JAPAN AUTOMOBILE FEDERATION

RULES OF THE ROAD

英語





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This booklet is a translation by JAF of selected parts of *Kotsu-no-Kyosoku* (Popular edition, revised April 2017) published by the Japan Traffic Safety Association.

This booklet intends to be a guidebook to help foreign drivers to understand the traffic laws and regulations of Japan. In the case that any conflict in interpretation of the text arises between this booklet and the original, the original should supersede.

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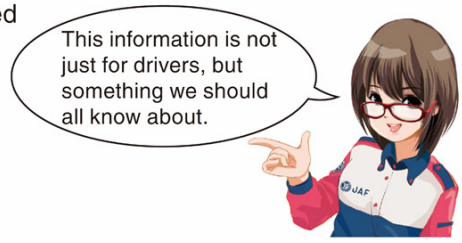
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CHAPTER 1 Common Rules for Pedestrians and Drivers

The motor vehicle has become an indispensable part of our modern life. At the same time, however, if we fail to use it properly, it can become a lethal weapon, capable of causing serious traffic accidents, or a source of noise or disturbance, having a significant effect on roadside neighborhoods. Moreover, selfish driving can sometimes cause trouble for others.

In a motorized society, both pedestrians and drivers need to be aware of their own responsibilities and contribute to the building of a traffic environment where people can move safely and smoothly without jeopardizing the safety of others. To this end, it is essential to have a good understanding of vehicles and traffic and learn to comply with traffic rules. While on the road, it is important to judge situations and take proper action in consideration of the safety of others.

This rulebook provides guidelines for pedestrians and drivers to understand and fulfill their respective responsibilities toward the building of a more comfortable and safer motorized society. You are advised to learn the traffic rules by referring to this rulebook from time to time. It is important to put into practice what you learn and also share your knowledge with your family and friends, and especially with children, whenever necessary.



1 Basic Rules

1-1 Follow the traffic rules

A tremendous volume of pedestrian and vehicular traffic moves on the road. The failure of a single driver or pedestrian to consider others, by moving in a selfish or thoughtless manner, may disturb the traffic pattern or cause accidents, or cause trouble for others or put them at risk.

Traffic rules have been laid down as a systematic set of commitments that must be observed by everyone to ensure safe and smooth road traffic. In other words, it is the fundamental responsibility of each citizen as a member of society to observe the traffic rules.

This booklet outlines the traffic rules of Japan. For details, refer to the relevant sections on traffic signs and markings (pp. 5-9, pp. 71-79). Clear understanding of their meanings will help you observe the traffic rules.

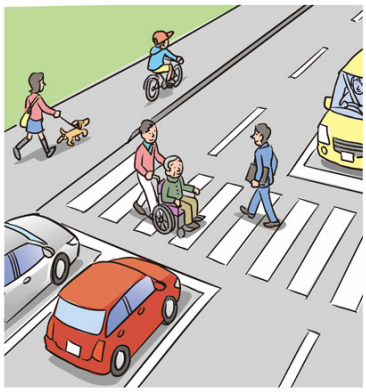
1-2 The Road User's Code

It goes without saying that we must follow the rules of the road when traveling on the road. We must take utmost care and precaution, in accordance with road and traffic conditions. In order to meet our social responsibilities as a pedestrian or a driver, it is our duty to ensure the safety of others. While on the road, keep the following in mind:

(1) Pay close attention to pedestrians and vehicles around you. Move in a manner considerate to others.

(2) Do not always put your own traffic convenience ahead of the well-being of the residents along the road. Take care not to cause unpleasant noises or other nuisance.

(3) Be prepared for the worst. Make sure you have automobile insurance, learn about emergency aid (namely, emergency measures required to give first aid to the injured on the scene of a traffic accident), and keep a first-aid kit in your car.



Pay attention to pedestrians and other vehicles in traffic. Drive with care for others.

(4) If you come across someone involved in a traffic accident or a breakdown, call the police and/or ambulance, and give assistance in any way you can.

(5) Not only as a driver but also as a pedestrian or cyclist, have good understanding of the physical characteristics of vehicles, such as dead angles, turning radius differences, and so on.

(6) Do not litter or place any object on the road without permission. Do not do anything that would obstruct passage, or cause nuisance to others.

2 Follow traffic lights, traffic signs and markings

2-1 Meaning of traffic lights

(1) All traffic must move in accordance with traffic lights. Traffic lights and their meanings are described by type in Table, p. 6.

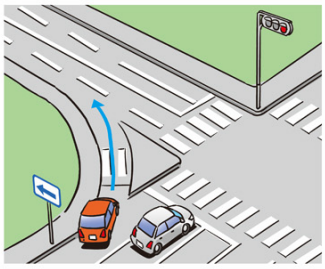
(2) Observe the traffic light you are facing. Even when the traffic light is red for the perpendicular traffic, do not automatically assume the light for your traffic is green. For example, with some signal systems, all traffic lights turn red simultaneously for a moment, while a staggered-signal system sets the timing for changing a specified light to red.

(3) Traffic lights with human pictograms are for pedestrians and regular bicycles. Where a traffic light bears a signboard stating “Pedestrians/Bicycles Only” (Fig.1), however, non-standard-type bicycles must observe the signal. A traffic light with a signboard stating “Buses only,” etc., (Appendix Table 2, p.71) shall apply to the type of vehicles as specified. Therefore, where a signal light bears such a specification, whether vehicular or pedestrian, the specified vehicle or pedestrian must observe that signal light.

Fig.1 Traffic lights for pedestrians and cyclists

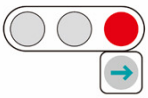
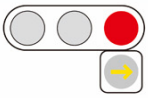
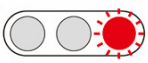


(4) Where there is a sign with a blue arrow pointing to the left against a white background on the left-side of the road or on a traffic light (see right), a vehicle facing that sign may turn left even if the traffic light ahead is yellow or red; the driver must watch out for pedestrians and surrounding traffic. In this case, the vehicle should not interfere with the passage of pedestrians or bicycles crossing on their green signal.



Where there is a sign with a blue arrow pointing to the left against a white background, you may turn left regardless of the traffic light.

Types of traffic lights with meanings

Green light 	Pedestrians may proceed and cross.
	Vehicles other than lightweight vehicles, and streetcars/trams may go straight or turn left or right. Mopeds making two-step right turn may go straight ahead to the point for turning right, and change the direction they are heading.
	Lightweight vehicles (bicycles, carts, etc.) may go straight and turn left. When turning right, these vehicles must proceed to the point of making a right turn, stop and change their direction to the right and wait at that point.
Yellow light 	Pedestrians must not start to cross. A pedestrian who is already crossing the road must finish crossing quickly or else turn back.
	Vehicles and streetcars/trams may not move further than the stopping point. However, if a vehicle is rapidly approaching the stopping point when the signal changes to yellow, and cannot stop safely, it may continue to proceed.
Red light 	Pedestrians must not cross.
	Vehicles and streetcars/trams may not proceed past the stopping point.
	A vehicle or streetcar/tram, when already making a left turn at an intersection, may continue to proceed even if the signal light on the left is red.
	A vehicle or streetcar/tram, when already making a right turn at an intersection, may continue to proceed even if the signal light on the right is red. In this case, the vehicle or streetcar/tram, must not obstruct the traffic of vehicles or streetcars/trams approaching on a green light. However, lightweight vehicles and mopeds making a two-step right turn must stop after crossing the road and wait at that point while the signal light on the right is red.
Green arrow light 	Vehicles may proceed in the direction indicated by the arrow even if the signal light is yellow or red. (Vehicles may also make a U-turn when the signal arrow is indicating a right turn.) However, in the case of a signal arrow indicating a right turn, lightweight vehicles and mopeds making a two-step right turn may not proceed.
Yellow arrow light 	Streetcars/trams may proceed in the direction indicated by the arrow even if the signal light is yellow or red, but pedestrians and vehicles may not proceed.
Flashing yellow light 	Pedestrians, vehicles and streetcars/trams may proceed carefully, paying attention to other traffic.
Flashing red light 	Pedestrians may proceed carefully, paying attention to other traffic.
	Vehicles and streetcars/trams must stop at the stopping point before proceeding.

(Note) The term “stopping point” in this table refers to the point just before the stop line. In the absence of such a line, it is defined as follows:
(1) A point just before an intersection (where a crosswalk/pedestrian crossing or a bicycle crossing lane is located close to an intersection, just before the crosswalk/pedestrian crossing or the bicycle crossing lane);
(2) A point just before a crosswalk/pedestrian crossing, a bicycle crossing lane or a railroad crossing in places other than intersections; or
(3) The point where a traffic lights can be seen in places other than intersections without a crosswalk/pedestrian crossing, bicycle crossing lane or railroad crossing nearby.
The term “vehicles” refers to automobiles, mopeds, lightweight vehicles such as bicycles and carts, and trolley buses.

2-2 How to read signs

(1) Traffic signs shall mean signboards indicating traffic regulations and other information for road users, which are classified into main and auxiliary signs. Main signs have four types: regulatory, designation, warning and guidance signs. See Appendix Table 3 (pp. 72-75) for classification and meaning.

● Regulatory signs prohibit a specific mode of traffic, or provide a specific traffic instruction to be followed.

Example 1

Road closed to all vehicles



A red diagonal line in a circular sign means prohibition of the specified direction of traffic.

No U-turn



Example 2

Only designated direction(s) permitted



Traffic flow is allowed only in the direction indicated by the arrow.

Example 3

Maximum speed



Maximum weight



Maximum speed and weight limits are shown.

● Designation signs indicate that vehicles may proceed in a specific manner, or indicate designated zones for road traffic.

Example 1

Parking permitted



Stopping permitted



These signs indicate places where parking or stopping is permitted.

Example 2

Crosswalk/pedestrian crossing





Location of crosswalks/ pedestrian crossings, etc., are indicated.

Safety zone



● Warning signs inform road users in advance of possible danger or adverse road conditions.

Example 1

Railroad crossing





Road under construction



All warning signs have a yellow background.

● Guidance signs provide geographical information, such as place names, directions, and distances by destination, for the convenience of users.

Destination and distance

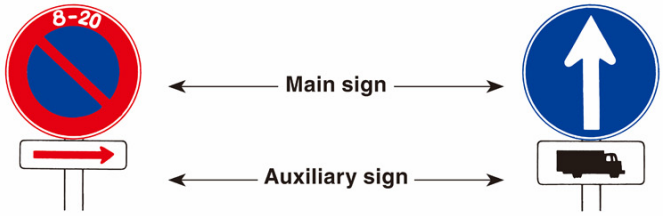


Destination, direction and distance



Green signboards are used on expressways, etc., and blue signboards on other roads.

(2) Auxiliary signs are sometimes placed to provide supplementary information about the meaning of regulatory or other main signs.



Regulation starts at this point.

Type of vehicles subject to regulation.

Typically, an auxiliary sign is positioned under the main sign, indicating the reason for regulation, or the time periods, days of the week, types of vehicle, etc., subject to the regulation. Abbreviations as shown in Appendix Table 4 (p. 80) may be used to specify the types of vehicle concerned.

(3) How to read traffic signs

Example 1



This sign indicates that vehicular parking is prohibited between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Example 2



This sign indicates that the road is exclusively for pedestrians between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on weekdays.

Example 3



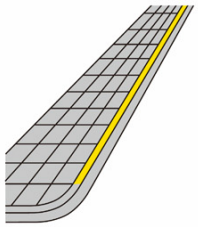
This sign indicates that a no-passing zone starts from this point.

2-3 How to read traffic markings

Traffic markings refer to lines, codes, and letters painted on the road or raised markers. These markings are classified into (1) regulatory markings and (2) designation markings. See Appendix Table 3 (pp. 76-79) for the classification and meanings of these markings.

(1) Regulatory markings prohibit a specific mode of traffic, or give a specific traffic instruction to be followed.

No parking or stopping



Yellow marking indicates that parking and stopping are prohibited.

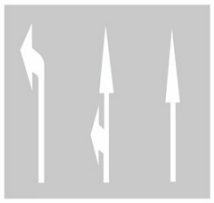
No entry zone



Vehicles may not enter the area indicated by diagonal lines.

(2) Designation markings indicate that vehicles may proceed in a specific manner, or indicate designated zones for road traffic.

The direction for each lane



Crosswalk/pedestrian crossing ahead



3 Follow the instructions of police

(1) When a police officer or traffic warden is on the spot directing traffic by hand or flashlight signals, you must follow the hand or flashlight signals (Appendix Table 1, p. 71). In this case, the hand or flashlight signals indicated by the officer/warden should take priority even if these contradict the applicable traffic regulations indicated by traffic signs or markings.

(2) When a police officer or traffic warden gives necessary instructions as to how to proceed, etc., you must follow the instructions given by the officer/warden. The instructions given by the officer/warden should take priority even if these contradict the applicable traffic regulations indicated by traffic signs or markings.

4 Prohibited actions on the road

(1) The following dangerous actions are prohibited on the road:

- **Interfering with road traffic by staggering drunkenly, talking, sitting, lying, etc., on the road;**
- **Playing catch, roller-skating, etc., in a place where there is busy traffic;**
- **Throwing or shooting anything toward the road;**
- **Damaging the road, littering, or scattering wastewater, garbage, nails, broken glass, etc.;**
- **Throwing cigarette butts, wastepaper, empty cans or other rubbish out of the car, leaning out of the car window, or otherwise placing any part of the body or any object out of the car;**
- **Grabbing onto a moving automobile or tram;**
- **Directing a light beam toward the road in a way that could dazzle an approaching vehicle's driver;**
- **Sprinkling water over the road when it is likely to make the road icy.**

(2) Do not display goods or place sand, lumber or other objects on the road in a manner likely to obstruct traffic.

(3) It is very dangerous when traffic lights, signs and markings are difficult to distinguish. Do not place a neon sign of similar colors to traffic lights near a traffic light or put advertising signboards near traffic signs, or tamper with, move or damage any traffic light, sign or marking.

(4) Do not ask a non-licensed person or a drunken person to drive a car. Do not rush or disturb the driver of a vehicle.

(5) Do not offer or serve alcohol to a person who will be driving.

(6) Do not require a driver to drive an overloaded vehicle (carrying a load heavier than the legal weight limit), or knowingly give or sell the driver objects that are likely to overload their vehicle.



CHAPTER 2 Before Getting Behind the Wheel

1 For driving

1-1 Need to check your driver's license

(1) Ensure the following before getting behind the wheel:

- **That you have a driver's license good for the vehicle you are about to drive;**
- **That you must have a valid motor vehicle inspection certificate and a third-party liability insurance policy or a mutual relief system certificate in your automobile;**
- **That you must fulfill the requirements for driving as stated in your driver's license (e.g. wearing eyeglasses, etc.);**
- **That you must attach a Beginner's Mark to the designated places on the front and rear of the vehicle if you are a new driver having possessed a semi-medium vehicle license for less than one year driving a semi-medium vehicle;**
- **That you must attach a Beginner's Mark (Fig. 1) to the designated places on the front and rear of the vehicle if you are a new driver having possessed a regular license for less than one year driving a regular vehicle;**
- **That you must attach an Aurally Challenged Driver's Mark (Fig. 2) to the designated places on the front and rear of the vehicle if you are a driver possessing a driver's license with any restriction because you are aurally challenged with a level of hearing that prevents you from hearing a 90-decibel honk of a car horn at a distance of 10 meters with both your ears even with a hearing aid driving a semi-medium vehicle or a regular vehicle;**
- **That your vehicle must be equipped with an emergency signaling device or emergency indicator (i.e., a warning reflector board or flashing emergency light).**

Fig. 1 Beginner's Mark



Fig. 2 Aurally Challenged Driver's Mark



Fig. 3 Senior Driver's Mark



Fig. 4 Physically Challenged Driver's Mark



(2) Senior drivers aged 70 or older driving a regular vehicle should attach a Senior Driver's Mark (Fig. 3) to the designated places on the front and rear of the vehicle.

The existing Senior Driver's Mark may be used for the time being.

(3) Physically challenged drivers with a driver's license issued with any restriction because of a physical disability driving a regular vehicle should attach a Physically Challenged Driver's Mark (Fig. 4) to the designated places on the front and rear of the vehicle.

1-2 Need to have a driving plan

You should always map out a driving plan not only for long-distance driving but also for shorter trips in accordance with your driving skills and your car's performance. Plan the driving route, the time required, where to park the car to rest, etc., in advance. If you need to drive for a longer time, take a rest at least every two hours. If you feel drowsy, pull over and have a rest immediately.

1-3 Get yourself into shape for driving

When we are tired, sick, or stressed, we may fail to keep our concentration or exercise proper judgment, which could lead to unexpected traffic accidents. If you find yourself in such a state, it is advisable to refrain driving, or take time to prepare yourself physically for driving. Refrain from driving if you have taken drowsiness-inducing medications for colds or headaches. Do not drive when you are exhausted.

1-4 Do not drive under the influence of alcohol

You must not drive under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, stimulant drugs, thinner, or similar substances. Keep in mind that if you consume alcohol in the evening, the effects of the alcohol might last till the following morning.

2 Driver's license system

You must have a license for driving an automobile or a moped on the road, according to the vehicular type and towing condition. When driving, you must carry your driver's license with you. In the case that you commit a traffic violation or cause a traffic accident, you must present your driver's license when required by the police to present it. A driver is forbidden to drive for the stipulated period if his/her license gets suspended.

2-1 Classification of driver's licenses

There are three categories of driver's license.

(1) Category 1 license:
refers to a license for driving an automobile or a moped (except for cases under (2));

(2) Category 2 license:
refers to a license for driving a vehicle for passenger transport service, such as a bus or taxi, or for driving a substitute driving service vehicle (meaning a regular vehicle driven by a driver providing a substitute driving service in place of a customer);

(3) Learner's permit:
refers to a temporary license issued to learners who are practicing driving large, medium or semi-medium vehicles, or regular vehicles to obtain the Category 1 license. For a learner with a learner's permit to drive a large, medium or semi-medium vehicle, or a regular vehicle for practice, it is required that the learner

be accompanied by an experienced driver possessing a Category 1 license for driving the relevant vehicle for more than three years or a Category 2 license, in the passenger seat, and drive under the instructions of said experienced driver.

In this case, a learner's permit sign (Fig. 1) must be attached to the designated places on the front and rear of the vehicle.

Fig. 1



2-2 Types of driver's licenses

The table below shows the various types of driver's licenses with their corresponding vehicles and motorcycles.

Vehicles allowed to drive / Type of license	Large vehicle	Medium vehicle	Semi-medium vehicle	Regular vehicle	Heavy-duty special vehicle	Large motorcycle	Regular motorcycle	Light-duty special vehicle	Moped
Large vehicle	●	●	●	●				●	●
Medium		●	●	●				●	●
Semi-medium vehicle			●	●				●	●
Regular automobile				●				●	●
Heavy-duty special vehicle					●			●	●
Large motorcycle						●	●	●	●
Regular motorcycle							●	●	●
Light-duty special vehicle								●	
Moped									●

2-3 Towing license

When towing a vehicle with a large, medium or semi-medium vehicle, a regular vehicle, or a heavy-duty special vehicle, a towing license is required in addition to the license for the towing vehicle. To tow a vehicle with a total vehicular weight (the weight of the vehicle plus passengers and load) of 750 kg or less, or to tow a disabled car with a rope or a crane, a towing license is not required.

2-4 Driving qualifications for emergency vehicles

To drive an emergency vehicle, the driver must fulfill a number of special qualifications, including the minimum age limit and having a specified number of years' driving experience, in addition to holding the applicable driver's license.

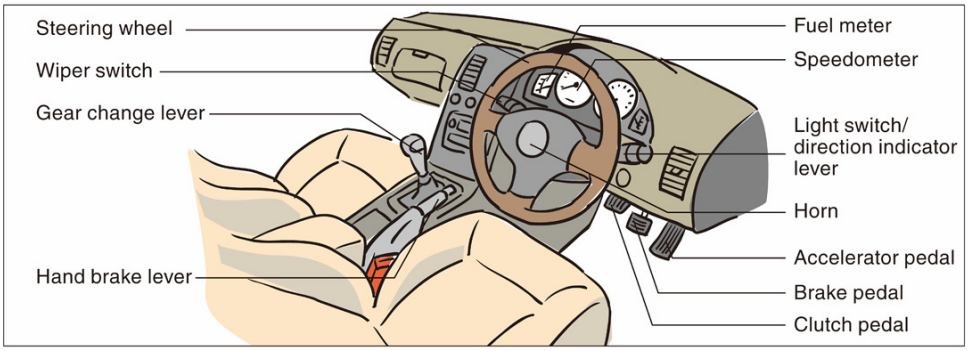
3 Inspecting your vehicle

Inspect your vehicle daily and regularly. Check the fuel, coolant, engine oil, depth of the tire tread, etc., from time to time. If you find anything wrong, have the problem fixed.

You must not drive a vehicle with an inadequately serviced steering wheel, brakes, muffler, or other component that is likely to risk traffic safety or cause toxic emissions, noises or nuisance to others.

3-1 Pre-driving check

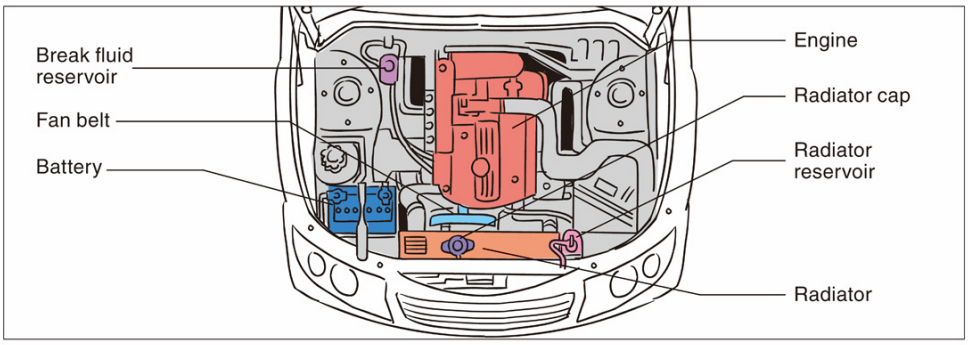
The user or driver of a vehicle is responsible for checking the vehicle at his/her own discretion. The user of a vehicle is required to conduct this check whenever deemed timely, judging from the mileage, operating conditions, etc. The user or driver of vehicles for passenger transport services such as taxis or similar chauffeured vehicles, large or medium vehicles for private use, semi-medium trucks, regular trucks, heavy-duty special vehicles, or vehicles for hire, is required to perform this daily pre-driving check. The standard inspection procedure is shown in the table below:



Area to be inspected		Check item	Step
Abnormalities while driving		Items involved	For previously found abnormalities, verify that there are no problems in driving the vehicle.
Inspection from the driver's seat	Brake pedal	Stroke of the brake pedal, braking effectiveness	Examine the space between the pedal and floorboard and the responsiveness upon full depression of the brakes. If the said space is too narrow, or if the responsiveness is insufficient, it might be caused by leakage or air bubbles in the brake fluid affecting the effectiveness of the brakes.
	Hand brake lever (parking brake lever)	Operation range of the hand brake lever (stroke of the parking brake pedal)	Examine whether the range (or stroke) is too great or too little when the brake lever (or pedal) is fully operated.
	Motor (engine)	*Ease of starting, noise	Ensure that the engine starts immediately and runs smoothly. Check any noise when starting or idling the engine.
		*Conditions at low speed and in acceleration	(1) After warming up the engine, ensure that the engine continues to run smoothly while idling. (2) When gradually accelerating, ensure that the accelerator pedal responds smoothly and the engine runs smoothly without stopping or knocking.
	Window washer	*Spraying condition	Ensure that the window washer fluid is sprayed in the right direction and at the right height.
	Windshield wiper	*Wiping condition	(1) Switch the windshield wiper on and see if it operates properly at low and high speeds. (2) Ensure that the wiper cleans the windshield properly.
	◎Air pressure gauge	Air pressure rising with speed	Start the engine and ensure that the air pressure does not rise too slowly. Ensure that the air pressure is within the range shown in the air pressure gauge indicator.
	◎Brake valve	Exhaust noise	When the brakes are fully depressed and released, ensure that the noise is normal.

Inspection from outside	Lights, direction indicators	lighting/blinking conditions, dirt, damage	(1) Start the engine and check the headlights, brake lights, and blinking conditions of the direction indicators. (2) Check any dirt on or damage to the lenses.
	Tires	Air pressure	Check the condition of the tire treads where they come in contact with the ground to see if the tires have enough air pressure.
		□ Fixtures	(1) Check the fixtures of the disc wheel visually as follows: (a) Any lost wheel nut, damaged wheel bolt, or other abnormalities. (b) Any trace of rusty liquid around the wheel bolts. (c) Any lack of uniformity in the lengths of the wheel bolts projecting from the wheel nuts. (2) Check the fixtures of the disc wheel to see if there is any notable wear or damage, or loose wheel nuts, etc., with a service hammer or similar tool.
		Cracks, damages	Check the tires in their entirety to see if they have notable cracks or damage. Look for any nails, stones, or other foreign objects stuck or embedded in the treads.
		Abnormal wear	Check for any abnormal wear in the tire treads coming into contact with the ground.
		*Depth of the grooves	Ensure that the depth of the grooves of the tires is sufficient using a wear indicator (slip sign), etc.
	◎Air tank	Standing water in the air tank	Open the drain cock and see if there is any water remaining in the tank.

See Notes below for *, ◎, □ marks.



Area to be inspected		Check item	Step
Engine compartment inspection	Window washer tank	*Fluid level	Ensure that the level of window washer fluid is appropriate.
	Break fluid reservoir	Fluid level	Ensure that the fluid is within the appropriate range.
	Battery	*Fluid level	Ensure that the battery fluid is within the appropriate range by shaking the body of the vehicle.
	Cooling system (e.g., radiator)	*Coolant level	Ensure that the reservoir tank contains the appropriate level of coolant. If the level of coolant drops significantly, it may be due to leakage from the radiator or the radiator hose.
	Lubricant system	*Engine oil level	Ensure that the engine oil level is within the appropriate range indicated by the oil level gauge.
	△ Fan belt	*Tension, damage	(1) Press the middle section of the fan belt with your hand to check if it bends a little. (2) Examine whether the belt is damaged.

Notes:
1. Items marked with a "*" should be inspected at an appropriate time as judged from the mileage and running conditions in the case of commercial vehicles, owner-driven large and medium vehicles, semi-medium trucks, regular trucks, heavy-duty special vehicles, and rental vehicles.
2. Items marked with "◎" must be inspected if the vehicle is equipped with an air brake.
3. Items marked with "△" should be checked during regular inspection for regular passenger vehicles for private use.
4. Items marked with "□" should be checked for vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of 8 tons or more, and vehicles with a passenger capacity of 30 or more.

3-2 Emergency equipment

Ensure that your vehicle is equipped with an emergency flare, stop light, and similar emergency equipment. When you drive on expressways (national expressways or limited highways), your vehicle should also have a triangular reflector board (P.50 Fig.1), etc., which can be used to warn other drivers that your vehicle has broken down.

3-3 Periodic inspection

Vehicles for transport service, large and medium vehicles for private use, semi-medium trucks and regular trucks for hire must be periodically inspected and serviced as required every three months, semi-medium trucks and regular trucks for private use, and regular passenger vehicles for hire every six months, and regular passenger vehicles for private use annually.

4 Passenger and loading capacities

(1) It is not permitted to have people sit in places other than the seats inside a vehicle, or to place cargo/luggage in places other than the loading space or the seats. It is not permitted to carry passengers or loads in excess of the designated limits (passenger limits include the driver).

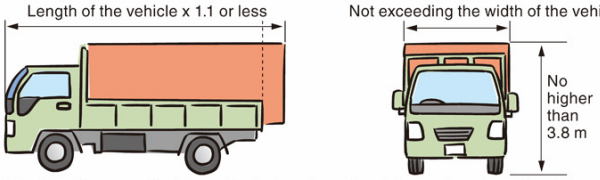
(2) As an exception to the above regulation, a minimum number of people may ride along to check for any irregularities in loading or packing. Also, the above regulation does not apply once a special permit has been obtained from the chief of the police station at the place of departure.

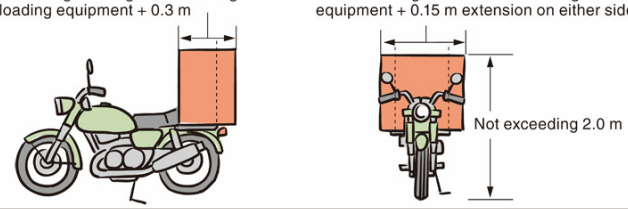
(3) When loading a vehicle with passengers or cargo, ensure that the load does not interfere with driving, decrease the vehicle's stability, or obstruct the view of the vehicle's direction indicators, license plates, brake lights, or tail lights from the outside.

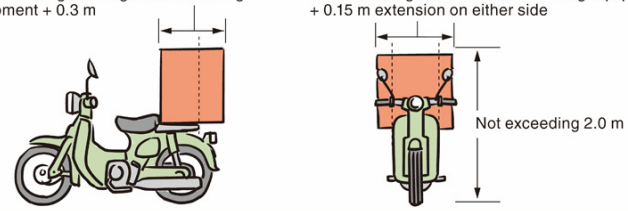
(4) The driver is responsible for ensuring that all doors on the vehicle are shut securely and loaded cargo is secured tightly with ropes and a covering sheet, to prevent passengers from falling out or cargo from falling or scattering on the road. In the event of a load falling or scattering on the road, remove it immediately or take necessary measures. In doing so, watch out for cars approaching from behind.

(5) When transporting dangerous goods, pack and load them securely, and affix a signboard indicating that your vehicle is carrying dangerous goods. When parking the vehicle, find a safe place and keep an eye on the load.

Limits on passenger and loading capacities for large or medium vehicles, regular vehicles, large motorcycles, regular motorcycles, and mopeds

Large, medium and semi-medium vehicles and regular vehicles	
Passenger capacity	Capacity stated on the Motor Vehicle Inspection Certificate or the Light Motor Vehicle Registration Certificate (one person for mini cars* and special-structure vehicles used for spraying agricultural chemicals*; two persons for special-structure vehicles used for spraying agricultural chemicals* with an extra seat other than the driver's seat)
Loading capacity	Maximum loading capacity stated on the Motor Vehicle Inspection Certificate or the Light Motor Vehicle Registration Certificate (30 kg for mini cars*; 1,500 kg for special-structure vehicles used for spraying agricultural chemicals*)
Load size limit and loading method	When loaded, the total length should not exceed the vehicle length by more than 10%. Load should not exceed the width of the vehicle. Length of the vehicle x 1.1 or less Not exceeding the width of the vehicle  No higher than 2.5 m from the ground for three-wheeled regular automobiles and regular automobiles with a total displacement of 660 cc or less. For other types of vehicles specified by the Public Safety Commission, the height should not exceed the limits stated by the Commission (within the range of 3.8 m to 4.1 m from the ground).

Large motorcycles (excluding large motorcycles with a side car)/**regular motorcycles** (excluding regular motorcycles with a side car)	
Passenger capacity	One person (two persons for a motorcycle with an extra seat other than the rider's seat)
Loading capacity	60 kg
Load size limit and loading method	Not exceeding the length of the riding and loading equipment + 0.3 m Not exceeding the width of the riding and loading equipment + 0.15 m extension on either side 

Mopeds	
Passenger capacity	One person
Loading capacity	30 kg
Load size limit and loading method	Not exceeding the length of the loading equipment + 0.3 m Not exceeding the width of the loading equipment + 0.15 m extension on either side 

Notes
1. Regarding children under the age of 12, three children are counted as equivalent to two adults.
2. A "mini car" marked with * refers to a regular vehicle with a total displacement of 50 cc or less, or with a rated output of 0.60 kW or less.
3. A "special-structure vehicle used for spraying agricultural chemicals" marked with * refers to a regular vehicle used for spraying agricultural chemicals which has a maximum speed of 35 kph.

5 Tips for driving safely

5-1 Properties of vision

Vision, of all the human senses, is the most important for safe driving. While taking the wheel, keep the following in mind:

(1) Avoid focusing on one point or staring aimlessly. Always look ahead and pay attention to the traffic conditions around you with the rearview and side mirrors. Remember that the driver's visual responsiveness tends to decline when driving at high speed, making it more difficult to distinguish objects which are closer to the driver.

(2) The eyes are most susceptible to fatigue. The ability to judge or see things correctly becomes more affected as the driver gets tired.

(3) Sudden changes in brightness can momentarily affect human vision dramatically. Slow down before entering or leaving a tunnel. Try not to look directly into the lights of oncoming vehicles when driving at night.

2

5-2 Forces acting on vehicles and their effects on driving

It is advisable to understand correctly the nature of forces acting on vehicles in motion and their effects for safer driving.

(1) Friction force

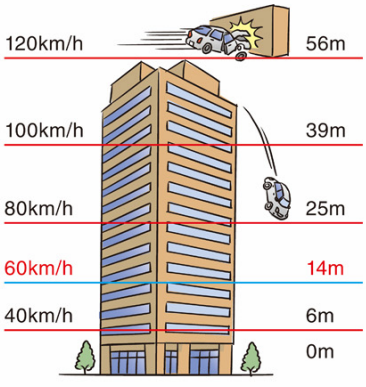
Due to inertia, a vehicle in motion will not stop immediately even after the clutch is disengaged. To halt the vehicle, the brakes have to be applied to stop the rotation of the wheels and employ frictional drag, i.e., the resistance generated between the tires and the road surface. Note that the braking distance is longer on a wet asphalt surface because of reduced frictional drag. Slamming on the brakes while driving at high speed might cause the locking of the wheels and the skidding of the vehicle.

(2) Centrifugal force

When traveling through a curve, a centrifugal force is exerted on the center of gravity of the vehicle, causing the vehicle to slide over to the outside of the curve. As a consequence, a vehicle with a higher or unbalanced center of gravity due to inappropriate loading (cargo piled too high or unbalanced) is likely to topple over. The centrifugal force is larger for curves with smaller radii, and increases in proportion to the square of the speed. To maneuver a curve safely, apply the brakes in a straight course of the road before the curve and slow down sufficiently before entering the curve.

(3) Impact

The severity of a traffic accident depends on the degree of impact of a collision received by one vehicle from another vehicle, and vice versa. The impact increases with the speed and the weight involved. The effect of the impact also becomes greater when the force of the impact is transferred in a short period of time, such as when a hard object is hit. For example, when a vehicle collides with



a concrete wall at a speed of 60 km/h, the impact on the vehicle is as much as that on a vehicle falling from the top of a 14 meter-tall building (about the height of the fifth floor of a building). Pay special attention when driving at high speed.

(4) Effects of speed
The braking distance and the centrifugal force increase in proportion to the vehicular speed squared. At double the speed, the braking distance and the force causing a vehicle to swerve or topple in a curve will not be doubled, but quadrupled. (See chart, p. 29)

5-3 Mitigation of traffic pollution and global warming

(1) A significant number of community residents are greatly disturbed by emissions, noises, and vibrations from vehicles. When driving, observe the maximum speed limit and loading capacity regulations, and avoid unnecessary fast starts, sudden braking, or revving of the engine so as to minimize traffic pollution.

(2) Vehicle emissions contain carbon monoxides, hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides and other substances detrimental to human health. These substances are responsible for air pollution. When photochemical smog has occurred or is likely to occur due to air pollution, refrain from driving or using vehicles.

(3) To reduce the emissions of carbon dioxide, one of the gases causing global warming, and nitrogen oxides, detrimental to human health, eco-friendly driving with lower environmental burdens is recommended, by avoiding unnecessary fast starts, sudden acceleration and deceleration, or idling of the engine while parking or stopping.

5-4 Aptitude for driving

Knowing your aptitude for driving is an important step to safe driving. Guidance regarding driving aptitude is available from prefectural Traffic Safety Activity Promotion Centers.

CHAPTER 3 Driving Tips

1 Starting your vehicle safely

1-1 Getting in and out

(1) When getting in or out of a vehicle, you should check all surrounding traffic, especially for traffic approaching from the rear. On roads with heavy traffic, you should get in and out from the left-side door. When closing the door after getting in the vehicle, stop just before the door latches, and then apply force to shut it completely. When getting out of the vehicle, open the door slightly so as to check if the area is clear before opening the door wider. The slightly open door will give a cautionary signal to approaching traffic.

(2) Before opening the door or getting out of a vehicle, you should check the traffic approaching from the rear. It is the driver's responsibility to ensure that all doors are properly closed and locked, and that passengers do not open doors carelessly.

1-2 Proper seat adjustment and posture

(1) A good, comfortable driving posture is the first step to safer driving. Adjust your seat so that your knees are slightly bent when you place your foot on the clutch pedal. Adjust the angle of your seat so that your elbows are slightly bent when you place the hands on the steering wheel. You should not sit sideways.

(2) Wear comfortable clothes that do not restrict your body movement. Do not drive wearing such footwear as Japanese wooden clogs or high heels.

(3) Do not rest your elbows on the window frame while driving.



Adopt a good, comfortable driving posture.

(4) Do not use a mobile phone or fix your eyes on a vehicle navigation system display, etc., while driving, as it is highly dangerous, distracting your attention from the surrounding traffic conditions. You are advised to turn off your mobile phone or switch to "Driving Mode" to mute the phone ring before driving.

1-3 Fastening your seat belt

(1) A seat belt helps a driver in various ways, by mitigating damage or injury dramatically in the event of a traffic accident, helping to maintain the correct driving posture, and so on.

When driving a car equipped with seat belts, the driver must wear one and also have all passengers in the passenger seat and rear seats buckle up for safety (this also applies to cars equipped with air bags). However, this

requirement does not always apply, for example, when a passenger is sick or under other unavoidable circumstances.

(2) Ensure that your seat belt is properly fastened, as follows:

- **Do not recline the seat. Sit back in the seat and adopt a correct driving posture.**
- **Fasten the seat belt securely across the pelvis.**
- **Adjust the shoulder belt (in case of a three-point type) so that it is not positioned across the neck. If it is too loose, it might cause injury in the event of a traffic accident.**
- **Buckle up securely so that the seat belt will not become undone.**
- **Make sure the seat belt is not twisted.**

(3) Use of a seat belt during pregnancy

A seat belt, if worn in the appropriate manner, can also protect a pregnant woman and her unborn child by mitigating injury in case of a traffic accident. However, the condition of each woman during pregnancy is different. If you are pregnant, please ask your doctor's advice regarding whether it is appropriate for you to wear a seat belt or not.

If you are pregnant, the seat belt must be properly fastened to minimize impact to the baby in the event of an accident please do not wear only the lap belt. Make sure to wear the lap belt and shoulder strap in combination, and ensure that the strap is not positioned across your belly.

1-4 Use of child seats

(1) A child seat helps mitigate damage or injury dramatically in the event of a traffic accident. It also prevents a child from interfering with the driving operation. A child who is too young to wear a seat belt must be secured in a child seat. In particular, any infant (younger than six years old) must be secured in a child seat of a design suitable for his/her size, while on board a car. However, this requirement does not always apply, for example, when the infant is sick or under other unavoidable circumstances.



Without a seat belt, the driver could collide against the ceiling, the windshield, the steering wheel, or onboard instruments.



Fasten the seat belt across the pelvis.

Make sure the seat belt is not twisted.

Sit back in the seat without reclining.

How to wear a seat belt during pregnancy



Wear both the lap belt and the shoulder strap.

Wear the shoulder strap across the breast area and not on the belly.

Make sure that the shoulder strap does not touch the neck.

Wear the lap belt as low as possible from hipbone to hipbone, avoiding the belly.

(2) Follow the instructions of the manufacturer to use a child seat properly, as improper use will render it ineffective. Tips for proper use are as follows:

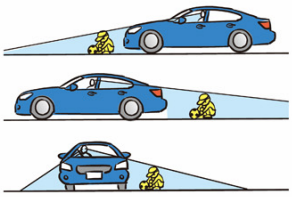
- **Choose a child seat that fits the child's size and that can be mounted securely to the seat.**
- **If possible, use a child seat in the rear seat when the vehicle is equipped with a passenger-side air bag. For unavoidable reasons you need to put the child seat in the front, move the passenger's seat back as far as possible and secure the child seat facing the front.**
- **Secure the child seat firmly to the seat.**


Baby bed


Child seat for infants


Child seat for schoolchildren

1-5 Safety check when starting


Before starting, ensure that there is no one in the dead areas of the vehicle.

(1) Before getting into a vehicle, ensure that there is no one in front of or behind the vehicle, and that no children are playing around or hiding under the vehicle.

(2) Signal your departure with the blinkers/winkers, and check traffic once with the rearview mirror, and so on.

(3) It is dangerous to start your car in reverse. If applicable, you are advised to reverse your vehicle into a parking place so that you can start the car more safely. If you need to start in reverse, ask someone in your vehicle to guide you as you are backing when the rear visibility is poor, or when backing out of a narrow road into a wider one.

1-6 Starting from the edge of a road

Compared to regular vehicles, large, medium and semi-medium vehicles have a longer body length extending beyond the front and rear axle so that the turning path of the body of the vehicle lies outside that of the wheels. Ensure that the front and rear of the body of the vehicle will not collide with other vehicles and pedestrians when you start the vehicle from the edge of a road.

1-7 Safety check when driving

Although the range of the driver's view varies depending on the structure of a vehicle, there are dead angles where other vehicles and pedestrians may be hidden from view. Note that large, medium and semi-medium vehicles have greater dead angles than regular vehicles.

2 Rules of lane usage

2-1 Staying on the left

A vehicle must stay on the left of the center of a road (or the center line, if applicable). In the following cases, however, a vehicle may enter the right side of the road or cross the center line. In such a case, except for (1) below, the driver must try to minimize swerving to the right.

(1) Where traffic is one-way;

(2) Where construction work, etc., leaves insufficient room for the vehicle to pass on the left side of the road;

(3) Where the driver is overtaking another vehicle on a road with a good visibility, given that the left side of the road is less than 6 m wide (except when a traffic sign (Fig. 1) or a traffic marking (Fig. 2) prohibits vehicles from swerving to the right for overtaking);

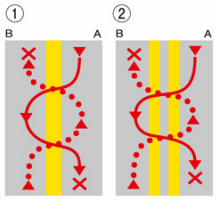
(4) Where a traffic marking “Right-Hand Traffic” (Fig. 3) is indicated near a curve on a steeply sloped road.

Fig. 1



No swerving to the right for overtaking

Fig.2



① and ② prohibit vehicles passing lanes A and B from swerving to the right for overtaking



③ prohibits vehicles passing lane B from swerving to the right for overtaking

Fig.3



2-2 Keeping to the left

(1) You should drive keeping to the left if the road has no lane designations, except when your vehicle is overtaking another vehicle or under other unavoidable circumstances.

(2) Where there are two traffic lanes parallel in the same direction, as a rule, vehicles should stay on the left lane. If the road has three lanes or more, traffic may use all the lanes except the lane on the far right, which should be left clear for overtaking. In this case, the slowest traffic should travel along the outermost left-hand lane, with faster traffic in the second from left, and so on. If traffic signs (Fig. 4 through Fig. 9) and traffic markings (Fig. 10 through Fig. 14) designate lanes specifically, however, you must follow the designation.

Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7





Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11



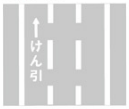
Fig. 12



Fig. 13



Fig. 14



(3) If you are in the outer right lane to overtake another vehicle, you should return to the left-hand lane as soon as you have finished overtaking.

2-3 Do not change lanes indiscriminately

On a road with lanes, do not drive off lane or straddle two lanes, except when overtaking another vehicle or under other unavoidable circumstances. Do not change lanes unnecessarily, as it may disturb traffic approaching from the rear, causing a traffic accident at worst.

2-4 Observing height limits

Compared to regular vehicles, large, medium and semi-medium vehicles have taller bodies. Ensure that the height of your vehicle is less than the specified limit before traversing a particular place with a height limit. The height of any cargo on a load-carrying platform should be within the height limit.

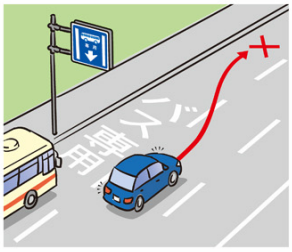
2-5 Giving priority to emergency vehicles

When an emergency vehicle is approaching, pull over to the left side of the road to stop and give way to the emergency vehicle. When your vehicle is near an intersection, avoid stopping in the intersection. If pulling over to the left side on a one-way street would in fact obstruct the path of the emergency car, you must pull over to the right side.

2-6 Giving priority to buses for public transportation

(1) When a bus signals to move away from a bus stop with its blinkers/winkers, vehicles approaching from the rear must not interfere with the starting of the bus. This rule does not necessarily apply, for example, when the driver of the vehicle would have to slam on the brakes or turn the wheel sharply to give way to the bus.

(2) Vehicles except for light-duty special vehicles, mopeds, and lightweight vehicles must not use exclusive bus lanes as indicated by a traffic sign (Fig. 1) or traffic markings (Fig. 2). When exclusive lanes for regular bicycles indicated by traffic signs (Fig. 1, Fig. 3) or traffic marking (Fig. 2) are designated, vehicles other than lightweight vehicles must not use the lanes. Vehicles may pass using the designated lanes when they need to approach the center, left side or right side of the road to make a left or right turn, or under unavoidable circumstances such as road construction.



Vehicles, except for certain vehicle types, must not use exclusive bus lanes.

(3) Vehicles traveling on priority lanes for buses or similar vehicles, indicated by a traffic sign (Fig. 4) or traffic marking (Fig. 5), must give way immediately when such a vehicle is approaching.

If you think traffic congestion could make it difficult for you to give way, avoid using that lane. This rule does not apply when you need to approach the center, left side or right side of the road to make a left or right turn, or under unavoidable circumstances such as road construction.

2-7 No passage zone

(1) Do not use roads where the traffic signs “Road Closed,” “Closed to Vehicles,” “Cyclists and Pedestrians Only,” or “Pedestrians Only” (Fig. 6 through Fig. 9) prohibit vehicles from passing.

(2) Do not drive on sidewalks, along the side strips of roads, or on bicycle lanes. This rule does not necessarily apply, for example, when you cross such a zone to enter or exit a place facing the road.

(3) Do not enter safety zones or “No Entry” zones designated by traffic markings (Fig. 10, Fig. 11).

(4) Do not drive on the shoulder of a road (0.5 m from the edge of a road) when passing a road without a sidewalk or side strip.

(5) Do not drive on streetcar/tram tracks. This rule does not apply when approved vehicles as indicated by the traffic sign “Passage on Track Permitted” (Fig.12) pass, or when making a right turn.

(6) If you are driving on a streetcar/tram track and see a streetcar/tram approaching from the rear, you must get off the track immediately or keep a sufficient distance from it so as not to interfere with its operation.

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6
Road Closed



Fig. 7
Closed to Vehicles



Fig. 8
Cyclists and Pedestrians Only



Fig. 9
Pedestrians Only



Fig. 10



Fig. 11



Fig. 12



3 Consideration for pedestrians, etc.

3-1 When passing near pedestrians

(1) When passing near pedestrians, keep a safe distance from them, or proceed at a significantly slow speed.

(2) Proceed slowly when passing a safety zone where there are any pedestrians.

(3) When approaching a streetcar/tram at a stop, stop and wait until the passengers have finished getting on or off, or crossing the road. If you are at a distance of 1.5 m or more from the streetcar/tram and no passengers get on or off, or if there is a safety zone, you may proceed slowly.

(4) When passing mud or puddles in the road, slow down or otherwise take care to prevent your vehicle from splashing pedestrians with muddy water.

(5) When passing by a parked vehicle, watch out for the door opening suddenly, or for anyone running out from behind the vehicle.



Watch for the door of a parked vehicle to open.



Watch for children running out from behind a parked vehicle.

3-2 When pedestrians are crossing

(1) Do not interfere with the passage of pedestrians crossing the road at an intersection or nearby without a crosswalk/pedestrian crossing.

(2) Proceed slowly so that you can readily stop before a crosswalk/pedestrian crossing or a bicycle crossing lane, except when the road is clear of pedestrians and bicycles. Stop before a crosswalk/pedestrian crossing or a bicycle crossing lane (before the stop line, if any) and give way to pedestrians and/or bicycles when they are crossing or about to cross.

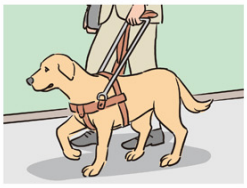
(3) When seeing a vehicle stopping at or before a crosswalk/pedestrian crossing or a bicycle crossing lane, you must stop before passing by that vehicle.

(4) You must not overtake or pass another vehicle at or 30 m before a crosswalk/pedestrian crossing or a bicycle crossing lane.

(5) Take care because pedestrians may cross the road even in places without crosswalks and bicycle crossing lanes.

3-3 Consideration for the physically challenged

When you see a physically challenged person traveling in a wheelchair, a person walking with a white or yellow stick, or a person walking with a Seeing Eye dog, you must stop or slow down to ensure the safety of such a person.



Ensure the safety of a person walking with a Seeing Eye dog, etc.

3-4 Consideration for children

(1) Stop or slow down when you see an unattended child walking to ensure the safety of the child. Special attention must be paid to children as they can run into the street unexpectedly when something catches their interest, or cross the road disregarding the traffic rules when they fail to make a right judgment.

Fig. 1



(2) Slow down and check for safety when passing by a school or preschool bus stopping on the street.

(3) Take extra caution near schools, preschools, and playgrounds as well as school zones as indicated by a traffic sign (Fig. 1), where children might be running out into the street.

3-5 Consideration for the elderly

Stop or slow down when you see an elderly citizen walking with a stick or a walking frame, or walking with difficulty, to ensure the safety of such a person. Special attention must be paid to the elderly because due to physical changes related to aging, they tend to walk more slowly, have difficulty reacting to avoid dangers, take more time to detect or avoid risks, and walk less steadily, although there are differences between individuals. Take care because accidents involving elderly pedestrians often occur when an elderly citizen is crossing the road just before or after a vehicle.

3-6 Driving on Pedestrian Only roads

(1) Vehicles that have a garage along such a road or have a special permit may use a Pedestrians Only road. In this case, take extra caution regarding pedestrians.

(2) When crossing a sidewalk or the side strip of a road, stop before crossing. Do not interfere with pedestrian traffic.

3-7 Consideration for cyclists

(1) As a rule, bicycles, as categorized as a type of vehicle, are required to use vehicular roads. Ensure the safety of cyclists on vehicular roads, as bicycles are structurally unstable, and unequipped with functions to protect the cyclist.

(2) When passing near a bicycle to overtake, etc., keep a safe distance between the bicycle and your vehicle or slow down, and be prepared for any faltering motion of the bicycle.

(3) When crossing a sidewalk, the side strip of a road, or a bicycle lane to enter or exit a place facing the road, stop just before it and watch out for any approaching bicycle.

(4) When passing an intersection, watch carefully to avoid colliding with a bicycle traversing the perpendicular road, or trapping the bicycle traveling on your left under the body of your vehicle. Also, observe whether the cyclist is aware of your vehicle.

3-8 Consideration for novice drivers, etc.

(1) Do not drive too close to, or edge your way in front of the vehicles below except to avoid danger or under other unavoidable circumstances.

- **A regular vehicle bearing a Beginner's Mark driven by a new driver having possessed a regular license for less than one year**
- **A regular vehicle bearing a Senior Driver's Mark driven by a senior driver aged 70 or older**
- **A semi-medium or regular vehicle bearing an Aurally Challenged Driver's Mark driven by an aurally challenged driver**
- **A regular vehicle bearing a Physically Challenged Driver's Mark driven by a physically challenged driver**
- **A vehicle driven by a driver who is practicing with a learner's permit**

(2) Take extra caution, as an aurally challenged driver driving a semi-medium or regular vehicle bearing an Aurally Challenged Driver's Mark might not be able to hear vehicle horns.

3-9 Do not drive recklessly

A group of drivers traveling together must not zigzag, surround other vehicles, or otherwise jeopardize the safety of other vehicles.

3-10 Do not cause undue noise while driving

You must not start or accelerate abruptly in a manner that may seriously disturb others.

4 Safe speed and following distance

4-1 Safe speed

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



(1) Do not exceed the maximum speed limit indicated by traffic signs (Fig. 1) or markings (Fig. 2). If no limit is specified by a traffic sign or marking, you must not drive faster than 60 km/h (see pp. 51-52 for driving on the expressway).

(2) The maximum speed limit for a moped is 30 km/h. Where a traffic sign or marking indicates a maximum speed limit of less than 30 km/h, you must not exceed that limit.

(3) Even when driving at less than the given maximum speed, drive safely in accordance with road and traffic conditions, weather and visibility.

4-2 Stopping distance and following distance

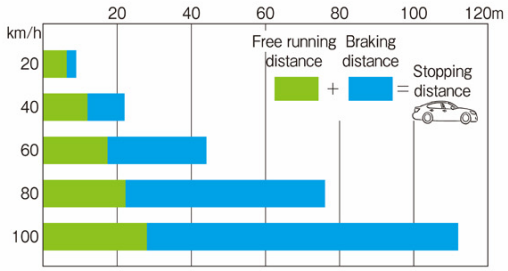
(1) Vehicles do not stop immediately. Some distance is required for a vehicle to come to a complete stop after braking (i.e., the stopping distance): the distance traveled by the vehicle until the braking mechanism starts to operate, after the driver has reacted to a danger and slams on the brake (the free running

distance), plus the distance until the vehicle comes to a halt after the braking mechanism starts to operate (the braking distance). Keep the stopping distance in mind so that you can stop safely in the event of a dangerous situation.

(2) When a driver is tired, he/she is likely to take longer to make judgments in response to danger, resulting in greater free running distance. Also, when driving in rain or with a heavy load, the braking distance will be longer.

(3) The stopping distance for a vehicle with worn tires on a wet road may be twice as long as that for a vehicle with better-condition tires on a dry road.

Stopping distance in relation to speed



(4) Considering the weather, road and tire conditions, as well as the weight of the load, keep a safe following distance to enable you to avoid rear-end collisions even when the vehicle in front of you stops suddenly. In large, medium and semi-medium vehicles, the driver's seat is positioned higher than in regular vehicles. A driver seated higher with a downward-looking view may judge the following distance to be greater than it actually is, leading him/her to adopt a shorter following distance.

4-3 How to apply the brakes

Keep the following tips in mind for proper braking:

(1) Lightly step on the brake pedal at first. Then gradually depress the pedal until you have applied sufficient braking strength.

(2) Step on the brake several times. This method is particularly effective on a slippery road surface. Also by doing so, your brake lights will flicker, warning vehicles behind you and preventing rear-end collisions.

(3) Do not brake suddenly unless to avoid danger. When you must stop a vehicle equipped with an anti-lock braking system (equipment that prevents the locking of the wheel's rotation, which would significantly hamper the control of the vehicle in motion) in a hurry, slam hard on the brake pedal to activate the system and maintain pressure.

Fig. 1



(4) Do not rely too much on the foot brake. Release the accelerator pedal to slow the speed gradually to a stop.

4-4 Driving slow

Drive slow when passing the places listed below. "Driving slow" means proceeding at a speed enabling you to stop the vehicle at once.

(1) Where a "Drive Slow" traffic sign (Fig. 1) is posted;

(2) When approaching intersections that do not allow you to look left and right completely (except where traffic is controlled by traffic lights, etc., or when passing with the right of way);

(3) When approaching the corner of a road;

(4) When approaching the top of an uphill road or driving on a steep downhill road.

5 Changing lanes

5-1 Checking for safety and signaling

(1) Before changing lanes, turning (making a U-turn), reversing (backing), or the like (except when making these maneuvers in a roundabout), check for safety using the rear-view mirror , etc., and give the appropriate signal. The table below shows how to give signals.

When to signal	Where to signal	How to signal
Turning left	When approaching at a distance of 30 m behind the near side of the point (or the intersection) to turn left	Switch on the direction indicators for turning left, or extend your right arm out the right window and bend your elbow upward vertically, or extend your left arm horizontally out of the left window. 
Changing to the left lane while keeping the same direction	About 3 seconds before changing lanes	
Turning right or making a U-turn	When approaching at a distance of 30 m behind the near side of the point (or the intersection) to turn right	Switch on the direction indicators for turning right, or extend your right arm horizontally out of the right window, or extend your left arm out the left window and bend your elbow upward vertically. 
Changing to the right lane while keeping the same direction	About 3 seconds before changing lanes	
Slowing down or making a complete stop	When intending to slow down or stop	Activate the brake lights, or extend your arm out of the window and stretch downward. 
Reversing	When intending to reverse	Activate the reverse lights, or extend your arm out of the window and wave your arm back and forth with your palm facing the reversing direction. 

(2) Before exiting a roundabout , or reversing in a rotary, check for safety using the rear-view mirror, etc., and give the appropriate signal. The table below shows how to give signals.

When to signal	Where to signal	How to signal
Exiting a rotary	Immediately after you have passed the last exit before the one you want to use (When you want to leave the rotary from an exit immediately after entering the roundabout , signal as soon as you enter the rotary)	Switch on the direction indicators for turning left, or extend your right arm out the right window and bend your elbow upward vertically, or extend your left arm horizontally out of the left window. 
Slowing down or making a complete stop in a roundabout	When intending to slow down or stop	Activate the brake lights, or extend your arm out of the window and stretch downward. 
Reversing in a roundabout	When intending to reverse	Activate the reverse lights, or extend your arm out of the window and wave your arm back and forth with your palm facing the reversing direction. 

(3) You must stop signaling immediately once you have completed these actions above. Do not signal unless necessary.

(4) If you anticipate that glare from a sunset or the like might make it difficult to recognize your signaling with the direction indicators, you should make hand signals along with the direction indicators.

(5) You must sound your horn when passing a place where the traffic sign “Sound Horn” (Fig. 2) is posted, or when traversing an intersection with poor visibility, the corner of a road or the top of a hill in a zone indicated with a traffic sign “Honking Zone” (Fig. 3). In other cases, you may sound your horn only if necessary to avoid danger.

Fig. 2



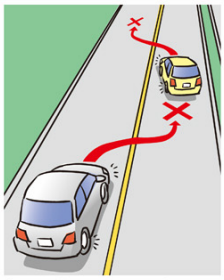
Fig. 3



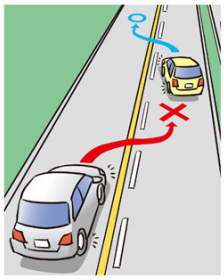
5-2 Changing lanes

(1) Do not change lanes indiscriminately. Do not change lanes if you think it might cause the vehicle behind you to brake or steer suddenly to avoid you. If you must change lanes, look into your rearview mirror or check visually to ensure that it is safe to do so.

(2) Where the lanes are divided by a yellow line, do not cross the yellow line to change lanes. Even where the lanes are divided by a white line, if a parallel yellow line is marked along your side of the divide, you must not cross into the right lane.



Changing of lanes is prohibited.



Changing of lanes is prohibited if there is a yellow line on your side of the divide.

5-3 Crossing, etc.

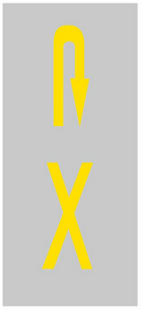
Fig. 1
No Crossing



Fig. 2
No U-Turn



Fig. 3
No U-Turn



(1) If it is likely to interfere with the crossing of pedestrians or with the normal traffic of other vehicles, you should not cross, make a U-turn, reverse, or turn right or left, or cross to enter or exit a location facing the road.

(2) Do not cross or make a U-turn where it is prohibited by traffic signs (Fig. 1, Fig. 2) or markings (Fig. 3).

(3) When turning left to leave the road, slowly approach the left side of the road in advance and when turning right off the road, drive slowly along the center line of the road (the right side of a one-way road) in advance.

(4) When the vehicle in front of you is signaling to move toward the left side, the center, or the right side of the road to leave the road, do not interfere with the vehicle's movement. This rule does not apply when you need to brake or steer suddenly to avoid the vehicle.

6 Overtaking

6-1 Where overtaking is prohibited

Fig. 4
No Overtaking



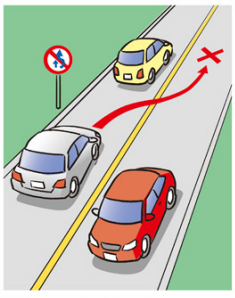
Fig. 5
No Entering the Right Side of the Road for Overtaking



(1) Overtaking occurs when a vehicle changes lanes, passes the vehicle in front and positions itself ahead of it. Overtaking involves a complicated operation of changing lanes, accelerating, and returning to the same lane.

(2) Do not attempt to overtake in the following dangerous cases:

- **When the vehicle in front of you is about to overtake (dual overtaking);**
- **When the vehicle in front of you is about to change its course to the right so as to turn right, etc.;**
- **When your move to the right side of the road for overtaking might interfere with the traffic approaching from the opposite direction or the passage of streetcars/trams, or when you cannot return to the left side of the road without blocking the vehicle in front of you from traveling smoothly;**
- **When the vehicle behind you is about to overtake your vehicle.**

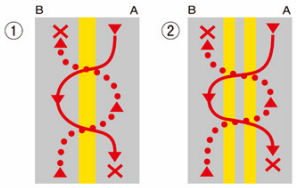


Where a traffic sign indicates no entering the right side of the road for overtaking

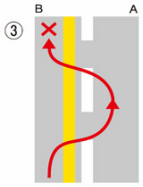
(3) Do not change lanes or pass by vehicles or mopeds for overtaking in the following places:

- **Areas designated as no-overtaking zones by a traffic sign (Fig. 4);**
- **Near the corner of a road;**
- **Near the top of an uphill road or when driving on a steep downhill road;**
- **In tunnels (except those with lanes);**
- **At an intersection and within 30 m behind the near side of an intersection (except when passing with the right of way);**
- **A railroad crossing, a crosswalk/pedestrian crossing, or a bicycle crossing lane and within 30 m before them.**

Fig. 6



① and ② prohibit vehicles traversing areas A or B from entering the right side of the road for overtaking



③ prohibits vehicles traversing area B from entering the right side of the road for overtaking

(4) Do not enter the right side of the road for overtaking in zones designated by a traffic sign (Fig. 5) or marking (Fig. 6).

6-2 Tips of overtaking safely

(1) When overtaking another vehicle, you must pass it on its right. You must pass on its left, however, when the other vehicle is moving along the center of the road (or the right side of the road in the case of a one-way road) in order to make a right turn, or when you are overtaking a streetcar/tram.

(2) While overtaking, you must keep a safe distance between your vehicle and the vehicle you are overtaking.

(3) After overtaking a vehicle on the outer right lane on a road where a passing lane is provided, you should return to the left-hand lane as soon as you have finished overtaking. Staying in the outer right lane is dangerous as it may cause you to go over the speed limit or shorten the distance between vehicles. This may also lead to other problems, such as causing an obstruction to other vehicles that wish to pass, and hindering the flow of traffic.

(4) When your vehicle is overtaken by another vehicle, do not attempt to accelerate until you have been passed. Also, when there is not enough room for overtaking, you should keep to the left as much as possible to let the other vehicle pass.

6-3 Steps for overtaking

Take the following steps when overtaking:

(1) Ensure that overtaking is not prohibited.

(2) Watch ahead for safety and check the traffic to your right and approaching from the right rear through the rearview mirror, etc. If you attempt to enter the right side of the road for overtaking, you must check for traffic approaching from the opposite direction.



Check with the rearview mirror.



Switch on the direction indicators for turning right.

(3) Switch on the direction indicators for turning right.

(4) After about three seconds, accelerate within the maximum speed limit, gently steer toward the right and pass the vehicle in front of you while keeping a safe distance.

(5) Switch on the direction indicators for turning left.

(6) Stay in the passing lane until the vehicle you have overtaken appears in your rearview mirror, and steer gently to the left.

(7) Switch off signaling.



Accelerate within the maximum speed limit.



Switch on the direction indicators for turning left.



Check with the rearview mirror.

6-4 Cutting in

Do not cross or cut in front of a vehicle that is slowing down or has stopped at an intersection or a railway crossing. In other cases, you should not cut in front of a vehicle abruptly or drive too close to a vehicle moving in parallel to your vehicle.

6-5 Oncoming traffic

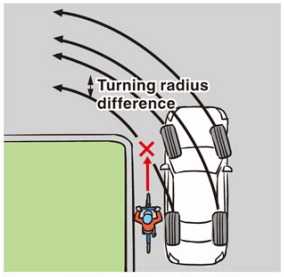
(1) Keep a safe distance when passing an oncoming vehicle.

(2) If there is any obstacle in front of you, stop or slow down to give way to the oncoming vehicle.

7 Traveling through intersections

7-1 Points to remember when passing an intersection

(1) Accidents are most frequent in and around intersections. When entering or passing an intersection, ensure the safety of pedestrians and vehicles turning right, and drive at a safe speed and in an appropriate manner in accordance with the conditions of the intersection. When turning right, take utmost care because motorcycles approaching from the opposite direction might be difficult to be noticed.



Be careful of the turning radius difference when making a right or left turn.

(2) When entering a rotary or passing through a roundabout , you must pay attention to pedestrians and other cars passing through or attempting to enter the roundabout , and proceed through the roundabout at a speed and in a manner that is appropriate to the conditions.

(3) When a vehicle is turning left or right, inner wheel difference occurs (the difference between tracks followed by front and rear wheels when turning, occurring because the rear wheels pull over to the inside further than the front wheels). Large vehicles in particular have a large inner wheel difference and have a larger blind spot in the left-rear area. Consequently, watch carefully to avoid colliding with any pedestrian or bicyclist passing by on the left side of your vehicle.

7-2 How to travel through intersections

(1) When making a left turn, approach the left side of the road in advance and travel along the edge of the intersection slowly.

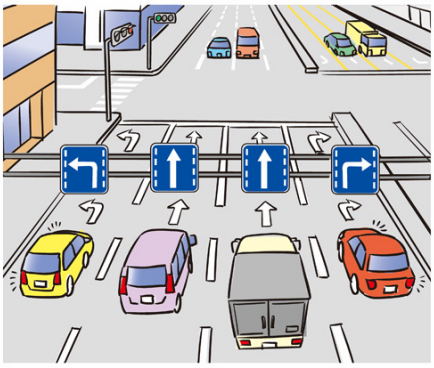
(2) When making a right turn, drive along the center of the road as far as possible in advance and proceed slowly at the inner end of the center of the intersection. This rule does not apply to mopeds making a two-step right turn.

(3) When making a right turn from a one-way road, approach the right side of the road and proceed slowly at the inner end of the center of the intersection. This rule does not apply to mopeds making a two-step right turn (see p. 58, 3-3(2)).

(4) When turning left or right, follow the instructions indicated by traffic markings with arrows, etc. (Fig. 1 through Fig. 3).

(5) When turning right, do not interfere with the passage of vehicles or streetcars/trams going straight or making a left turn at the intersection, even if your vehicle enters the intersection first.

(6) When traveling on designated lanes with traffic signs (Fig. 4) or markings (Fig. 5) designating lanes specifically for the respective directions, you must follow the designations except when you have to give way to an approaching emergency vehicle or under unavoidable circumstances such as road construction. Mopeds turning left or right at an intersection subject to a two-step right turn must pass through the left side of the lane.



If traffic signs and markings designate lanes specifically, you must follow the designation.

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

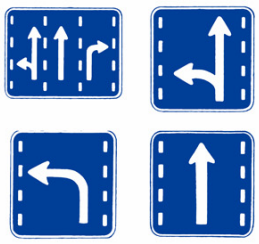


Fig. 5



(7) At intersections where traffic signs (Fig. 6) designate the directions for going straight, turning left, etc., you are not permitted to proceed in directions other than as designated.

Fig. 6

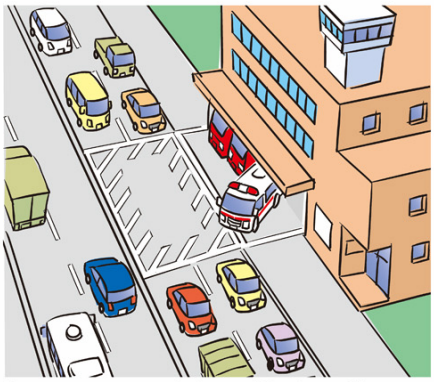


(8) When the vehicle in front of you is signaling its intention to change direction, either to turn left or right or in accordance with the lane designations indicated by traffic signs (Fig. 4) or markings (Fig. 5), do not interfere with the vehicle's movement. This rule does not apply when you need to brake or steer suddenly to avoid the vehicle.

Fig. 7



(9) Do not enter an intersection even on a green light, if you think traffic congestion ahead could cause your vehicle to stop in the middle of the intersection, thus blocking the crossing traffic. The same rule also applies if your vehicle is likely to stop in a zone designated by the marking "Stopping Prohibited" (Fig. 7) in front of police and fire stations, etc., or crosswalks/ pedestrian crossings or bicycle crossing lanes, or railroad crossings.



Do not enter zones designated by the traffic marking "Stopping Prohibited" in front of police and fire stations, etc., if your vehicle is likely to get stuck there.

7-3 How to travel through intersections with no traffic control

(1) Where the perpendicular traffic has right of way or the perpendicular road is wider, slow down so as not to interfere with the perpendicular traffic or the operation of streetcars/trams.

(2) Where intersecting roads are comparable in width, do not interfere with streetcars/trams or vehicles approaching from your left.

(3) You must stop before the stopping line (or behind the near side of the intersection when the stopping line does not exist) at an intersection where a "Stop" traffic sign (Fig. 8) is posted, and give way to streetcars/trams or vehicles traversing the perpendicular road. The same rule applies to intersections where you are subject to a flashing red light ahead.

Fig. 8



(4) You may proceed by watching for other vehicles where there is a flashing yellow light ahead.

7-4 How to travel through roundabout

(1) When turning left, turning right, going straight or making a U-turn, you must approach the left side of the road in advance and proceed slowly along the curb.

(2) If traffic markings with arrows, etc. (Fig.9) designate lanes specifically, you must follow the designation when turning left, turning right, going straight or making a U-turn.

Fig. 9



(3) When entering a roundabout , slow down, and do not interfere with the passage of vehicles or streetcars/trams in the rotary.

8 Parking and stopping

8-1 Meanings of parking and stopping

Parking means when a vehicle has remained in the same spot for a considerable amount of time, or when a vehicle cannot be moved immediately because the driver is away from it. It is not considered parking when a vehicle is stopping for passengers to get on or off or for loading or unloading for no longer than five minutes.

Stopping refers to when a vehicle stops for a short period of time other than when parking.

8-2 No parking or stopping

(1) Illegal parking and stopping are responsible for surrounding traffic congestion and also affect visibility on the road, resulting in traffic accidents involving pedestrians running out from behind vehicles. It can also interfere with the operation of patrol cars, fire engines and other emergency vehicles. If you intend to park or stop your vehicle, ensure that you do so legally.

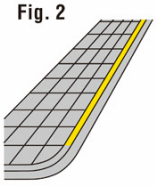
(2) Parking and stopping are prohibited in the following places, although the same rule does not apply when you stop on a red light or when you need to stop temporarily to avoid danger:

Fig. 1



- **Zones designated by a “No Parking or Stopping” traffic sign (Fig. 1) or markings (Fig. 2);**
- **Inside streetcar tracks;**
- **Near the top of an uphill road or on a steeply sloped road;**
- **In tunnels;**
- **At intersections and within 5 m from the edge of an intersection;**
- **Within 5 m from the corner of a road;**
- **A crosswalk/pedestrian crossing, or bicycle crossing lane, or within 5 m from the edge of them;**
- **At railroad crossings and within 10 m from the edge of a railroad crossing;**
- **On the left side of a safety zone and within 10 m from each end of the zone;**
- **Within 10 m from a bus, streetcar/tram stop signboard (or sign pole) (during operating hours only).**

Fig. 2



(3) Parking is prohibited in the following places, except when a special permit has been obtained from the Chief of Police:

- **No parking zones indicated by a traffic sign (Fig. 3) or traffic markings (Fig. 4);**
- **Within 1 m from a fire alarm;**
- **Within 3 m from the entrance or exit for vehicles, or a parking lot, garage;**
- **Within 5 m from either end of a road construction area;**
- **Within 5 m from an area of storage of fire-fighting equipment or a fire-fighting water tank as well as the access way thereto;**
- **Within 5 m from a hydrant, a traffic sign for a designated water supply (Fig. 5), or a fire-fighting water tank intake.**

(4) Do not park where the space to the right of the parked vehicle would be less than 3.5 m. Do not park if you cannot provide the required space designated by a traffic sign (Fig. 6). You may park, however, if you can start your vehicle at any time while loading or unloading, or under unavoidable circumstances such as giving first aid to an injured person.

(5) You may park or stop your vehicle if parking or stopping is exceptionally permitted as indicated by a traffic sign (Fig. 7), even within a no parking or no stopping zone.

Fig. 3



Fig. 4

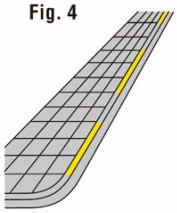


Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



8-3 How to park or stop your vehicle

Park or stop your vehicle in accordance with the following rules:

(1) Park along the left side of the road where there is no sidewalk or side strip.

(2) Park along the left side of the vehicular lane if there is a sidewalk or side strip.

(3) Where there is a wide side strip, you may enter the side strip, provided that you must leave a space of more than 0.75 m. Even in a wide side strip, you must not enter the side strip when there are markings in solid or dotted lines (Fig. 8) or in two white lines (Fig. 9).

Fig. 8



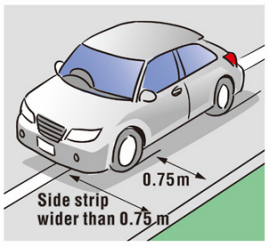
Fig. 9



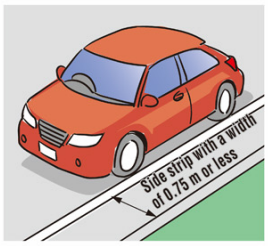
(4) On an expressway, as pedestrian traffic is prohibited, you should enter the side strip and park along the left side of the road.

(5) Do not park or stop parallel to another vehicle parked or stopping on the road.

(6) Follow the designations indicated by traffic signs (Fig. 10 through Fig. 12) or markings (Fig. 13 through Fig. 15).



You may enter a side strip if it is wide, but you must leave a space of more than 0.75 m.



You must not enter a side strip with a width of 0.75 m or less.

Fig. 10



Fig. 11



Fig. 12



Fig. 13

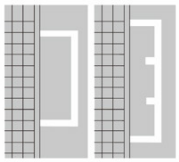


Fig. 14

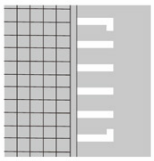
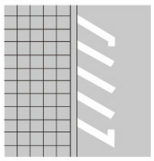


Fig. 15



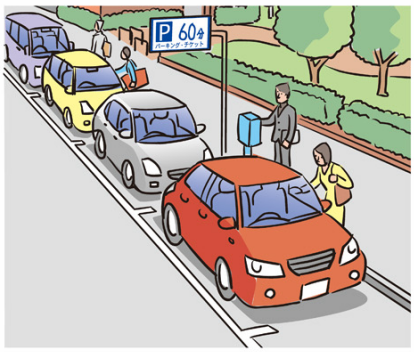
8-4 Parking in time-limited parking zones

In many cases, parking is prohibited in urban areas. As a rule, parking is prohibited on the road, except when you pay a fee at a parking meter or ticket machine. When parking your vehicle in a zone with a parking meter or a ticket machine, observe the following:

(1) When parking in a time-limited zone with a parking meter, activate it immediately.

(2) When parking in a time-limited zone that has a ticket machine, purchase a ticket (Fig. 16) immediately after parking and place it in a visible place on the front of the vehicle (inside the windshield) during parking.

(3) Do not park in a time-limited zone beyond the time indicated by the relevant traffic sign (Fig. 17). The parking time begins from the time when the parking meter detects the parked vehicle or when you obtain a parking ticket.



You may park by paying a fee at a parking meter or ticket machine.

Fig. 16



Fig. 17



3

8-5 Parking and stopping in spaces designated for senior drivers and others

(1) In certain areas where parking and/or stopping are generally prohibited, drivers of regular passenger cars bearing a special parking permit (Fig. 20) that shows the vehicle registration number may park or stop if there are signs (Fig. 18, 19) indicating that the area is a “designated parking space for senior drivers and others.”

Fig. 18



Fig. 19



(2) In a time-limited parking zone designated by a sign (Fig. 21) as a special parking permit zone (“time-limited parking zone for senior drivers and others”), only regular passenger cars bearing a special parking permit that shows the vehicle registration number can be parked.

Fig. 20



(3) Only drivers who hold a driver’s license for a regular passenger car and fulfill any of the following conditions can apply to their regional Public Safety Commission for the issuance of a special parking permit.

- **Drivers who are aged 70 or older;**
- **have a certain conditional statement attached to their license because of impaired hearing (unable to hear an alarm of 90 dB from a distance of 10 meters, even if wearing hearing aids in both ears);**
- **Drivers who have a certain conditional statement attached to their license due to a physical disability;**
- **Drivers who are pregnant or have given birth within the previous eight weeks.**

Fig. 21



(4) Cars parked or stopped in a designated parking space for senior drivers and others or a time-limited parking zone for senior drivers and others, must have the required special parking permit displayed in a prominent location at the front of the vehicle (for regular passenger cars with a windshield, it should be attached to the inside surface of the windshield).

(5) Drivers who have not acquired a special parking permit from the Public Safety Commission must not park or stop their cars in the designated parking spaces for senior drivers and others or in the time-limited parking zones for senior drivers and others.

8-6 Removal of vehicles

(1) The driver or individual responsible for an illegally parked vehicle must move the vehicle immediately if so ordered by a police officer or traffic warden on the spot.

(2) An illegally parked vehicle may be moved by a tow car when the driver or individual responsible for the vehicle is not present, thus preventing a police officer or traffic warden from ordering him/her to move the vehicle.

(3) The driver, user, owner or the like of an illegally parked vehicle is liable to pay any expenses for towing and storing the vehicle.

(4) A wheel clamp and a Wheel Clamp Sticker (Fig. 1) may be attached to a vehicle parked illegally inside the wheel camp installation zone. Do not break or remove the wheel clamp, or damage or tear the Wheel Clamp Sticker, because the wheel clamp should be removed only after the Chief of Police has been informed of the intention of the owner, user or party concerned of the wheel-clamped vehicle to move the vehicle, and the Wheel Clamp Sticker should be removed when the wheel clamp is removed by the authority of the Chief of Police.

Fig. 1 Wheel Clamp Sticker

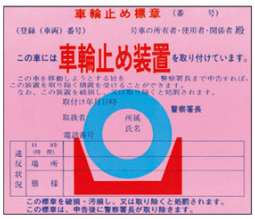
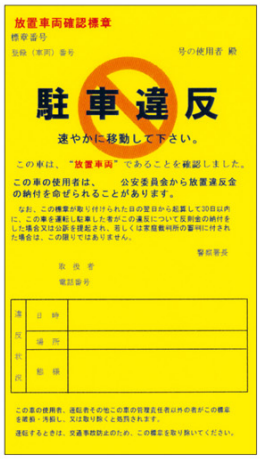


Fig. 2 Illegal Parking Sticker



8-7 Illegal parking sticker

(1) An Illegal Parking Sticker (Fig. 2) may be affixed to an illegally parked vehicle. The user of the illegally parked vehicle who has received an Illegal Parking Sticker may be ordered to pay a fine for a parking violation by the Public Safety Commission.

(2) Do not damage, tear, or remove the affixed Illegal Parking Sticker.

(3) The user, driver or individual responsible for an illegally parked vehicle with an Illegal Parking Sticker affixed may remove the sticker. Before driving, you should remove any affixed Illegal Parking Stickers so as to avoid traffic accidents.

8-8 Parking information

Information about parking, traffic regulations and so on is available from the prefectural road safety activity promotion center.

8-9 Storage of vehicle

(1) The owner of a vehicle is required to secure a parking lot or a garage, other than on the road, within a 2-km radius from the address of the main user of the vehicle, such as his/her own house.

(2) Do not use the road in place of a garage. Do not leave a vehicle parked at the same spot on the road for more than 12 hours (eight hours at night) (except for roads in areas of specified villages).

The Vehicle Storage Law shall apply to vehicles regardless of whether parking is prohibited by traffic signs, etc., or not. The traffic violation notification system shall not apply to violators of the law.

8-10 Leaving your vehicle

(1) Measures to prevent danger

When leaving your vehicle, take the following steps to prevent the vehicle from becoming out of control:

- **Switch off the engine, and apply the hand brake (parking brake).**
- **Shift the gear into reverse on flat land or if your vehicle is facing a downward slope, or into a low gear if your vehicle is facing an upward slope. For vehicles with automatic transmission, shift gear into the "P" (parking) position.**
- **Place bricks or stones behind the wheels to secure the vehicle firmly on steep slopes.**

(2) Anti-theft measures

In an increasing number of cases, stolen vehicles are being used for criminal purposes. To prevent such crimes, you should take the following anti-theft steps:

- **Switch off the engine, and carry the key with you.**
- **Close all windows and lock all doors.**
- **Activate any security device such as a steering-wheel lock.**
- **If you do not take all valuables with you, place them in the trunk/boot.**

9 Driving a vehicle with automatic transmission, etc.

9-1 Driving a vehicle with automatic transmission

Vehicles with automatic transmission require a different driving technique to vehicles with manual transmission. This knowledge will help you to avoid causing unexpected accidents.

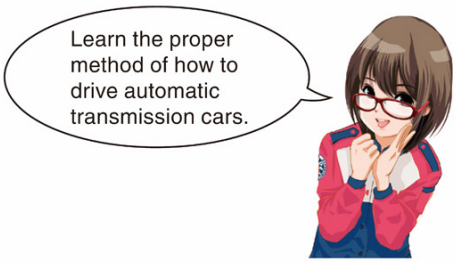
(1) General advice

- **Automatic transmission vehicles are easier to operate than manual transmission vehicles because they do not require clutch operation. This, however, should not lead to careless driving.**
- **The driver needs to understand the basics of driving an automatic transmission vehicle and drive the vehicle properly.**

(2) Starting the engine

- **Before starting the engine, step on the brake pedal to ensure your foot is in the right position, and visually check the position of the accelerator pedal.**
- **See if the hand brake (parking brake) is set and the gear shift is in the "P" (parking) position. Step on the brake pedal and start the engine.**

(3) Starting the vehicle



While stepping firmly on the brake pedal, shift into the "D" (driving) gear to move forward, or the "R" (reverse) to move backward. Visually check that the gear is set in the right position. Release the hand brake (parking brake). Release the brake pedal gradually. Step on the accelerator pedal gently to start your vehicle. Remember to step on the brake pedal firmly while shifting gear to prevent the vehicle from starting or backing suddenly.
This is especially important as the risk of a sudden start is higher just after the engine starts or when the air conditioning is in use, as the engine rotation is higher than normal.

(4) Stopping at intersections, etc.

While stopping, be sure to step on the brake pedal firmly, and apply the hand brake (parking brake) just in case.
If you expect to stop your car for a while, shift the gear into the "N" (neutral) position.
Failure to step on the brake pedal firmly might cause your car to inch forward (called the "creeping phenomenon") even without stepping on the accelerator pedal, resulting in a rear-end collision or other accident.

(5) Parking

When parking, apply the hand brake (parking brake) securely while stepping on the brake pedal and shift the gear into the “P” (parking) position.

Do not shift the gear into the “P” position until the vehicle comes to a complete halt.

9-2 Driving advanced safety vehicles (ASV)

An advanced safety vehicle (ASV)* is a vehicle equipped with a system that supports the driver to drive safely by using advanced technology. This system is driving support technology that assumes the driver will drive safely with responsibility. Make sure to correctly understand its limits and precautions, and drive without over-relying on this technology.

*An advanced safety vehicle (ASV) is a vehicle equipped with a system that supports the safety of the driver by using advanced technology. Collision avoidance systems, adaptive cruise control (ACC) systems and other technologies have already been put to practical use.

Stop parking regular vehicles in designated handicapped parking spaces.



International symbol of access
This is an international symbol indicating that a building or facility has been improved for people with physical disabilities.



CHAPTER 4 Dangerous Spots and Hazardous Conditions

1 Railroad crossings

1-1 Stopping, and watching for safety

(1) Traffic accidents resulting in death or serious injury are prone to happen at railroad crossings. When you pass through a railroad crossing, you must stop just before it (or behind the near side of the stopping line, if any), and look and listen to check for safety, rolling down the window if necessary. If there is a traffic signal for the crossing, follow the signal to cross.

(2) Do not automatically assume that it is safe to cross after a train has passed from one direction. Watch out for another train coming from the opposite direction.

(3) Do not enter the crossing after the warning bell starts to sound or when the crossing gate is either down or descending.

(4) You must stop and check for safety behind the near side of the crossing even if the vehicle in front of you has crossed safely. Do not enter a crossing if traffic from the opposite direction is congested as you may be stuck on the crossing.

(5) Do not change gear, to prevent the engine from stalling. Pass through in a lower gear you use for starting. Pay attention to pedestrians and vehicles coming from the opposite direction. Stay toward the center so as not to fall into the railroad bed.

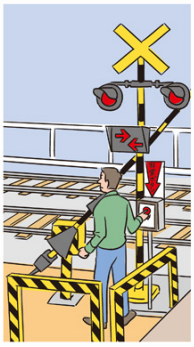
1-2 Breakdown on a railroad crossing

In the event that your car stalls on a railroad crossing, you must alert the operator of any approaching train using the procedures shown below, and try to move your vehicle outside the crossing as soon as possible.

(1) If the railroad crossing has an alarm, press the button, which is usually installed on the alarm pole.

(2) If the railroad crossing has no alarm, signal with an emergency flare, etc., equipped in your vehicle to alert any approaching train.

(3) If you do not have or have consumed your emergency flare, etc., burn something that would easily emit smoke so as to be seen from approaching trains.



In the event of a breakdown on a railroad crossing, use the alarm system effectively by pressing the button.

2 Slopes and curves

2-1 Driving on slopes and mountain roads

(1) When you stop your car on an uphill road following the vehicle in front of you, do not get too close to the vehicle in front, so as to avoid a collision in the case that the other vehicle slides backward.

(2) To start on an uphill road, use the hand brake effectively as much as possible. It is not recommended to start with only clutch operation, because if it fails to engage, your car might slide backward and collide with the vehicle behind you.

(3) Proceed slowly on the top of an uphill road where the visibility is poor. At such places, overtaking is prohibited.



Enter a pull-off and give way to oncoming traffic.

(4) Effectively employ the braking power of the engine when you drive on a downhill road by shifting into lower gears (in case of automatic transmission vehicles, shift into the “2” or “L” [or “1”] position). Overuse of the foot brake on a long downhill road might cause the brake to overheat and fail suddenly, which is dangerous.

(5) Keep a greater following distance while driving on a downhill road. Remember that vehicles traveling downhill easily accelerate, and therefore need more stopping distance.

(6) A vehicle traveling downhill should give way to a vehicle traveling uphill, as it is more difficult for the latter to start on slopes. If there is a “pull-off” (a place to give way to oncoming traffic), however, a vehicle driving uphill should pull in there and wait, if necessary.

(7) Overtaking is prohibited on a steep downhill road.

(8) If the road has a cliff off to one side and it is not safe for two vehicles to pass each other safely, then the vehicle on the cliff side should stop and give way.

(9) When waiting for another vehicle on a mountain road, do not approach too close to the edge of the road. The shoulders of some mountain roads are unstable and liable to collapse.

2-2 Corners and curves

(1) Slow down on a straight course of the road before you turn a corner or enter a curve. Your vehicle is likely to overturn or skid if you turn the steering wheel at high speed or apply the brakes while turning the steering wheel.

(2) Try to steer as smoothly as possible, avoiding abrupt maneuvers.

(3) Stay on your side of the road when turning a corner or entering a curve. Beware of oncoming traffic, which might come over the center of the road into your side.

(4) While turning a corner or a curve, keep in mind the turning radius difference, avoid trapping any pedestrian or bicycle inside of the corner or curve, and prevent the rear wheels from moving off the shoulder of the road.

(5) Overtaking is prohibited on corners and curves.

3 Driving at night

3-1 Driving at night

(1) Drive more slowly and carefully at night than during the daytime, because drivers tend to be slow to recognize pedestrians and bicycles given the poorer

visibility at night. Also, drivers tend to speed at night due to not being able to judge speed as accurately. In addition, you might come across tired or drunk drivers, or drunk pedestrians staggering into the road, so drive more slowly and carefully than in the daytime. Whenever you sense danger, slow down promptly.



Due to the evaporation phenomenon, the driver might lose sight of a pedestrian.

(2) Take extra caution when driving at night, because you might lose sight of a pedestrian due to the evaporation phenomenon caused by the headlights of oncoming traffic and your own headlights.

(3) Look ahead as much as possible, ready to identify obstacles at any time.

(4) When following the vehicle in front of you, keep an eye on the brake lights of the vehicle in front.

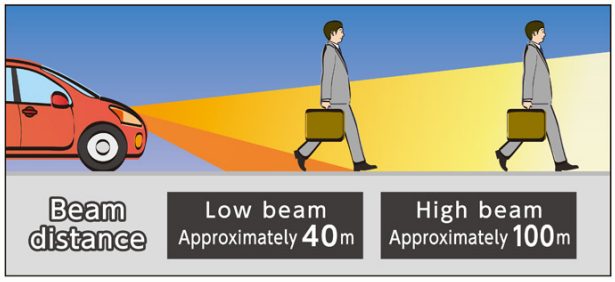
(5) Long monotonous driving on highways can make a driver sleepy. Keep the window slightly open and let fresh air in to keep you awake. If you feel drowsy, pull over and have a rest immediately.

(6) Twilight is a high-risk period of the day with a higher occurrence of traffic accidents. Turn on your headlights earlier so as to make your car more visible to other drivers.

3-2 Lights

(1) You should drive with your headlights, taillights and side marker lamps on at night. The same rule shall apply when you are passing through a tunnel, driving in dense fog, or under other circumstances when visibility falls below 50 m (200 m for expressways), even in the daytime.

(2) Switch your headlights upward to discover pedestrians as soon as possible except when traveling in urban areas with heavy traffic. However, you must dip your headlights or switch them downward when passing a vehicle approaching from the opposite direction or when driving closely behind another vehicle.



(3) Switch your headlights downward when traveling in urban areas with heavy traffic. If you become affected by the glare from the headlights of oncoming traffic, direct your vision slightly to the left to avoid being blinded.

(4) When approaching an intersection or curve with poor visibility, switch your headlights upward or flash them on and off to warn other drivers or pedestrians.

(5) Do not turn on the interior light while driving. This rule does not apply to buses.

(6) When parking or stopping your car on the road at night, you must turn on your emergency flashing lights, parking lights or taillights. The same rule shall apply

when you are passing through a tunnel, driving in dense fog, or under other circumstances when visibility falls below 50 m, even in the daytime. You do not need to turn on the lights on a road with street lighting where your car can be seen from a distance of over 50 m, or when you place a warning reflector board on the road, etc. If you need to stop or park your car on an expressway at night due to unavoidable circumstances, you must turn on the emergency flashing lights, parking lights or taillights, and place a warning reflector board, etc., on the road.

4 Driving in bad weather

If road conditions are poor due to bad weather or if you anticipate traffic congestion ahead, listen to the radio or call the Japan Road Traffic Information Center for traffic information.

4-1 Driving in rain

(1) You are at greater risk driving on a rainy day due to a poor visibility, clouded windows, slippery road surfaces, and other related conditions.

(2) On a rainy day, drive more carefully at a slower speed than on a sunny day and keep a sufficient following distance. Avoid sudden starting, steering, and braking which might cause your car to overturn or skid.

(3) Do not approach too closely to the edge of a mountain road. The rain may have eroded the shoulders, making them unstable.

(4) Paved roads are slippery when it starts to rain. Watch out when driving on wet steel plates at construction sites and streetcar/tram rails, which are also slippery.

(5) When passing by pedestrians or storefronts, slow down to avoid splashing them with muddy water.

(6) Avoid entering deep puddles in the road, because muddy water might enter the brake drum, causing the brake not to work at all or function effectively.

(7) Keep your windshield wipers in good condition. Apply cleaning fluid to clean the windshield when it is clouded with oil, which sometimes happens when operating your wipers when it starts to rain. Open the side windows to prevent the windshield from becoming clouded.

4-2 Driving in snow

(1) Snowy and icy roads become dangerously slippery. Fit the tires with chains, or use special snow tires or studless snow tires. However, do not drive a vehicle without chains fitted to the tires on roads for which the passage of vehicles not fitted with tire chains is prohibited by a traffic sign (Fig. 1).

Fig. 1 A new traffic sign closing roads to vehicles not fitted with tire chains.



(2) Drive slowly and keep a sufficient following distance. Operate the steering wheel and apply the brake with extra caution to prevent skidding. Sudden starting, steering and braking should be avoided.

(3) Follow in the tracks of the vehicles ahead of you as much as possible.

(4) Studded tires should not be used on roads other than snowy or icy roads, because these types of tires damage the road surface and cause dust pollution.

4-3 Driving in fog

(1) Fog seriously reduces visibility. Turn on your fog lights (pale yellow auxiliary headlights, etc.), if any. If your car does not have them, turn on your headlights earlier. Drive slowly and use the center line, guard rails, or tail lights of the vehicle in front of you as a guide.

(2) Sound your horn whenever necessary to prevent danger.

5 Emergency measures

(1) If your car stalls on a railroad crossing or an intersection, do not panic. Try to restart the engine by running the starter motor in either low or second gear (however, this method cannot be applied to automatic transmission vehicles or vehicles equipped with a system that requires stepping on the clutch pedal to start the engine).

(2) If your car is stuck in mud and the wheels are idling, place any old blanket, gravel, etc., under the wheels to prevent them from slipping.

(3) If the engine revolutions do not decline from high speed levels due to malfunction, etc., shift the gear into neutral to divert the power of the engine from the wheels, move the vehicle to a safe place such as the shoulder of the road, then switch off the engine after stopping in the case of a vehicle, or switch off the ignition to stop the rotation of the engine in the case of a motorcycle.

(4) If your vehicle has a flat tire while you are driving, hold the steering wheel securely and try to prevent the vehicle from moving in the wrong direction. Do not slam on the brakes. Step on the brake pedal several times to stop the vehicle.

(5) Skidding of the rear wheels is caused by overspeeding, abrupt steering or sudden acceleration. If the rear wheels of your vehicle start to skid, do not slam on the brakes. Release the accelerator pedal and at the same time adjust the steering wheel to set the vehicle in the right direction. In this case, if the rear wheels are skidding to the right (left), which causes your car to turn left (right), you should steer to right (left).

(6) If the brake pedal fails to work on a downhill road, shift the gear down quickly and apply the hand brake. If these steps fail, maneuver the wheels to roll into a ditch on the hill-side of the road, drive into a crash barrier or into gravel along the road.

(7) If there is danger of a head-on collision with oncoming traffic, sound the horn, apply the brake pedal and pull over to the left as far as possible. Do not give up hope of avoiding a collision until the last moment, by effectively applying the brake pedal and hand brake. Do not hesitate to get off the road if you can do so safely.

CHAPTER 5 Driving on Expressways

Expressways refer to national expressways and limited highways. Expressways are closed to mini cars, light motorcycles*, and mopeds. Expressways are also closed to vehicles used for agricultural works with a maximum speed of 50 km/h, and vehicles towing other vehicles, which are not able to run at a speed higher than 50 km/h.

Note:
A light motorcycle marked with * refers to a regular motorcycle with a total displacement up to 125 cc or with a rated output up to 1.00 kW.

1 Before entering the expressway

(1) Check the vehicle

Before you travel on an expressway, check your vehicle as follows. You must check carefully to avoid the possibility of your car stopping on the expressway due to running out of fuel, coolant or engine oil.

- **Is there enough fuel?**
- **Is the amount of coolant within the required range?**
- **Is the radiator cap securely fastened?**
- **Is the amount of engine oil appropriate?**
- **Is the tension of the fan belt appropriate? Is there any damage to the belt?**
- **Is the air pressure in the tires appropriate? (When driving on an expressway, keep the tire pressure higher than usual.)**
- **Is the depth of the grooves of the tires sufficient?**

(2) Secure loaded cargo

Because loaded cargo is more likely to fall or scatter due to shocks when you drive at a high speed, ensure that loaded cargo is tightly secured, and reload the cargo if necessary.

(3) Equip the vehicle with an emergency signaling device

Equip the vehicle with an emergency signaling device (warning reflector board, revolving warning light, etc.) (Fig. 1) just in case you have to place it on the road as required in the case of breakdown or other emergency. Emergency equipment with a "TS" mark (Fig. 2) is recommended.

Fig. 1



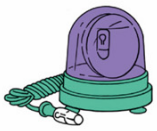


Fig. 2



(4) Have free time in a driving plan

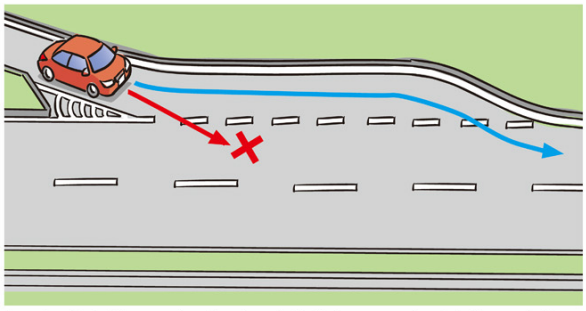
It is dangerous to continue driving on the expressway for a long period of time. You should have a driving plan that allows you to rest.

(5) Before entering the expressway, listen to the radio or call the Japan Road Traffic Information Center for traffic information.

2 Driving on the expressway

2-1 Merging into the main lane

Main lanes refer to lanes for ordinary traveling at high speeds on the expressway (excluding the acceleration lane on the entry ramp, the deceleration lane on the exit ramp, the slow lane, the side strip and the shoulder of the road).

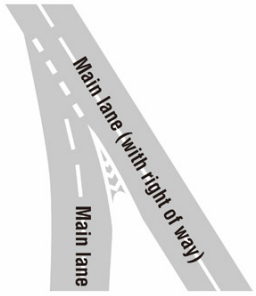


Accelerate in the acceleration lane fully before merging into the main lane.

(1) When merging into the main lanes, you should accelerate fully in the acceleration lane, if any.

(2) When merging into the main lane, do not interfere with the traffic in the main lane. When the main lane you are on is merging with another main lane, you must give way if the other lane has the right of way as indicated by a traffic marking (Fig. 1) painted in the merging section of two main lanes.

Fig. 1



2-2 Speed

(1) You must observe maximum and minimum speed limits as designated by traffic signs and markings.

(2) In bad weather, you must drive at a correct speed in accordance with weather conditions. When driving at a high speed for a long time or at night, a driver tends to lose a sense of speed and easily speed up. Check your speed with your speedometer from time to time.

(3) When traveling on the main lanes of national expressways where maximum and minimum speed limits are not designated by traffic signs or markings, do not exceed the maximum speed limit or drive at a speed below the minimum speed limit as shown in the table (p. 52).

Type of vehicles	Maximum speed limit (km/h)	Minimum speed limit (km/h)
Large vehicles, medium vehicles (excluding specified medium vehicles), semi-medium vehicles, or regular vehicles (excluding three-wheeled vehicles), large motorcycles, regular motorcycles	100	50
Vehicles other than the above	80	
When towing another vehicle		

Notes
1. These speed limits are not applicable to sections of the main lane which is not divided for each direction. In this case the rules for ordinary roads are applied (see p.28 for driving on general roads).
2. Towing on national expressways is permitted only when a towing vehicle structured and equipped for that purpose is towing a vehicle structured and equipped to be towed.

(4) Keep a sufficient following distance. For a vehicle with new tires running on a dry road surface, the recommended following distance is about 100 m at a speed of 100 km/h, and about 80 m at a speed of 80 km/h. You need to maintain a following distance of twice these lengths when driving on a wet road surface in the rain or if the vehicle's tires are worn.



(5) Bad weather conditions such as rain, snow, and fog substantially increase the risk of driving at high speed. Driving at high speed in the rain may cause the skidding or slipping of the vehicle, or the loss of steering or braking control due to the floating of tires on the layer of water (hydroplaning). You should avoid driving at high speed on a snowy day when the road is slippery and visibility is poor. When the weather conditions are bad, listen to the traffic information to find out if any interchange is temporarily closed to traffic.

5

2-3 Traveling on the expressway

(1) Use the white line on your left as a guide and stay a little left of the center of the lane that you are traveling on. It helps the vehicle behind you to adopt a safe distance for overtaking, thus preventing collisions.

(2) Do not enter the side strip or shoulder of the expressway.

(3) Trucks with heavy cargos or other vehicles traveling slowly should use a slow lane, if any.

(4) Making U-turns, reversing or crossing the central divide is prohibited on the main lane.

(5) When overtaking, give signals without delay and assess the traffic on the passing lane for the right timing. When attempting to return to the original lane, stay in the passing lane until the vehicle you have overtaken appears in your rearview mirror.

(6) Do not interfere with any emergency vehicle merging into or leaving the main lane.

(7) A vehicle towing another vehicle weighing 750 kg or more must travel along the outmost left-hand lane on a limited highway with lanes (limited to the zones designated by a traffic sign [Fig. 1] or marking [Fig. 2]) and on the main lane of a national expressway. However, traffic zoning indicated by a traffic sign (Fig. 3) or marking (Fig. 4) on the national expressway must be observed.

Fig. 1



Fig. 2

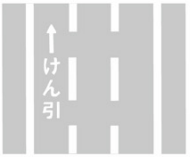
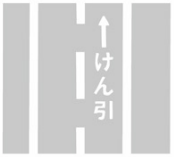


Fig. 3



Fig. 4



(8) Slamming on the brakes while driving at high speed is very dangerous. When you need to brake, shift into a lower gear and effectively employ the braking power of the engine while stepping on the brake pedal several times.

(9) Do not turn the steering wheel sharply when driving at high speed.

(10) When the wind is strong, slow down and hold the steering wheel firmly. Watch for side wind at the exit of a tunnel or cutting so as not to lose control of your steering.

(11) Slow down before entering a tunnel, as your eyesight will be less effective in the dark.

(12) At night, excluding when passing oncoming traffic or following a vehicle directly in front of you, switch your headlights upward so you can quickly discover cars which may have stopped due to fallen objects on the road, accidents or other obstructions.

(13) Pay attention to road information boards along the expressway for alerts regarding wrong-way drivers or pedestrians who may have mistakenly entered the main road.

2-4 No parking or stopping

(1) Parking and stopping are prohibited on expressways except under the following circumstances:

- **Stopping temporarily to avoid danger;**
- **Parking or stopping on a sufficiently wide shoulder or side strip due to breakdown or other unavoidable reason;**
- **Parking or stopping at a parking area or stopping to pay a toll.**

(2) If your car breaks down or runs out of fuel on an expressway, you must place a warning reflector board, etc., on the road behind your vehicle (if you cannot reach the road behind you on foot, you may place a revolving warning light on the road beside your vehicle), so as to warn drivers approaching from the rear that your vehicle has stopped. At the same time, you must turn on the emergency flashing lights, parking lights or taillights at night (and in the daytime

when visibility is 200 m or less). When placing a warning reflector board, etc., watch out for approaching vehicles from the rear and give a signal using an emergency flare. If you have to set up a warning reflector board in strong wind, take necessary measures to secure the board to prevent it from blowing away. If you connect a warning reflector board to the rear of your vehicle to secure it, you must connect it properly. When leaving the site after the vehicle has been fixed or repaired, be sure not to leave the warning reflector board, etc., behind.

(3) If your vehicle breaks down, runs out of fuel, or is involved in an accident, dial 110 for the police and call a tow truck from the nearest emergency telephone and have your vehicle moved to a safe place as soon as possible. If possible, move your vehicle out of the lane onto the shoulder or side strip by running the starter motor in either low or second gear (however, this method cannot be applied to automatic transmission vehicles or vehicles equipped with a system that requires stepping on the clutch pedal to start the engine).

(4) It is extremely dangerous to stay inside the vehicle on the expressway while waiting for road service as you may be hit from behind. Once you take necessary measures, you should leave your vehicle and evacuate behind the guardrail or other safe place.

(5) If your cargo falls or scatters on the road, call 110 for the police and use an emergency telephone to request removal of the articles on the road. It is dangerous for you to attempt such an action yourself on the expressway.

2-5 Leaving the main lane

(1) Look out carefully for exit signs (Fig. 1 through Fig. 4) for your destination.

(2) When approaching the exit, change to the lane leading you to the exit. In this case, travel along the deceleration lane, if any, and slow down by checking the speedometer rather than relying on your sense of speed.

(3) Once you are off the expressway, adjust your driving style in accordance with traffic on the ordinary road. Make sure not to speed up, as drivers tend to speed up easily after traveling on an expressway for some time.

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4





CHAPTER 6 Riding a Two-wheeled Motor Vehicle

This chapter provides riding tips for motorcyclists. For basic rules and general requirements before getting behind the wheel, see the chapters relating to automobile drivers (pp. 11-54). Two-wheeled motor vehicles refer to large motorcycles, regular motorcycles, and mopeds.

1 Basic rules

A two-wheeled motor vehicle maintains its balance and stability through the rider's body action while in motion, and loses its balance once it stops. These structural characteristics require different driving skills compared to driving four-wheeled vehicles. Motorcyclists must exercise care and ride prudently at all times, paying attention to the surrounding traffic, since their presence could be overlooked by drivers of four-wheeled vehicles. Always ride them carefully despite their convenience and the ease with which they can be ridden.

1-1 Choosing the right motorcycle for you

(1) Choose a motorcycle that matches your physique and riding experience. It is risky for a beginner to start with a larger-sized motorcycle even if confident of his/her physical strength. It is recommended to start with a small one until you acquire sufficient skill to ride a bigger one.
Use the following criteria to choose the right motorcycle:
(a) Can you set down the center stand easily on level ground?
(b) Do your toes touch the ground when you are seated?
(c) Do you have complete control over the motorcycle while walking with it and pushing it round in an "8" formation?

(2) For double riding on a large or regular motorcycle, choose a type of motorcycle with a spacious passenger seat.

1-2 Wearing a crash helmet

All motorcyclists must wear a crash helmet. Riders of large/regular motorcycles and mopeds must ensure their passengers wear a crash helmet. Wear an approved helmet with the PS (c) mark or JIS mark, and fasten the chinstrap firmly. Helmets designed for construction work are unacceptable.

1-3 Clothing, etc.

Motorcyclists should wear clothing that covers their body as fully as possible and wear as much protective gear as possible. The same rule applies to a large or regular motorcycle's passengers. Riders should also wear clothing easily seen by other drivers. When riding at night, you should wear a reflective vest or a reflective crash helmet.

1-4 No double riding

Double riding is not permitted in the following cases:

(1) When riding on a large or regular motorcycle without a rear seat, or on a moped;

(2) When a rider who has had a license for large motorcycles for less than one year, rides a large or regular motorcycle (however, a rider possessing a regular motorcycle license for more than one year may carry a passenger);

(3) When a rider who has had a license for regular motorcycles for less than one year rides a regular motorcycle;

(4) When a rider with a license for large motorcycles who is under the age of twenty or who has had the license for large motorcycles for less than three years rides a large or regular motorcycle on the expressway. (However, a rider aged twenty or older who has had a license for regular motorcycles for more than three years may carry a passenger.);

Fig. 1



No double riding on a large or regular motorcycle

(5) When a rider with a license for regular motorcycles who is under the age of twenty, or who has had the license for regular motorcycles for less than three years rides a regular motorcycle on the expressway;

(6) When driving on a road where “No double riding on a large or regular motorcycle” is indicated by a traffic sign (Fig. 1).

1-5 Advice for double riding

Double riding on a large or regular motorcycle requires different riding skills compared to riding alone in some aspects. You should get a sufficient experience of riding alone before embarking on double riding, even in cases where it is permitted. It is also helpful to participate in a training course on double riding.

1-6 Pre-riding check

The standard inspection procedure is shown as follows:

(1) Do the brakes have the correct degree of play and enough effectiveness?

(2) Are the wheels free from abnormal shaking and distortion?

(3) Do the tires have enough air pressure?

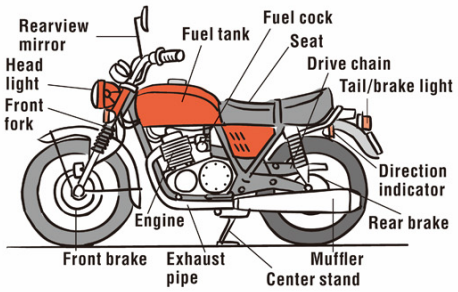
(4) Is the drive chain too loose or too tight? (Check the chain tension by pressing the middle section of the chain.) Also check that the chain is property lubricated.

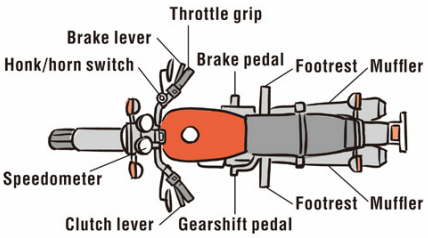
(5) Is the steering system too stiff or too tight? Make sure no wires are caught in the steering system. Is the handle bar securely fastened?

(6) Check all the lights.

(7) Is the rearview mirror adjusted properly?

(8) Is the muffler securely attached and free of damage?





2 Proper riding posture

Adopt a correct riding posture as follows:

(1) Place the arches of your feet on the footrests of the motorcycle and keep the soles of your shoes horizontal to the ground. Point your feet straight ahead, with your knees up against the fuel tank.

(2) Hold the handle bar with your wrists facing downward, pressing the bar slightly within your grip.

(3) Relax your shoulders and bend your elbows slightly.

(4) Straighten your spine and look straight ahead.

3 Safe riding technique

You should not squeeze in between two lanes of traffic, zigzag in and out, overtake traffic abruptly, or cut in and out of traffic, even though the high maneuverability of motorcycles or mopeds may tempt you to do so. Riding in this manner puts you at risk and disturbs other drivers in the surrounding traffic. Keep a sufficient following distance and space on both sides of your motorcycle. When traffic is congested, watch out for doors of the vehicle ahead opening suddenly, or for any pedestrians running out between vehicles. Avoid wearing loose fitting footwear when riding a motorcycle.

3-1 Maneuvering curves

(1) To maneuver a curve safely, slow down sufficiently before entering the curve. Do not swerve to the right side of the road.

(2) When maneuvering a curve, tilt the motorcycle naturally rather than turning the handle bar.

(3) Use the throttle to adjust your speed once you are inside a curve. Do not disengage the clutch to keep transmitting the engine power to the wheels. Accelerate gradually when approaching the end of the curve, provided the traffic ahead is clear.

3-2 Traveling on muddy or gravel roads

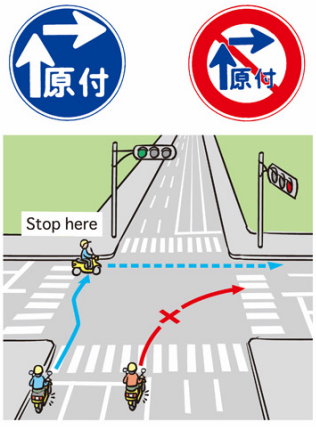
(1) Go slowly in a lower gear when riding on muddy or gravel roads.

(2) Do not apply the brakes, accelerate suddenly, or turn the handle bar sharply. Use the throttle to keep a constant speed and maintain your balance.

3-3 Turning right

(1) When turning right on a large or regular motorcycle
When making a right at an intersection (excluding roundabout), drive along the center of the road as far as possible and proceed slowly at the inner end of the center of the intersection. When turning right on a wide road (excluding when turning right at a roundabout), gradually enter the lane for turning right before approaching the intersection. It is dangerous to move from a left lane to a right lane abruptly.

Fig. 1 Fig. 2



Two-step right turn for mopeds

(2) When turning right on mopeds
Mopeds must turn right as follows:

● **Two-step right turn**

Mopeds must turn right using the two-step method at intersections with traffic lights on roads that have the traffic sign for Two-step Right Turn for Mopeds (Fig. 1), or on roads with three or more traffic lanes (includes designated lanes for left or right turn near an intersection) except for roads that have the traffic sign of Direct Right Turn for Mopeds (Fig. 2). To make a two-step right turn, proceed to the left side of the road before approaching the intersection, give the right turn signal at about 30 m behind the near side of the intersection, and on the green light, proceed slowly to the far side of the intersection. Once you have crossed the street, stop and change the direction of the moped to your right and switch off your signal. Go straight when the traffic light turns green. Mopeds must not turn right on a green arrow light at such intersections.

● Direct right turn

To make a direct right turn at intersections on roads that have the traffic sign of Direct Right Turn for Mopeds, or intersections other than those where mopeds must make a two-step right turn, drive along the center of the road as far as possible and proceed slowly to the inner end of the center of the intersection. When turning right on a wide road, enter the lane for turning right gradually before approaching the intersection. It is dangerous to move from a left lane to a right lane abruptly. In this case, mopeds may turn right in accordance with a green arrow light.

4 Braking

4-1 How to brake

There are three ways to apply the brakes:

(1) The front wheel brake is activated by the hand brake lever.

(2) The rear wheel brake is activated by the brake pedal or the hand brake lever.

(3) The braking power of the engine can be delivered by releasing the throttle or by shifting into a lower gear.

4-2 Points on braking

(1) When braking, keep the vehicle upright, release the throttle for engine brake and activate the brakes simultaneously on both the front and rear wheels without turning the handle bar. If you do not adopt a correct riding posture, braking could throw you forward off balance.

(2) When braking on a dry road surface, apply more braking to the front wheel. When braking on a slippery road surface, apply more braking to the rear wheel.

(3) The lower the gear position, the greater the braking power exerted by the engine. Shift gear gradually, since shifting to the lowest gear abruptly could damage the engine or cause you to fall.

(4) Applying the brakes suddenly could lock the wheels and cause the vehicle to skid. Apply the brakes gradually.

5 Riding a two-wheeled motor vehicle with automatic transmission

Motorcycles or mopeds with automatic transmission require different riding techniques compared to those with manual transmission. This knowledge will help you to avoid causing unexpected accidents.

5-1 General advice

Vehicles with automatic transmission are easier to operate than manual transmission models because they do not have a clutch. This, however, should not lead to careless operating. The rider needs to understand the basics of riding automatic transmission models and ride them correctly.

5-2 Starting to move

Because there is no need to operate the clutch, there is a risk that your motorcycle or moped will make a sudden start if you turn the throttle lever suddenly. Take care to prevent this from happening.

5-3 Riding at lower speeds

Vehicles equipped with a continuously variable transmission (CVT) have a dynamic property that causes the engine to deliver less power to the wheels at lower engine revs. For this reason, it is important to bear in mind that if you release the throttle lever completely when riding at lower speeds, the reduced power to the wheels may affect riding stability.

6 Other rules

6-1 Illegal modification is prohibited

An illegally modified handle bar could interfere with the proper steering of the vehicle. Do not cut/remove the muffler, take out the core or punch a hole in a silencer. Such changes could produce much noise.

6-2 Pushing your motorcycle or moped on foot

A dismounted rider pushing his/her motorcycle or moped is regarded as a pedestrian according to the traffic rules. However, this rule does not apply to vehicles which have their engine running, are towing another vehicle, or are fitted with a sidecar.

CHAPTER 7 The Basics for Drivers of Passenger Transport Services and Substitute Drivers

1 Protection of passengers

(1) Drivers of passenger transport services (bus, taxi, and chauffeured vehicles) and substitute drivers should put the safety of their passengers first and drive carefully at all times in order to prevent accidents, even when encountering reckless drivers or pedestrians. Also, drivers should avoid abrupt braking or starting so as not to jolt the passengers. When some jolting is expected due to bad road conditions, warn the passengers orally in advance.

(2) The driver of passenger transport service must observe the following rules:

- **The driver must inform the business operator if he/she may not be able to drive safely due to sickness or fatigue.**
- **The driver must stop driving immediately upon discovering a critical breakdown or if he/she anticipates a serious accident is likely to occur.**
- **The driver must have the passengers disembark when leaving the vehicle on a slope, or passing through a dangerous area.**
- **In the event that the vehicle has stalled on a railroad crossing due to a breakdown, lead the passengers to evacuate without delay, and alert the operator of any approaching train using an emergency flare or emergency equipment.**
- **At the time of changing shifts, the outgoing driver should inform the incoming driver of road and vehicle conditions. The incoming driver must check the steering wheel, brakes, and other functions of the vehicle before driving.**
- **The door should be opened only after the vehicle has come to a complete stop, and closed securely before starting out.**
- **In the event of a traffic accident, the driver must give first aid to the injured and safeguard any passengers' belongings left behind on the scene of the accident.**
- **The driver must not wear clothing that could hamper driving operations.**
- **The bus driver must check for safety before pulling out; if the driver is not able to ensure safety, he/she must sound the honk/horn.**
- **In the case of a bus with a conductor on board, the conductor should signal departure and guide the bus when the bus crosses a railroad crossing with no warning equipment or an unattended crossing, or when the bus backs up.**

2 Other rules

Drivers, attendants, and business operators of passenger transport services must observe the following:

(1) Route buses must have their cabin lights turned on for night driving.

(2) A bus driver must not engage in conversations unrelated to their work inside a bus with passengers aboard.

(3) A taxi driver must display the “Out of Service” sign when the driver is unable to pick up passengers due to meal breaks, rest, or for similar reasons.

(4) A taxi driver must not drive beyond the designated maximum driving distance when such limits apply.

(5) The driver must not smoke inside a vehicle while passengers are on board.

(6) The business operator of passenger transport service must not allow passengers carrying gasoline, kerosene, acid or any other hazardous substances to board the vehicle.

(7) If a passenger engages in unlawful behavior aboard the bus, the driver or attendant must restrain the passenger or take other measures as necessary.

(8) The business operator of passenger transport service must equip the vehicle with emergency signal equipment such as a red flag or a red light when it is known that the vehicle will cross a railroad crossing.

(9) The driver of passenger transport service must check the vehicle or confirm the checks daily prior to starting operation, and report the results to the business operator.

(10) A substitute driver must display the Substitute Driving Vehicle Sign (Fig. 1).

Fig. 1



CHAPTER 8 Traffic Accidents, Breakdowns, and Natural Disasters

1 In the event of a traffic accident

1-1 The duty of drivers

In the event of a traffic accident, drivers and attendant crew must take the following steps:

(1) To prevent the occurrence of further traffic accidents, move the vehicle to a safer place out of the way of other traffic (the shoulder of the road, a vacant lot, etc.) and turn off the engine.

(2) If anyone is injured, give whatever first aid you can to the injured until medical personnel or an ambulance arrives, by stopping bleeding with clean cloth or gauze. In such cases, do not move an injured person rashly. (DO NOT move an injured person who has sustained injury to the head.) However, if there is a risk of subsequent accidents, move the injured person to a safe place.

(3) Report the accident to the police and provide information about the location of the accident, the number of injured and the degrees of injury, as well as the damage to the vehicles and cargo involved in the accident. Follow the police officer's instructions. The driver of an emergency vehicle, a vehicle carrying an injured or sick person, or a route bus may continue to drive the vehicle to fulfill their duties, after having instructed other individuals to take care of the injured, to report the accident to the police and to take other necessary measures.

1-2 Seeing a doctor

All injuries, even minor ones, should be reported to the police. If you have sustained impact to the head, you should get a medical checkup even if there are no external injuries, to prevent suffering from any aftereffects of the accident.

1-3 Cooperation on the scene of the accident

(1) If you happen to be on the scene of a traffic accident, do whatever you can to give first aid to the injured, move the vehicle concerned, or cooperate in other ways.

(2) If you have witnessed a hit-and-run accident, help the victim, and call the police by dialing 110, and report the license plate number, color, model and any other features of the runaway vehicle.

(3) Do not light a cigarette or strike a match to smoke at the scene of a traffic accident, as this might result in the ignition of leaking gasoline or inflammable cargo.

1-4 Consultation concerning traffic accidents

Contact the prefectural Traffic Safety Activity Promotion Center for consultation on matters concerning traffic accidents.

2 In the event of a breakdown

(1) If your car breaks down or runs out of fuel or coolant, move it out of the way of other vehicles and have it fixed or repaired immediately. If you have to park your car on an expressway due to unavoidable circumstances, you must park your car on the shoulder or side strip of the road so as not to obstruct the passage of other vehicles.

(2) If you have to park your car on the ordinary roads at night, you must turn on your emergency flashing lights, or place a warning reflector board, etc., on the road, so as to warn drivers approaching from the rear that your car has stopped. When parking in the daytime, you should place a warning reflector board, etc., on the road, or leave the trunk/boot open as a warning to other vehicles.

(3) If you have to park your car on the expressway due to unavoidable circumstances, you must place a warning reflector board for daytime or nighttime, depending on the time, on the road, etc., behind your car (if you cannot reach the road behind you on foot, you may place a revolving warning light on the road beside your car).

- **When parking at night, you must turn on your emergency flashing lights, parking lights or taillights additionally.**
- **When placing a warning reflector board on the road, etc., watch out for approaching vehicles from the rear and give a signal using an emergency flare, etc.**

(4) Leaving a broken-down vehicle on the road is dangerous, because it may cause a rear-end collision or other accidents.

- **Once you have taken necessary measures by placing a warning reflector board, etc., on the road, call the Japan Automobile Federation (JAF), or a repair service provider, using a nearby emergency telephone, so that your car can be moved off the road immediately.**
- **If you have no choice but to have your car towed by another vehicle, you must tie the two vehicles firmly with a rope so as to maintain a safe distance between them (up to 5 m). You must attach a white cloth (larger than 30 cm^2) to the rope.**

3 In the event of a natural disaster

3-1 What to do if you hear an earthquake alert

Under the Law for Special Countermeasures for Large-scale Earthquakes, high-risk areas that could suffer serious damage from a major earthquake are designated. Currently, for the expected Tokai Earthquake, all parts of Shizuoka Prefecture and some parts of Tokyo, Kanagawa, Yamanashi, Nagano, Gifu, Aichi, and Mie Prefectures are legally designated as high-risk areas. The Prime Minister will issue an earthquake alert when a major earthquake is expected in the high-risk area, and when it is necessary to launch urgent emergency measures.

When an alert is issued, the passage of ordinary vehicles in the area will be either restricted or prohibited. Drivers in the high-risk area should take the following steps:

(1) If an earthquake alert is issued when you are behind the wheel,

- **Upon hearing the alert, do not panic, but slow down in preparation for the earthquake and listen to earthquake information or traffic information on the radio and follow any instructions given.**
- **If you have to leave your vehicle to evacuate the area, park it off the road if possible. If you have no choice but to leave your vehicle on the road, park along the left side of the road. Turn off the engine leaving your engine key inserted or leave it in a place that is easy to see inside the vehicle (e.g. driver's seat) and then close the windows, but do not lock the door. Do not park your vehicle in a place that might interfere with the evacuation of people or the enforcement of disaster prevention or emergency measures.**

(2) If an earthquake alert is issued when you are not driving your vehicle, do not attempt to evacuate using your vehicle unless you are evacuating from a tsunami and there is no other choice.



3-2 If an Earthquake Early Warning is issued while you are behind the wheel

An Earthquake Early Warning, including expected time of impact, is issued before the initial shaking arrives by the Japan Metrological Agency for areas where seismic activity is estimated to reach an intensity level of 4 or higher when an earthquake with an intensity level of lower 5 or higher is predicted. Upon hearing an Earthquake Early Warning while on board, the driver should respond to the situation calmly, warn surrounding traffic by turning on the emergency flashing lights, and slow down without slamming on the brakes.

3-3 What to do in the event of a major earthquake

In the event of a major earthquake, the driver should take the following steps:

(1) If a major earthquake occurs while you are on board,

- **Safely pull your vehicle over to the left side of the road. Do not turn the steering wheel sharply or brake suddenly.**
- **Once stopping the vehicle, listen to the radio for earthquake or traffic information. Take action according to the information and surrounding situation.**
- **If you continue driving, pay careful attention to damaged roads, non-functioning traffic lights and obstructions on the road.**
- **If you have to leave your vehicle to evacuate the area, park it off the road if possible. If you have no choice but to leave your vehicle on the road, park along the left side of the road. Turn off the engine leaving your engine key inserted or leave it in a place that is easy to see inside the vehicle (e.g. driver's seat) and then close the windows, but do not lock the door. Do not park your vehicle in a place that might interfere with the evacuation of people or the enforcement of disaster prevention or emergency measures.**

(2) If a major earthquake occurs when you are not driving your vehicle,

- **Do not attempt to evacuate using your vehicle unless you are evacuating from a tsunami and there is no other choice.**
- **If you are evacuating from a tsunami and have no choice but to use your vehicle, pay careful attention to damaged roads, non-functioning traffic lights and obstructions on the road.**

3-4 What to do if traffic is regulated in accordance with the Disaster Measures Basic Law

Under the Disaster Measures Basic Law, the passage of all vehicles, with the exception of emergency vehicles, will be restricted or prohibited when such action is urgently required for the effective and smooth implementation of disaster countermeasures in the affected prefectures (including adjacent and nearby prefectures) where a major earthquake has occurred or is expected to occur.

If traffic restrictions are enforced, a driver of ordinary vehicles traveling in a No Passage Zone (refers to zones or road sections under traffic restrictions or prohibitions) must take the following steps:

(1) Move the vehicle immediately to one of the following places:

- **Outside the restricted road sections if traffic is restricted for designated sections of the road;**
- **Off the road if traffic is restricted for designated areas.**

(2) If it is difficult to move the vehicle immediately, park it along the left side of the road or in another place out of the way of emergency vehicles.

(3) Follow any instructions of the police to move or park the vehicle.
The police officer may order a driver to take necessary steps if their vehicle is in the way of emergency vehicles passing the No Passage Zone. If the driver

fails to follow the order, or if the driver is away from the scene thus preventing the police officer from giving the order, the police officer may take necessary steps on his/her own initiative. This may result in damage to the vehicle under unavoidable circumstances. If a police officer is not present on the site, the duties of the police officer may be performed by the Self-Defense Forces or fire-fighting personnel engaged in disaster countermeasures.

3-5 What to do if traffic is regulated in accordance with the Law Concerning Measures for Protection of the Civilian Population in the Event of Armed Attack, etc.

The passage of all vehicles, with the exception of emergency vehicles, will be prohibited or restricted when such action is urgently required to take measures for the protection of citizens effectively and smoothly under the Law Concerning Measures for Protection of the Civilian Population in the Event of Armed Attack, etc.

Also, when it is urgently required under the Road Traffic Law for Self-Defense Forces, etc., to take action to eliminate an armed attack on our country by another country properly and smoothly, the passage of all vehicles, with the exception of vehicles operated by the Self Defense Forces, etc., will be prohibited or restricted.

If traffic restrictions are enforced, you must take the same steps as required when driving an ordinary vehicle in the No Passage Zone, etc., under the traffic restrictions enforced in accordance with the Disaster Measures Basic Law.

CHAPTER 9

The Basics for Vehicle Owners, Users, Safe Driving Supervisors and Substitute Driving Service Company

1 The Duty of Vehicle Owners, etc.

Owners, users and managers of vehicles must observe the following rules:

1-1 Secure a storage space for vehicles

(1) You must secure a storage location, other than on the road, within a 2-km radius from the address of the main use of the vehicle, such as your house.

(2) Before using a vehicle on the road, you must attach an Automobile Storage Sticker (Fig. 1), issued by the Chief of Police, to the rear window of the vehicle.

Fig. 1



1-2 Registration (or notification) of vehicles

All vehicles must be registered (or notified for Light Motor Vehicle) and have license number plates attached.

1-3 Vehicle inspection

All vehicles must be inspected periodically. The combination of numbers in an Inspection Sticker (Fig. 2) glued on the windshield indicates the year and month of next inspection.

Fig. 2



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1-4 Vehicle insurance

All owners of vehicles must have vehicle third-party liability insurance or join a mutual relief system. Mopeds must also be covered by vehicle third-party liability insurance or a mutual relief system. In addition to obligatory insurance, drivers are recommended to take out a voluntary insurance policy.

1-5 Management of vehicles

Do not allow an unlicensed individual or anyone under the influence of alcohol to drive your vehicle. Be sure to keep your key in a safe place to prevent the unauthorized use of your vehicle.

2 The Duty of Users, Safe Driving Supervisors and Substitute Driving Service Companies

2-1 The duty of users

(1) Users operating commercial fleets are required to ensure that all drivers observe traffic rules and that Safe Driving Supervisors carry out management for safe driving operation. The same applies to business operators of substitute driving services that dispatch staff members to drive a vehicle in place of a client.

(2) Users of emergency vehicles such as fire engines and road maintenance trucks are required to provide adequate safe driving education to the drivers, except when Safe Driving Supervisors are in place.

(3) Users must take necessary measures so that vehicles under their control are parked properly.

(4) In the cases listed below, the Public Safety Commission may instruct the user of the vehicle to take necessary measures to prevent the violation concerned. If such violations are continued, the Public Safety Commission may suspend the user from driving of the vehicle or having others drive the vehicle for a specified period of time.

(a) Violating the maximum speed limit;
(b) Driving an overloaded vehicle;
(c) Driving in an exhausted condition making it difficult for the driver to operate the vehicle properly.

The Public Safety Commission may instruct substitute driving service companies to take necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of violation, or suspend their operations when the driver of a substitute-driving vehicle or accompanying vehicle has engaged in violations of the above **(a)** and **(c)**, or parked/stopped the vehicle illegally.

(5) Any user who has been ordered to pay a fine for parking violation, if it is not for a first time offense, may be subject to a disposition banning the user from driving the vehicle or from allowing others to drive the vehicle for a specified period of time.

(6) Any user who has failed to pay the required penalty no later than the due date and has received a reminder issued by the Public Safety Commission, may not obtain a new vehicle inspection certificate unless the user presents a document certifying the completed payment of the penalty, delinquency and fee.

2-2 Safe Driving Supervisor

(1) The user operating commercial fleets must appoint a Safe Driving Supervisor to perform duties necessary for the safe operation of the fleet. A Safe Driving Supervisor must be assigned for each business establishment that uses one or more vehicles that have a total seating capacity of 11 or more, or five or more of any other vehicles (for this purpose, large motorcycles and regular motorcycles are counted as half a vehicle). Substitute driving service companies must

assign a Safe Driving Supervisor to each business office.

(2) Business establishments that own 20 or more vehicles (large/regular motorcycles are counted as half a vehicle) must assign the designated number of Deputy Safe Driving Supervisors, depending on the number of vehicles used. For substitute driving service companies, establishments that own 10 or more accompanying vehicles are subject to these rules.

(3) The Safe Driving Supervisor must take the following steps to ensure that all drivers perform their duties safely and responsibly. The Deputy Safe Driving Supervisor must assist the Supervisor in these functions:

- **Providing traffic safety education.**
- **Taking steps to learn whether a driver has the aptitude, skill and knowledge to drive his/her vehicle, and whether the driver is observing traffic rules.**
- **Prepare and execute a driving operational plan that would prevent speeding, overloading, driving in an exhausted condition or leaving an illegally parked vehicle and not being ready to start the vehicle immediately (illegal parking in the case of a vehicle driven by a substitute driver and accompanying vehicle).**
- **Assign an alternate driver for long trips.**
- **Give necessary instructions or take other steps to encourage safe driving in abnormal weather conditions, or after a disaster.**
- **Check up on drivers' states of health, make sure they have inspected their vehicles before driving, or give necessary instructions for safe driving.**
- **Instruct drivers to keep a driving log.**
- **Give guidance on skills, knowledge, and other information for safe driving.**

(4) Users, Safe Driving Supervisors, or others directly responsible for the management of vehicle operations must not order or allow drivers to do any of the following. A violation of these rules may lead to the suspension of the right to drive or to permit others to drive the vehicle for a specified period of time.

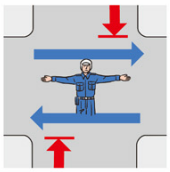
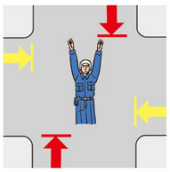
(a) Driving without a driver's license (or driving while the license is under suspension) or driving a type of vehicle one is not qualified to drive.
(b) Driving in violation of the maximum speed limit.
(c) Driving while intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol.
(d) Driving under the influence of narcotics, stimulants, paint thinner or similar substances. Driving in a state of exhaustion.
(e) Driving an overloaded vehicle.
(f) Leaving an illegally parked vehicle and not being ready to start the vehicle immediately.

Substitute driving service companies and their Safe Driving Supervisors must not order or allow substitute drivers to illegally park/stop their vehicles or engage in violations of the above **(a)** through **(d)**, or, order or allow drivers of accompanying vehicles to illegally park/stop their vehicles or engage in violations of the above **(a)** through **(e)**.

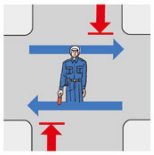
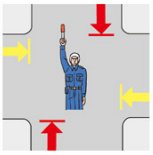
Appendix (Traffic Signs and Markings)

1 Hand and flashlight signals by police officers and traffic wardens

Hand signals

Extending the arms straight, horizontally to the ground (the same applies to lowering the arms while facing the same direction)	**Extending the arms overhead** (the same applies to raising the arms overhead from a horizontal position, and to lowering the arms horizontally to the ground from an overhead position)
	

Flashlight signals

Waving a flashlight horizontally	
Holding a flashlight overhead	

Explanation of the signals in the chart

(1) For traffic indicated with a blue arrow, it means the same as a green light.
(2) For traffic indicated with a yellow arrow, it means the same as a yellow light.
(3) For traffic indicated with a red arrow, it means the same as a red light.

Note: When a police officer or traffic warden is directing traffic by hand or flashlight signals in a location other than an intersection and where there is no crosswalk/pedestrian crossing, bicycle crossing lane or a railroad crossing, the stopping point is 1 m immediately before the police officer or traffic warden. In other places where hand signals or flashlight signals are given, the stopping point is the same as defined for traffic lights.

2 Signboards

Signboards on traffic lights controlling specific traffic



Signboards indicating a time-limited parking zone



Signboards indicating a wheel clamp zone



Signboard indicating the installation of ticket machines



Signboard indicating that left-turning is permitted even if the traffic light ahead is yellow or red



3 Types and meanings of traffic signs and markings

(1) Traffic signs

● Regulatory signs

1. Road closed to all vehicles



2. Closed to vehicles



3. No entry



4. Closed to automobiles, with the exception of motorcycles



5. Closed to large trucks



6. Closed to trucks exceeding the stated maximum loading capacity



7. Closed to large passenger vehicles



8. Closed to motorcycles and mopeds



9. No double riding on large or regular motorcycles



10. Closed to lightweight vehicles except for bicycles



11. Closed to bicycles



12. Closed to vehicles (in combination)



13. A new traffic sign closing roads to vehicles not fitted with tire chains.



14. Only designated direction(s) permitted

Vehicular traffic prohibited in directions other than indicated by the arrow





15. No crossing

(except when crossing by turning left in order to enter or exit a facility or place facing the road)



16. No U-turn



17. No swerving to the right for overtaking



18. No overtaking



19. No parking or stopping



20. No parking



21. No parking

unless there is the indicated amount of space between your car and the curb on the other side of the road



22. Time-limited parking zone

Indicates the same vehicle may be parked for a limited time period, and specifies the time limit



23. Closed to vehicles carrying dangerous goods

Prohibits the passage of vehicles transporting dangerous goods such as gunpowder, explosives, toxic or hazardous materials



24. Maximum weight



25. Maximum height



26. Maximum width



27. Maximum speed



28. Maximum speed limit for specified vehicular type



29. Minimum speed



30. Automobiles only

Designates national expressways and limited highways



31. Bicycles only

(1) Indicates bicycle lanes or roads exclusively for bicycles
(2) Prohibits pedestrian and vehicular traffic other than regular bicycles



32. Cyclists and pedestrians only

(1) Indicates the road is exclusively for cyclists and pedestrians
(2) Prohibits vehicular traffic other than regular bicycles
(3) Permits regular bicycles to pass on the sidewalk



Appendix

Designation signs

33. Pedestrians only
(1) Indicates the road is exclusively for pedestrians
(2) Indicates the road is allocated for pedestrians



34. One way



35. One way for bicycles



36. Vehicular type allocated for the lane



37. Lane designation for specified vehicular type



38. Lane for tractors on the national expressway



39. Exclusive lane



Example of signboard with written instructions



40. Designated lane for regular bicycles



41. Priority lane for route buses



42. Designated leftmost lane for tractors on the limited highway



43. Lane designation by direction



44. Two-step right turn for mopeds



45. Direct right turn for mopeds



46. Traffic flows clockwise in the roundabout



47. Parallel parking



48. Lateral parking



49. Angled parking



50. Sound horn



51. Honking zone
Indicating a zone where vehicles and streetcars/ trams must honk



52. Drive slow



53. Give way



54. Stop



55. Closed to pedestrians



56. Pedestrian crossing prohibited



57. Riding abreast permitted



58. Passage on track permitted



59. Elderly drivers and others may park here
Designated for vehicles with mark registration (special parking permit)



60. Parking permitted



61. Elderly drivers and others may stop here
Designated for vehicles with mark registration (special parking permit)



62. Stopping permitted



63. Right of way



64. Center line



65. Stop line



66. Crosswalk/ pedestrian crossing



67. Bicycle crossing lane



68. Crosswalk/ pedestrian crossing and bicycle crossing lane



69. Safety zone



70. Advance warning
Indicates traffic regulation by a signboard is in place ahead



Appendix

Auxiliary signs

71. Distance or zone designation



72. Day or time period



73. Type of vehicles subject to regulation

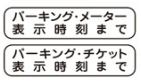




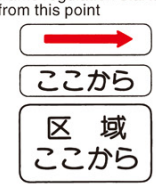
74. No parking
unless there is the indicated amount of space between your car and the curb on the other side of the road



75. Time-limited parking



76. Start of traffic regulation
Indicates the applicable traffic regulation starts from this point



77. Zone or section of traffic regulation
Indicates the zone or section is regulated by this sign



78. End of traffic regulation
Indicates the applicable traffic regulation ends at this point



79. School zone



80. Caution! Railroad crossing ahead



81. Caution! Side wind



82. Caution! Animals crossing



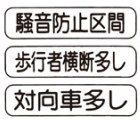
83. Caution



84. Specific caution



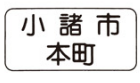
85. Reason for traffic regulation



86. Direction
Indicates the direction of the route, facility or place



87. Place name



Guidance signs

88. Direction to expressway entrance



89. Advance notice of expressway entrance



90. Destination and distance



91. Destination and lane



92. Advance notice of destination and direction



93. Destination, direction and street name



94. Advance notice of destination, lane and expressway exit



95. Destination and exit



96. Exit



97. Service area



98. Emergency telephone



99. Pull-off



100. Emergency parking zone



101. Parking



102. Slower traffic



103. National highway route number



(National highway)

Appendix

Warning signs

104. Prefectural highway route number





(Prefectural trunk road)



(Prefectural highway)

105. Street name





106. Slope



107. Bus stop



108. Streetcar/ tram stop



109. Intersection ahead



110. Road branch right (left)



111. T-junction ahead



112. Y-junction ahead



113. Rotary ahead



114. Right (left) curve ahead



115. Right (left) bend ahead



116. Right (left) double curve ahead



117. Right (left) double bend ahead



118. Winding road ahead



119. Railroad crossing ahead





120. School, kindergarten, nursery, etc., ahead



121. Traffic light ahead



122. Slippery road



123. Falling rocks



124. Irregular road surface



125. Merging traffic ahead



126. Fewer lanes



127. Road narrows



128. Two-way traffic



129. Steep upward slope ahead



130. Steep downward slope ahead



131. Roadworks



132. Caution! Side wind



133. Caution! Animals crossing



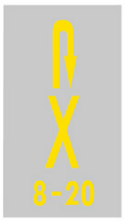
134. Other danger

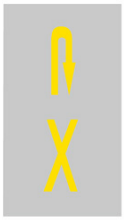


(2) Traffic markings

Regulatory markings

1. No U-turn

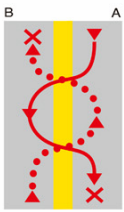




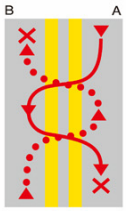
2. No swerving to the right for overtaking

(1) and (2) prohibit vehicles traveling on lanes A and B from swerving to the right for overtaking

(1)



(2)



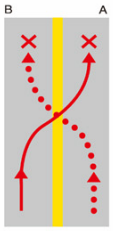
(3) prohibits vehicles traveling on lane B from swerving to the right for overtaking

(3)



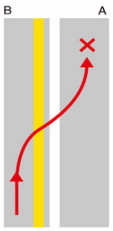
3. No changing lanes

(1)



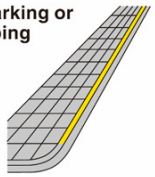
(1) prohibits vehicles traveling on lane A from moving to lane B and vehicles traveling on lane B from moving to lane A

(2)

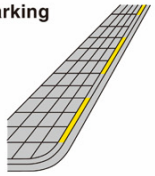


(2) prohibits vehicles traveling on lane B from moving to lane A

4. No parking or stopping



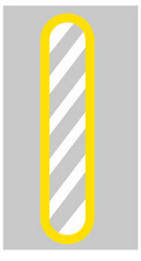
5. No parking



6. Maximum speed



7. No entry zone



8. No stopping zone

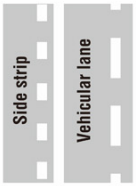


9. Side strip



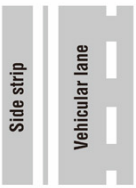
10. Side strip prohibiting parking or stopping

Vehicular parking and stopping are prohibited on the side strip marked with a continuous line and a dashed line



11. Side strip for pedestrians

Vehicular parking and stopping and lightweight vehicular traffic are prohibited on the side strip marked with double continuous lines



12. Vehicular lane

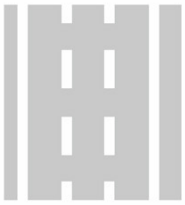
1. Lanes established at a section of road other than the main lane of a national expressway

(1) By painted marking

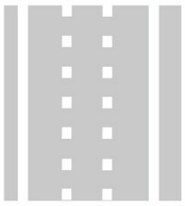


Appendix

Or



(2) By raised marking



2. Vehicular lane established on the main lane of a national expressway



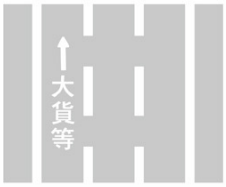
13. Priority main lane
Indicating give way to a merging main lane ahead



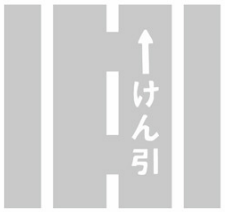
14. Vehicular type allocated for the lane
(Letters marked in each lane show the types of vehicles designated for the lane)



15. Lane distinction for specified types of vehicles



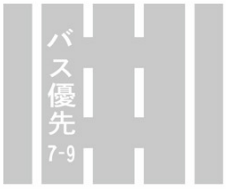
16. Lane for tractors on the national expressway



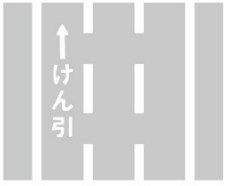
17. Exclusive lane



18. Priority lane for route buses



19. Designated leftmost lane for tractors on the limited highway



20. Lane distinction by direction



21. Way for turning right (left)



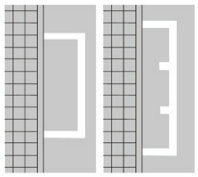
22. Making a left turn, etc., in a roundabout



23. Parallel parking

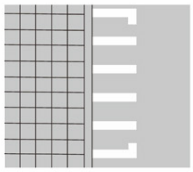
1. Indicating a parking space for one vehicle

2. Indicating a parking space for two or more vehicles

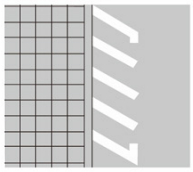


Designation markings

24. Lateral parking



25. Angled parking



26. Permitting regular bicycles to pass on the sidewalk



27. Lane for regular bicycles passing on the sidewalk

Indicating regular bicycles may pass on the sidewalk, and designating the lane for regular bicycles



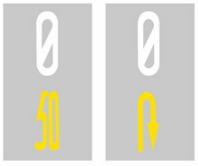
28. Prohibiting regular bicycles from entering the intersection

Prohibiting bicycles from entering the intersection beyond this marking



29. End of traffic regulation

Indicates the end of the traffic regulated zone



30. Crosswalk/pedestrian crossing

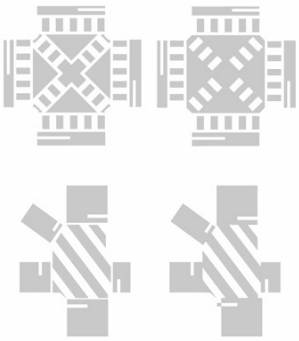


31. Diagonal crossing permitted

1. Permitted during designated hours



2. Permitted all day



32. Bicycle crossing lane



33. Keep right



34. Stop line



35. Double stop lines



36. Lane direction



37. Center line

1. Indicates no swerving to the right of the road when such indication is particularly necessary



2. Established in places other than case 1 above

(1) By painted marking



(2) By raised marking



3. Marking indicating the center line which is not located at the center of the road
(1) When applicable at all times



(2) When applicable on designated days or during designated hours



4. When particularly necessary in the above cases 1 and 3(1)



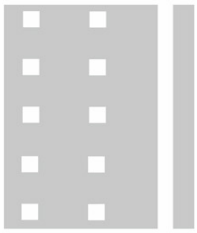
38. Dividing lines of vehicular lanes
1. By painted marking



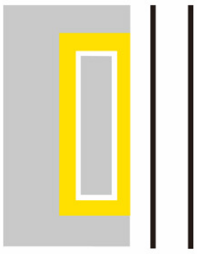
Or



2. By raised marking



39. Safety zone



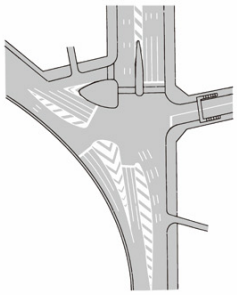
40. Approaching a safety zone or an obstruction
1. Pass by along the designated side



2. Pass by along either side



41. Channeling zone
Blocking passage to lead the traffic flow safely and smoothly



42. Streetcar/tram stop



43. Crosswalk/pedestrian crossing or bicycle crossing lane ahead



44. Priority road ahead (give way)



4 Types of vehicles and their abbreviations

Abbreviation	Type of Vehicle
大型	Large vehicles
大型等	Large vehicles, specified medium vehicles, heavy-duty special vehicles
中型	Medium vehicles
特定中型	Specified medium vehicles
準中型	Semi-medium vehicles
普通	Regular vehicles
大特	Heavy-duty special vehicles
自二輪	Large motorcycles and regular motorcycles
軽	Light motor vehicle: Regular vehicles with a length of 3.40 m or less, a width of 1.48 m or less, a height of 2.00 m or less (for vehicles driven by an internal-combustion engine, with a displacement limited to 660 cc or less)
小特	Light-duty special vehicles
原付	Mopeds
二輪	Two-wheeled vehicles: Motorcycles (large/regular) and mopeds
小二輪	Light motorcycles (a regular motorcycle with a total displacement up to 125 cc or with a rated output up to 1.00 kW) and mopeds
自転車	Regular bicycles
トロリー	Trolley buses
乗用	Vehicles structured exclusively for carrying passengers
大乗	Large passenger vehicles
中乗	Medium passenger vehicles
特定中乗	Specified medium passenger vehicles
準中乗	Semi-medium passenger vehicles
バス	Buses: Large passenger vehicles and specified medium passenger vehicles
大型バス	Large buses: Large passenger vehicles with a total seating capacity of 30 passengers or more
マイクロ	Microbuses: Large passenger vehicles excluding large buses, and specified medium passenger vehicles
路線バス	Route buses: Buses used for routine runs operated by public passenger transporters
普乗	Regular passenger vehicles
タクシー	Taxis: Automobiles used for passenger transport services
貨物	Trucks
大貨	Large trucks: Large vehicles excluding large passenger vehicles
大貨等	Large trucks, specified medium trucks, and heavy-duty special vehicles
中貨	Medium trucks: Medium vehicles excluding medium passenger vehicles
特定中貨	Specified medium trucks: Specified medium vehicles excluding specified medium passenger vehicles
準中貨	Semi-medium trucks; Semi-medium vehicles excluding semi-medium passenger vehicles
普貨	Regular trucks: Regular vehicles excluding regular passenger vehicles
けん引	Tractor: Vehicles towing a trailer with a weight of 750 kg or more
標章車	Elderly drivers and other vehicles with mark registration (special parking permit)

Types of vehicles are defined under the Road Traffic Law as follows:

Large vehicles	Vehicles, with the exception of heavy-duty special vehicles, large motorcycles, regular motorcycles, and light-duty special vehicles, that have a GVW of 11,000 kg or more, that have a maximum loading capacity of 6,500 kg or more, or that have a total seating capacity of 30 passengers or more
Medium vehicles	Vehicles, with the exception of large vehicles, heavy-duty special vehicles, large motorcycles, regular motorcycles, and light-duty special vehicles, that have a GVW of from 5,000 kg to less than 11,000 kg, that have a maximum loading capacity of from 3,000 kg to less than 6,500 kg, or that have a total seating capacity of 11 to 29 passengers
Semi-medium vehicles	Vehicles, with the exception of large vehicles, medium vehicles, heavy-duty special vehicles, large motorcycles, regular motorcycles and light-duty special vehicles, that have a GVW of from 3,500 kg to less than 7,500 kg, or that have a maximum loading capacity of from 2,000 kg to less than 4,500 kg
Regular vehicles	Vehicles that do not fall under any of the types of large vehicles, medium vehicles, heavy-duty special vehicles, large motorcycles, regular motorcycles, or light-duty special vehicles, in terms of the stated size of body, etc.
Heavy-duty special vehicles	Vehicles equipped with caterpillars (excluding those designated by the Prime Minister), road rollers, tire rollers, road stabilizers, tire dozers, graders, scrapers, shovel loaders, dumpers, motor sweepers, forklifts, wheel cranes, straddle carriers, asphalt finishers, wheel hammers, wheel breakers, fork loaders, vehicles for agricultural use, rotary snow removers, turret platform trucks, articulated vehicles, and vehicles of special structure designated by the Prime Minister (referred to as "special vehicles" under the light-duty special vehicle in this Table), with the exception of light-duty special vehicles
Large motorcycles	Two-wheeled vehicles (including those with a sidecar) driven by an internal combustion engine with a displacement exceeding 400 cc, with the exception of heavy-duty special vehicles and light-duty special vehicles
Regular motorcycles	Two-wheeled vehicles (including those with a sidecar), with the exception of heavy-duty special vehicles, large motorcycles, and light-duty special vehicles Note: Two-wheeled vehicles with an engine displacement of 50 cc or less are defined as mopeds, not motorcycles.
Light-duty special vehicles	Vehicles with special structure (such as a tractor for agricultural use), with a body length of 4.70 m or less, a width of 1.70 m or less, and a height of 2.00 m (2.80 m for vehicles equipped with a head guard, a protective cab, a protective frame or the like, that have a height of 2.00 m or less excluding the said equipment) or less, that have a maximum speed of 15 km/h or less

※ Certain three-wheeled vehicles are designated by the prime minister as belonging to the same category as two-wheeled vehicles.

Rules of the Road

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