



DRAFT AMENDMENTS (in red) TO [HIGHWAY CODE \(last updated 28 July 2017\)](#)

Submitted by the AA, 1 November 2017

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### Motorways (253 to 273)

Rules for motorways, including rules for signals, joining the motorway, driving on the motorway, lane discipline, overtaking, stopping and leaving the motorway.

Many other Rules apply to motorway driving, either wholly or in part:

Rules [46](#), [57](#), [83](#) to [126](#), [130](#) to [134](#), [139](#), [144](#), [146](#) to [151](#), [160](#), [161](#), [219](#), [221](#) to [222](#), [225](#), [226](#) to [237](#), [274](#) to [278](#), [280](#) and [281](#) to [290](#).

#### [Lane discipline \(rules 264 to 266\)](#)

##### Rule 264

You should always drive in the left-hand lane when the road ahead is clear. If you are overtaking a number of slower-moving vehicles, you should return to the left-hand lane as soon as you are safely past. Slow-moving or speed-restricted vehicles should always remain in the left-hand lane of the carriageway unless overtaking. You **MUST NOT** drive on the hard shoulder except in an emergency or if directed to do so by the police, traffic officers in uniform or by signs.

**Slow down or move over when passing vehicles on the hard shoulder.** The hard shoulder is a very dangerous place, both for motorists and for breakdown and vehicle recovery operatives because of its proximity to fast moving traffic. If you are driving in the left-hand lane and approaching a vehicle or vehicles stopped on the hard shoulder ahead, you should slow down or move over into lane 2 (Rule 267) before you pass.

Laws [MT\(E&W\)R regs 5, 9 & 16\(1\)\(a\)](#), [MT\(S\)R regs 4, 8 & 14\(1\)\(a\)](#), & [RTA1988 sects 35 & 186](#) as amended by [TMA sect 6](#)

#### [Stopping \(rules 270 to 271\)](#)

##### Rule 270

You **MUST NOT** stop on the carriageway, hard shoulder, slip road, central reservation or verge except in an emergency, or when told to do so by the police, traffic officers in uniform, an emergency sign or by flashing red light signals. Do not stop on the hard shoulder to either make or receive mobile phone calls.

# AA

Laws [MT\(E&W\)R regs 5A, 7, 9, 10 & 16](#), [MT\(S\)R regs 6\(1\), 8, 9 & 14](#), [PRA sect 41 & sched 5\(8\)](#), & [RTA 1988 sects 35 & 163](#) as amended by [TMA sect 6](#)

## Rule 271

You **MUST NOT** pick up or set down anyone, or walk on a motorway, except in an emergency.

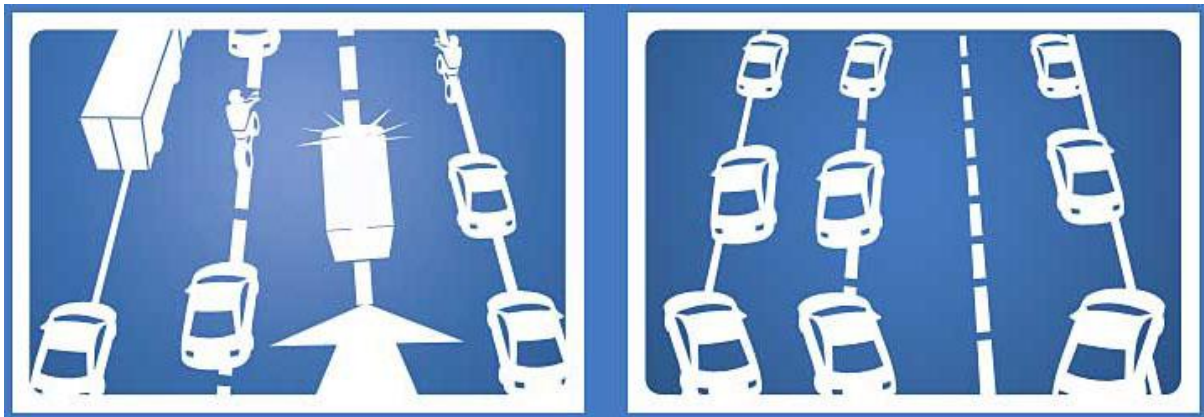
Laws [RTRA sect 17](#) & [MT\(E&W\)R reg 15](#)

## Rule XXX

**Emergency corridors.** Following an incident on a motorway without a continuous hard shoulder it can be difficult for traffic officers and emergency service vehicles to make their way through the stationary traffic queuing behind the incident. This can delay the treatment of casualties and clearing of the incident.

If traffic on a motorway without a hard shoulder comes to a standstill then, regardless of whether emergency vehicles are already in the vicinity or not:

- Vehicles in the far right-hand lane should drive as far to the right as possible
- Vehicles in all other lanes should drive as far as possible to the left-hand side of the road.
- Vehicles should remain parallel with the direction of travel rather than veering across the lanes to create an unimpeded 'emergency corridor'.



*[this image taken from the Austrian leaflet for illustrative purposes]*



## [Additional rules for motorways \(rules 275 to 278\)](#)

### **Rule 275**

If your vehicle develops a problem **on a motorway with a hard shoulder**, leave the motorway at the next exit or pull into a service area. If you cannot do so, you should:

- pull on to the hard shoulder and stop as far to the left as possible, with your wheels turned to the left
- try to stop near an emergency telephone (situated at approximately one-mile intervals along the hard shoulder)
- leave the vehicle by the left-hand door and ensure your passengers do the same. You **MUST** leave any animals in the vehicle or, in an emergency, keep them under proper control on the verge. Never attempt to place a warning triangle on a motorway
- do not put yourself in danger by attempting even simple repairs
- ensure that passengers keep away from the carriageway and hard shoulder, and that children are kept under control
- walk to an emergency telephone on your side of the carriageway (follow the arrows on the posts at the back of the hard shoulder) – the telephone is free of charge and connects directly to an operator. Use these in preference to a mobile phone (see [Rule 283](#)). Always face the traffic when you speak on the phone
- give full details to the operator; also inform them if you are a vulnerable motorist such as disabled, older or travelling alone
- return and wait near your vehicle (well away from the carriageway and hard shoulder)
- if you feel at risk from another person, return to your vehicle by a left-hand door and lock all doors. Leave your vehicle again as soon as you feel this danger has passed.

**Laws** [MT\(E&W\)R reg 14](#) & [MT\(S\)R reg 12](#)

### **Rule 276**

Before you rejoin the carriageway after a breakdown, build up speed on the hard shoulder and watch for a safe gap in the traffic. Be aware that other vehicles may be stationary on the hard shoulder.



### Rule 277

If you cannot get your vehicle onto the hard shoulder

- do not attempt to place any warning device on the carriageway
- switch on your hazard warning lights
- If you stop in the nearside lane next to a hard shoulder or verge and feel you are able to exit safely with any occupants, consider exiting your vehicle via the nearside (left hand) door, and wait behind the safety barrier, if there is one and safe to do so.
- If it is not possible to get out of your vehicle safely, or there is no other place of relative safety to wait then you should stay in your vehicle with your seat belt on and dial '999' if you have access to a working mobile phone.
- ~~leave your vehicle only when you can safely get clear of the carriageway.~~

### Rule 278

**Disabled drivers.** If you have a disability which prevents you from following the above advice you should

- stay in your vehicle
- switch on your hazard warning lights
- display a 'Help' pennant or, if you have a car or mobile telephone, contact the emergency services and be prepared to advise them of your location.

### Rule 279

If your vehicle develops a problem on a **motorway without a hard shoulder**, leave the motorway at the next exit, pull into a service area or pull into the next Emergency Refuge Area (ERA) – marked with blue signs featuring an orange SOS telephone symbol.

- If you stop in an ERA, use the emergency telephone provided to contact the traffic control centre, both when you stop and before you leave. Highways England may send a traffic officer to help you or set the motorway signs to temporarily close the left-hand lane to assist you to rejoin the motorway.