered person within 30 days starting from the date of the inheritance if the motor vehicle has been inherited.
  - (c) Describing wrong facts, changing or excluding the real facts in a motor vehicle sale and transfer contract when applying to change the registered person.
- (56) No one is allowed to use, or request to use, an official document for one motor vehicle if this document was given by the administration department for another vehicle.
- (57) No one is allowed to drive, or work as an assistant, by using the driving license or assistant permit of another person.

## **Chapter (10)**

### **Penalties**

- (58) (a) Anyone found to have broken the prohibitions of sections 45, 47 (b) or (c), 48, 49 or 50 (b) will be punished with imprisonment of not more than one month or with a fine of not more than Ks. 50,000 or both.
- (b) Anyone found to have broken the prohibition of section 50 (a) will be punished with imprisonment of not more than three months or with a fine of not more than Ks. 5,000,000 or with both.



- (c) Anyone found to have reoffended by breaking the prohibition of section 50 (a) again within a year will be punished with imprisonment of not more than three months or with a fine of not more than Ks. 100,000 or with both.
- (59) Anyone found to have broken the prohibition of section 51 will be punished with a fine of not more than Ks. 500,000.
- (60) Anyone found to have broken the prohibition of section 52 will be punished with a fine of not more than Ks. 1,000,000.
- (61) Anyone found to have broken the prohibition of section 53 will be punished with imprisonment of not more than three months or with a fine of not more than Ks. 100,000 or with both.
- (62) Anyone found to have broken the prohibition of sections 47 (a), 54 or 57 will be punished with a fine of not more than Ks. 30,000.
- (63) Anyone with control over a motor vehicle found to have broken the prohibition of section 55 will be punished with a fine of not more than Ks. 100,000.
- (64) Anyone found to have broken the prohibition of section 56 will be punished with imprisonment of not more than six months or with a fine of not more than Ks. 300,000 or with both.
- (65) Anyone found to have broken one of the rules [i.e., one of the implementing regulations to be promulgated by the Ministry of Rail Transportation] specified in this law will be punished with a fine of not more than Ks. 30,000.
- (66) Helpers and supporters will be punished like the main offender.

## **Chapter (11)**

### **Compensation**

- (67) The court has to take the following actions with regard to the loss or damage caused by someone sentenced according to sections 279, 337, 338 or 304A of the Penal Code in connection with a motor vehicle:
- (a) Mandating to compensate, with sufficient money to cover the costs of repair or renewal, if the property of a government organization was damaged.



- (b) Notwithstanding sub-section (a), mandating to compensate, with sufficient money to cover the costs of repair or renewal, if the owner of the damaged property is not able to negotiate with the offender until an agreement is reached.
  - (c) Collecting the amount like income-tax arrears if someone failed to pay compensation as mandated by sub-sections (a) and (b).
- (68) An order according to section 67 does not prevent the aggrieved person from suing in civil court.

## Chapter (12)

### Rules and taking action

- (69) The ministry can authorize the administration department or an appropriate officer of the administration department to take action against persons failing to comply with the rules [promulgated] according to this law.
- (70) (a) A police officer in uniform can arrest the driver of a motor vehicle without warrant in any of the following situations:
- (1) Driving a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol.
  - (2) Driving a motor vehicle under the influence of narcotic drugs or other prohibited drugs.
  - (3) Driving carelessly over the speed limit and thereby posing a risk for accidents.
  - (4) Driving dangerous types of motor vehicles.
- (b) [The police officer can] release a person arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol from custody after conducting the checks mandated by the law.
- (71) (a) A police officer in uniform can arrest anyone without warrant in any of the following situations:
- (1) Refusal, despite an obligation to do so according to this law, to reveal his or her name and address, or giving a name or address that the officer does not believe to be true.
  - (2) The officer recognizes the person as a fugitive in a case covered by this law.



- (b) The officer can temporarily keep the vehicle in a safe place if this is required after having arrested the driver of the motor vehicle driver without warrant. The officer has to be aware of, and take care to prevent, accidents when the motor vehicle has to be moved.
- (72) (a) A police officer or an officer from the administration department can take away the driving license from a driver who broke a provision of this law, but has to hand over an official record card showing the seizure of the driving license.
  - (b) The driver can drive the motor vehicle back home or to the driver's residence with the official record card showing the seizure of the driving license, but nowhere else.
- (73) A police officer or an officer from the administration department can confiscate a driving license, registration certificate and assistant permit after a check has revealed that the respective document is not a real, official document.
- (74) A police officer or an officer from the administration department has to send [the vehicle] to the nearest police station for temporary keeping if the following kind of motor vehicle is found in a public place:
  - (a) A motor vehicle without registration.
  - (b) A motor vehicle with revoked registration.

## **Chapter (14)**

### **General**

- (75) The Union Government may, by official announcement, exempt any motor vehicle or any kind of motor vehicle from any or all provisions of this law within a limit or without limits.
- (76) The ministry has to pay salary and remuneration to committee members who are not public-service employees.
- (77) The police are able to take action concerning crimes in connection with this law.
- (78) Official documents such as registration certificates, registration records, driving licenses and assistant permits issued prior to this law are also recognized by this law.
- (79) The rules, orders, directions and announcements made according to the 1962 constitution are still applicable to the extent that they are in conformity with this law.



(80) When implementing the provisions of this law:

- (a) The ministry can release orders, rules and announcements with the approval of the Union Government.
- (b) The ministry, the administration department and the national council can release orders, rules and announcements.

(81) The 1964 Motor Vehicle Law (1964, Union of Myanmar Revolutionary Council Law No. 17) is abolished by this law.

I signed and approved under the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Thein Sein

President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar