

No. 6540

**GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS,
NICARAGUA and COSTA RICA**

Central American Agreement on Road Traffic (with annexes). Signed at Tegucigalpa, on 10 June 1958

Official text: Spanish.

Registered by the Organization of Central American States, acting on behalf of the Contracting Parties in accordance with article 64 of the Agreement, on 25 February 1963.

**GUATEMALA, SALVADOR, HONDURAS,
NICARAGUA et COSTA RICA**

Accord centraméricain sur la circulation routière (avec annexes). Signé à Tegucigalpa, le 10 juin 1958

Texte officiel espagnol.

Enregistré par l'Organisation des États d'Amérique centrale, agissant au nom des Parties contractantes conformément à l'article 64 de l'Accord, le 25 février 1963.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 6540. CENTRAL AMERICAN AGREEMENT¹ ON ROAD TRAFFIC BETWEEN GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA AND COSTA RICA. SIGNED AT TEGUCIGALPA, ON 10 JUNE 1958

The Governments of the Republics of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, desirous of facilitating the integration of the economies of the Central American Isthmus through the improvement of the conditions of inter-Central American road transport, and recognizing that the adoption, by mutual agreement, of uniform principles and rules for traffic in their respective territories and across the borders between them, would facilitate their accession to the Convention on Road Traffic, opened for signature in Geneva on 19 September 1949,² for the purpose of promoting the development and safety of international road traffic, have agreed to conclude the following Central American Agreement on Road Traffic :

TITLE I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

While reserving its jurisdiction over the use of its own roads, each Contracting State agrees to the use of its roads for international traffic under the conditions set out in this Agreement.

¹ In accordance with article 61, the Agreement came into force in respect of El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala on 17 December 1959, the thirtieth day following the deposit of the third instrument of ratification. It came into force in respect of Honduras on 10 September 1962, the thirtieth day following the date of deposit of the instrument of ratification for this State. The instruments of ratification were deposited with the Secretary-General of the Organization of Central American States on the dates indicated :

El Salvador	29 April 1959	Guatemala	17 November 1959
Nicaragua	5 May 1959	Honduras	10 August 1962

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 125, p. 3 ; Vol. 133, p. 367 ; Vol. 134, p. 389 ; Vol. 137, p. 394 ; Vol. 139, p. 464 ; Vol. 141, p. 399 ; Vol. 147, p. 395 ; Vol. 150, p. 395 ; Vol. 151, p. 386 ; Vol. 157, p. 387 ; Vol. 173, p. 407 ; Vol. 179, p. 220 ; Vol. 182, p. 228 ; Vol. 189, p. 364 ; Vol. 227, p. 324 ; Vol. 230, p. 436 ; Vol. 251, p. 376 ; Vol. 253, p. 353 ; Vol. 260, p. 449 ; Vol. 265, p. 330 ; Vol. 266, p. 411 ; Vol. 268, p. 359 ; Vol. 271, p. 390 ; Vol. 273, p. 249 ; Vol. 274, p. 345 ; Vol. 280, p. 354 ; Vol. 286, p. 343 ; Vol. 302, p. 360 ; Vol. 312, p. 414 ; Vol. 314, p. 340 ; Vol. 317, p. 326 ; Vol. 325, p. 342 ; Vol. 327, p. 359 ; Vol. 328, p. 318 ; Vol. 337, p. 407 ; Vol. 345, p. 357 ; Vol. 348, p. 348 ; Vol. 349, p. 324 ; Vol. 354, p. 396 ; Vol. 356, p. 356 ; Vol. 360, p. 388 ; Vol. 372, p. 356 ; Vol. 376, p. 415 ; Vol. 381, p. 402 ; Vol. 384, p. 360 ; Vol. 387, p. 346 ; Vol. 390, p. 358 ; Vol. 392, p. 352 ; Vol. 394, p. 268 ; Vol. 395, p. 270 ; Vol. 402, p. 313 ; Vol. 405, p. 316 ; Vol. 415, p. 428 ; Vol. 419, p. 356 ; Vol. 422, p. 333 ; Vol. 423, p. 306 ; Vol. 424, p. 347 ; Vol. 429, p. 278 ; Vol. 431, p. 294 ; Vol. 433, p. 352 ; Vol. 434, p. 288 ; Vol. 435, p. 322 ; Vol. 437, p. 348 ; Vol. 438, p. 344 ; Vol. 442, p. 314 ; Vol. 443, p. 338 ; Vol. 444, p. 334, and Vol. 453, p. 354.

Article 2

For the purpose of applying the provisions of this Agreement the following expressions shall have the meaning hereby assigned to them :

“Road” means any way open to the public for the circulation of vehicles, pedestrians and other users.

“Carriageway” means that portion of a road normally used for vehicular traffic.

“Lane” means any of the parts into which the carriageway is divisible, each sufficient in width for one moving line of vehicles.

“Intersection” means the place where two or more carriageways join or intersect, whatever the angle or angles of their axes.

“Driver” means any person who drives a vehicle, including cycles, or guides draught, pack or saddle animals or herds or flocks on a road, or who is in actual physical control of the same.

“Motor vehicle” means any self-propelled vehicle normally used for the transport of persons or goods upon a road, other than vehicles running on rails or connected to electric conductors.

“Articulated vehicle” means any motor vehicle with a trailer having no front axle and so attached that part of the trailer is superimposed upon the motor vehicle and a substantial part of the weight of the trailer and of its load is borne by the motor vehicle. Such a trailer shall be called a “semi-trailer”.

“Trailer” means any vehicle designed to be drawn by a motor vehicle.

“Permissible maximum weight” of a vehicle means the unladen weight of the vehicle and of its maximum load.

“Unladen weight” of a vehicle means the weight of the vehicle when it is ready for the road, including chassis, filled batteries and radiator, filled liquid fuel or gas tanks, body, normal equipment, spare wheels and tires and the tools that are customarily supplied with the vehicle.

“Bicycle” means any two-wheeled vehicle operated by pedals which is not fitted with a self-propelling device.

“Motorized bicycle” means any two-wheeled vehicle fitted with an auxiliary internal combustion engine having a cylinder capacity of not more than 50 cm³ and retaining the normal characteristics of a bicycle with respect to its possible use.

“Motor cycle” means any two-wheeled vehicle fitted with an internal combustion engine and which does not conform to the definition of “motorized bicycle”.

TITLE II

GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO ROAD TRAFFIC APPLICABLE
TO ALL USERS*Article 3*

DRIVING OF VEHICLES AND GUIDING OF ANIMALS

1. Every vehicle or combination of vehicles proceeding as a unit shall have a driver.

2. Draught, pack or saddle animals and cattle, alone or in herds, shall be under the guidance of some person.

3. Drivers shall at all times be able to control their vehicles or guide their animals. When approaching other road users, they shall take such precautions as may be necessary for mutual safety.

4. Every driver, pedestrian or other road user shall conduct himself in such a way as not to endanger or obstruct traffic. All behaviour that might cause damage to persons, or to public or private property shall be avoided.

5. Under normal conditions, the driver shall drive his vehicle or animals on the right hand side of the carriageway and keep as far to the right as practicable when another road user is approaching from the opposite direction or is about to overtake him, as well as in all cases when visibility ahead is insufficient.

6. Every driver shall :

- a) On two-lane carriageways built for two-way traffic, keep his vehicle in the lane appropriate to the direction in which he is travelling ;
- b) On carriageways with more than two lanes, keep his vehicle in the lane nearest the edge of the carriageway appropriate to the direction in which he is travelling.

7. a) When a carriageway has two lanes separated by a continuous line, the driver proceeding in one lane shall not cross that line or travel on it ;

b) When the carriageway has lanes separated by a broken line, the driver under normal conditions, take the lane on his right and cross the broken line only to overtake another vehicle in the cases specified in Article 5 of this Agreement.

8. Every driver intending to make an important change in the speed or direction of his vehicle or animals, shall make sure beforehand that he can do so without danger and give notice of his intention to other road users.

9. Every driver coming out of a place or building located on the edge of the road shall enter the road only after having made sure beforehand that he can do so

without endangering traffic and at a speed which will permit him to stop at any given moment.

10. The movement of military columns, police forces or marching parades shall not be interrupted.

11. In open country, motor vehicles, with or without trailers, having a total laden weight of more than 3 500 kg, or a length of more than 11 m shall keep a distance between them of not less than 50 metres when proceeding at the same speed.

Convoys of vehicles shall be divided into groups of not more than three, with a distance of not less than 50 metres between groups.

12. Any structure, butt, raised walk or monument on a carriageway, square or road-intersection constituting an obstruction to the forward movement of a vehicle must be bypassed on the right, unless signs, signals or traffic officers indicate otherwise.

Article 4

SPEED

1. Every driver shall maintain reasonable speed and drive his vehicle or guide his animals prudently. He shall adjust his speed to traffic conditions or foreseeable obstacles, and reduce it appreciably :

- a) When driving through built-up areas ;
- b) In open country : when the road is not clear ; when visibility is not good ; on curves, pronounced descents sections of the road that are narrow, or obstructed, or bordered by houses, at crossroads and when approaching the top of a hill ; and when meeting or overtaking draught, pack or saddle animals or cattle.

2. The competent authorities shall have powers to establish, by means of appropriate signs, the maximum speeds for road users.

3. The provisions relating to maximum speeds do not apply to vehicles accorded the right of free way, which shall announce their presence by means of sirens.

Article 5

MEETING AND OVERTAKING

1. When two vehicles proceeding in opposite directions meet, the driver of each shall keep as far to his right as permitted by the presence of other road users.

2. In overtaking, drivers shall pass on the left of the overtaken vehicle or animal.

3. Every driver wishing to overtake another vehicle shall make sure that there is sufficient room and sufficient visibility ahead to permit overtaking without danger. Moreover, if necessary, he shall give notice of his intention to the user whom he wishes to overtake. He shall keep to his left as far as is necessary to avoid touching the vehicle which he wishes to overtake.

4. Overtaking shall be prohibited on curves, on the top of a hill and, in general, when visibility is insufficient. It shall also be prohibited at crossroads.

5. Every driver, after overtaking a vehicle, shall move back to the right hand side of the road after making sure that he can do so without danger to the vehicle overtaken.

6. When about to be overtaken, the driver shall immediately move as far as practicable to his right without increasing his speed.

7. In all cases in which the free width of the carriageway is insufficient or its course or conditions prevent easy and safe meeting or overtaking of other vehicles, drivers of goods vehicles whose dimensions exceed 2 metres in width and 8 metres in length, including the trailer, shall reduce their speed and, if necessary, stop or move over to one side in order to leave the right of way to smaller vehicles. In the same cases, when a vehicle accorded the right of free way signals to pass, the other road users shall reduce their speed and, if necessary, stop or move over to the right to let pass the said vehicle.

Article 6

ROAD INTERSECTIONS—PRIORITY OF PASSAGE

1. Every driver of a vehicle or animals approaching a road intersection shall make sure that the carriageway which he is about to cross is free, and shall moderate his speed in accordance with visibility conditions.

2. Every driver who is about to turn off a road on his right, shall keep to the right edge of the carriageway.

The driver intending to turn off a two-lane road on his left shall keep to the left without crossing the axis of the carriageway.

3. When any two drivers approach a road intersection by different roads, of which one does not enjoy priority over the other, the driver approaching from the left shall yield the right of way to the other driver.

4. On certain roads, or sections of road, priority of passage may be accorded at intersections by placing signs. Every driver approaching a road or section of

road having such priority shall be bound to yield the right of way to drivers travelling along it.

5. Every driver shall yield the right of way to vehicles accorded the right of free passage which announce their proximity by means of sirens.

Article 7

USE OF KLAXON AND OTHER WARNING DEVICES

1. The use of the klaxon shall be authorized solely to call the attention of other road users.

2. The use of multiple-sound klaxons, sirens or whistles shall be prohibited, except for drivers of vehicles mentioned in paragraph 5 of the preceding article.

Article 8

PARKING

1. Vehicles or animals shall not be left waiting on the road when they are likely to cause disturbance or danger to other users.

2. The driver shall never leave a parking space without taking all necessary precautions to avoid any risk of accident caused by his leaving.

3. No person shall alight from a vehicle or open a door without making sure that he can do so without danger.

Article 9

LIGHTS AND SIGNALS OF VEHICLES

1. From nightfall until dawn, and during the day when conditions render it necessary, especially when there is fog or rain, the drivers of vehicles travelling along a road, with or without public lighting, shall show the lights prescribed in articles 18, 31, 40, 49 or 57, as the case may be.

When vehicles meet, their lights shall be dimmed in order to avoid causing glare to the drivers and other users.

2. Vehicles shall not use red lights directed to the front nor white lights directed to the rear, with the exception of reversing lights and registration number plate lights; nor shall they use red reflex reflectors directed to the front, nor white ones directed to the rear.

3. From nightfall to dawn, and during the day when conditions render it necessary, especially when there is fog or rain, every stationary vehicle on a road,

with or without public lighting, shall show a light on the side opposite to the sidewalk or road drain, whether it be a red position light at the rear or a parking light.

A motor vehicle or a combination of vehicles of more than 6 metres in length or 2 metres in width, when stationary, shall show two position lights and two red lights.

4. If, by reason of *force majeure*, a vehicle is immobilized on the carriageway, or if the load or part of the load falls on the carriageway and it is not possible to remove it immediately, the driver shall, in case of insufficient visibility and especially at sundown, give notice of the presence of the obstacle by all possible means, placing signals at a sufficient distance before the traffic reaches it.

Article 10

SIGNS AND SIGNALS

1. Signs and signals shall be subject to the provisions of the Central American Regional Agreement on Road Signs and Signals, signed in Tegucigalpa, D. C., Honduras, on 10 June 1958.¹

2. The competent authorities in each State are the only ones permitted to place signs on roads.

3. The number of approved signs shall be limited to such as may be strictly necessary and they shall be placed only at points where they are deemed essential.

4. The danger signs shall be placed at a sufficient distance from the obstacles to give road users adequate warning.

5. The affixing to an approved sign of any notice not related to the purpose of such sign and liable to obscure it or to interfere with its character shall be prohibited.

6. All boards and notices which might be confused with the approved signs or make them more difficult to read shall be prohibited.

Article 11

SPECIAL TRANSPORTS

1. Only combinations having not more than one trailer shall be permitted to travel without special authorization. However, articulated vehicles for transporting passengers, or drawing a trailer, shall not be admitted to international traffic.

¹ See p. 211 of this volume.

2. The travel of combinations drawing several trailers, of vehicles or combinations of vehicles whose weight or dimensions exceed the permissible maximum shall be authorized only in the case of transporting long objects or pieces which cannot be divided. Such transports shall require a special permit which may be issued by the competent authorities and shall be valid for one trip only.

3. The aforesaid permit shall indicate the route to be followed by the said vehicles, and, if deemed pertinent, the special safety measures to be taken such as, for example, measures relating to drivers, lights of additional reflectors.

4. Permanent permits for travel on specified routes may be issued to special vehicles for industrial or agricultural use, or to public works employees.

TITLE III

SPECIAL PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO MOTOR VEHICLES AND COMBINATIONS OF A MOTOR VEHICLE AND A TRAILER OR SEMI-TRAILER

Chapter I

TECHNICAL PROVISIONS

Article 12

WEIGHT AND TIRES

1. No vehicle or combination of vehicles being a total laden weight exceeding that authorized and indicated in the registration certificate shall be permitted to travel except as provided in article 11 of this Agreement.

2. The maximum permissible weights shall be as follows :

	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
a) Per most heavily loaded axle. (An axle weight shall be defined as the total weight transmitted to the road by all wheels the centres of which can be included between two parallel transverse vertical planes 1.00 m (40 inches) apart extending across the full width of the vehicle) . . .	8	17 600
b) Per most heavily loaded tandem axle group. The two axles of the group being at least 1.00 m (40 inches) and less than 2.10 m (7 feet) apart . .	14.5	32 000
It is understood that the maximum permissible weight shall not exceed the following limits :		
Vehicles with two axles	12	26 400
Vehicles with three axles	20	44 100
Articulated vehicles or vehicles with one trailer	25	57 700

c) Per vehicle, articulated vehicle or other combination :

<i>Distance, in metres, between the extreme axles of a vehicle, articulated vehicle, or other combination</i>	<i>Permissible maximum weight, in metric tons, of a vehicle, articulated vehicle or other combination</i>
From 1 to less than 2	14.50
From 2 to less than 3	15.00
From 3 to less than 4	16.25
From 4 to less than 5	17.50
From 5 to less than 6	18.75
From 6 to less than 7	20.00
From 7 to less than 8	21.25
From 8 to less than 9	22.50
From 9 to less than 10	23.75
From 10 to less than 11	25.00
From 11 to less than 12	26.25
From 12 to less than 13	27.50

3. The wheels of motor vehicles and their trailers shall be fitted with pneumatic tires or devices of sufficient elasticity. The introduction into the outer surfaces of tires of any protruding metallic object shall be prohibited.

Article 13

DIMENSIONS OF VEHICLES

Except as provided in article 11 of this Agreement, the dimensions of a motor vehicle or a combination of vehicles shall not exceed the following limits :

	<i>Metres</i>	<i>Feet</i>
Maximum over-all width	2.50	8.20
Maximum over-all height	3.80	12.50
Maximum over-all length :		
Goods vehicles with two axles	10.00	33.00
Passenger vehicles with two axles	11.00	36.00
Vehicles with three or more axles	11.00	36.00
Articulated vehicles ("articulated vehicle" means any motor vehicle with a trailer having no front axle and so attached that part of the trailer is superimposed upon the motor vehicle and a substantial part of the weight of the trailer is borne by the motor vehicle) or a vehicle with a coupled trailer	14.00	46.00
Other combinations	18.30	60.00

No loads protruding more than one metre beyond the front or rear of the vehicle shall be permitted.

Article 14

LOADING OF VEHICLES

All necessary precautions shall be taken to ensure that the load of a motor vehicle, or trailer, shall not be a cause of danger or damage. Any load that protrudes or that is liable to protrude beyond the external edges of the vehicle, as a result of the movements produced during transportation, shall be firmly secured. Chains, tar-

paulins and other movable or floating accessories shall be secured to the vehicle in such a way that at no time shall they protrude beyond the exterior contour of the load, nor drag along the ground.

Article 15

ENGINES

1. Motor vehicles shall not emit gases which may affect traffic safety or disturb other road users.

2. Motor vehicles shall not produce explosions or noises which may disturb the other users of the road or the inhabitants in its vicinity. Engines specifically shall be equipped with an exhaust silencer in good working condition, the working of which cannot be interrupted by the driver while on the road. Open exhausts and any operation tending to suppress or reduce the efficiency of the silencer shall be prohibited.

Article 16

DRIVING AND STEERING DEVICES AND VISIBILITY

1. Every motor vehicle shall be so constructed that the driver shall be able to see ahead to the right and to the left clearly enough to be able to arrive safely.

2. All glass panes, including the windscreens, shall be of a transparent substance which, if broken, is not likely to cause wounds. The windscreen panes shall not distort the objects seen by transparency and, even if damaged shall continue to permit the driver to see the road clearly.

3. The windscreen shall be fitted with a windscreen wiper with a sufficient radius of action to enable the driver to see the road clearly from his seat.

4. Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a reversing device controlled from the driver's seat if the weight of the motor vehicle when empty exceeds 400 kg.

5. Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with at least one driving mirror of adequate dimensions so placed as to enable the driver to view from his seat the road to the rear of the vehicle.

6. Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a device indicating change of direction by means of a light.

Article 17

BRAKING

1. Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with brakes capable of slowing down the movement and of stopping the vehicle, in an efficient, safe and rapid way under any conditions of loading on any up or down gradients on which the vehicle is operated.

The braking shall be operated by means of two devices so constructed that in the event of failure of one of the braking devices, the other shall be capable of stopping the vehicle within a reasonable distance.

In the present text, one of the braking devices will be called the "service brake" and the other one the "parking brake".

The parking brake shall be capable of being secured even in the absence of the driver, by direct mechanical action.

Either means of operation shall be capable of applying braking force to wheels symmetrically placed on each side of the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

The braking surfaces shall always be connected with the wheels of the vehicle in such a way that it is not possible to disconnect them otherwise than momentarily by means of a clutch, gear box or free wheel.

One at least of the braking devices shall be capable of acting on braking surfaces directly attached to the wheels of the vehicle or attached through parts not liable to failure.

2. Every trailer having a permissible maximum weight exceeding 750 kg (1 650 lbs) shall be equipped with at least one braking device acting on wheels placed symmetrically on each side of the longitudinal axis of the vehicle and acting on at least half the number of wheels.

The provisions of the preceding paragraph shall also be applicable to trailers whose permissible maximum weight does not exceed 750 kg (1 650 lbs) but exceeds one-half of the unladen weight of the drawing vehicle.

The braking device of trailers with a permissible maximum weight exceeding 3 500 kg (7 700 lbs) shall be capable of being operated by applying the service brake from the drawing vehicle. When the permissible maximum weight of the trailer does not exceed 3 500 kg (7 700 lbs) its braking device may be brought into action merely by the trailer moving upon the drawing vehicle (overrun braking).

The braking device of the trailer shall be capable of preventing the rotation of the wheels when the trailer is uncoupled.

Any trailer equipped with a brake shall be fitted with a device capable of automatically stopping the trailer if it becomes detached whilst in motion. This provision shall not apply to two-wheeled camping trailers or light luggage trailers whose weight does not exceed 750 kg (1 650 lbs) provided that they are equipped in addition to the main attachment with a secondary attachment which may be a chain or a wire rope.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this article shall apply to every articulated vehicle. A semi-trailer having a permissible maximum weight exceeding 750 kg (1 650 lbs) shall be equipped with at least one braking device capable of being operated by applying the service brake from the drawing vehicle.

The braking device of the semi-trailer shall, in addition, be capable of preventing the rotation of the wheels when the semi-trailer is uncoupled.

Every semi-trailer equipped with a brake shall be fitted with a device capable of stopping automatically the semi-trailer if it becomes detached whilst in motion.

4. Every combination of a motor vehicle and one or more trailers shall be equipped with brakes capable of slowing down the movement of and of stopping the combination in an efficient, safe and rapid way under any conditions of loading on any up or down gradient on which it is operated.

Article 18

LIGHTING AND SIGNALS

1. Except as provided in article 31 every motor vehicle capable of exceeding the speed of 20 km (12 miles) per hour on the level shall be equipped with at least two lighting devices at the front, projecting two white driving lights and two passing lights, which enable to see the road clearly in front of the vehicle at night time in clear weather for distances of 100 m (325 feet) and 30 m (100 feet), respectively.

2. Except as provided in article 31, every motor vehicle shall be equipped with two position (side) lights at the front. These lights shall be clearly visible at night time in clear weather at a distance of 150 m (500 feet) from the front of the vehicle without causing any glare or dazzle to other drivers on the road.

The part of the illuminating surface of these lights furthest from the longitudinal axis of the vehicle shall be as near as possible to and in no case further than 400 mm (16 in) from the extreme outer edges of the vehicle.

3. Every motor vehicle and every trailer at the end of a combination of vehicles shall be equipped at the rear with at least one red light visible at night time in clear weather at a distance of 150 m (500 feet) from the rear of the vehicle.

4. Every motor vehicle and every trailer shall be equipped at the rear with a white, non-glare, light illuminating the registration number.

5. The red rear light or lights and the light for the registration number shall be shown at the same time as the position (side) lights or the driving lights.

6. Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with two red reflex reflectors, preferably of triangular form, fitted symmetrically at the rear and on opposite sides of the vehicle. The outer edges of each of these reflectors must be as near as possible to and in no case further than 400 mm (16 in) from the outer edges of the vehicle. These reflectors may be incorporated in the rear red lamps if these lamps comply with the above requirements. These reflectors shall be visible at night time in clear weather from a distance of at least 100 m (325 feet) when illuminated by the driving lights of another vehicle.

7. Every trailer and every articulated vehicle shall be equipped with two red reflex reflectors preferably of other than triangular form, fitted symmetrically at the rear and on opposite sides of the vehicle. These reflectors shall be visible at night time in clear weather from a distance of at least 100 m (325 feet) when illuminated by means of two driving lights.

When the reflectors are triangular in shape, the triangle shall be equilateral, with sides of at least 150 mm (6 in) and shall be upright in position. The outer corner of each of these reflectors shall be as near as possible to and in no case further than 400 mm (16 in) from the extreme outer edges of the vehicle.

8. Except as provided in article 31, every motor vehicle and every trailer at the end of a combination of vehicles shall be equipped with at least one stop light of red colour. This light shall be actuated upon application of the service brake of the motor vehicle. If this stop light is either incorporated in or associated with, the rear red light, its intensity shall be greater than that of the rear light.

The stop light shall not be required on trailers and semi-trailers when their dimensions are such that the stop light of the drawing vehicle remains visible from the rear.

9. No lights with the exception of direction indicators, shall be flashing or blinking lights.

10. If a vehicle is equipped with several lights of the same kind, they shall be of the same colour and two of these lights shall be placed symmetrically to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle. However, fog lights may be yellow or of any other adequate colour.

11. Several lights may be incorporated in the same lighting device provided each of these lights complies with the appropriate provisions of this part.

Article 19

WARNING SIGNALS

1. Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a klaxon or other audible warning device of sufficient strength which shall not be a bell, gong, siren or other strident toned device, to announce its presence when necessary.

2. Vehicles having the right of free way shall be equipped with special devices (sirens) to announce their approach, in addition to the normal warning devices.

Article 20

PLATES AND INSCRIPTIONS

1. Every motor vehicle, every trailer having a total permissible laden weight in excess of 750 kg, and every semi-trailer shall display very visibly, on a metallic

plate known as "maker's plate", the name or the trade mark of the maker, the type, the maker's serial number and information on the total permissible laden weight.

Moreover, the maker's type and serial number shall be cold-stamped for easy legibility, and shall be placed in an accessible position on the chassis or other essential part which cannot be detached from the vehicle. These marks must be framed by the maker's die.

2. Except as provided in article 33, every motor vehicle shall be equipped with two plates, known as "registration number plates" displaying the registration number assigned to the vehicle ; these two plates shall be fixed in very visible places at the front and the rear of the vehicle.

3. Every trailer or semi-trailer shall be equipped with a registration number plate at the rear.

Article 21

COUPLING MECHANISMS OF TRAILERS AND SEMI-TRAILERS

When the permissible maximum laden weight of a trailer exceeds 750 kg or exceeds one-half of the unladen weight of the drawing vehicle, and its braking device does not include a continuous brake, such a trailer shall be equipped, in addition to the main attachment which ensures the drawing and direction of the vehicle, with an auxiliary attachment consisting of chains or metallic cables capable of drawing the trailer and preventing it from leaving its normal trajectory in case of failure on the main attachment. The auxiliary attachment shall be used only in case of failure of the main attachment, provided that a moderate speed is maintained.

The same procedure shall be observed when it is necessary to resort to improvised attachments consisting of ropes or other devices, permissible only in case of absolute necessity ; the necessary measures shall be taken to ensure that such attachments are perfectly visible by day or night ; when a vehicle draws several vehicles, improvised attachments shall be permitted only for a single coupling.

Article 22

CONDITIONS TO BE FULFILLED BY VEHICLES FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

1. Vehicles which are normally or occasionally used for transporting persons shall be so conditioned as to ensure the safety and comfort of the passengers.

2. All necessary precautions shall be taken to ensure that the fuel tanks and the exhaust pipes are installed in such a way as to eliminate any risk of fire or intoxication of the passengers.

3. Vehicles used for passenger transport over long distances or engaged in international passenger service shall be subject to the special provisions relating to safety and comfort established in annex I.¹

Chapter II

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Article 23

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AUTHORIZATION OF VEHICLES

1. Every motor vehicle, every trailer and every semi-trailer before being put in circulation, shall be authorized by the competent service charged with verifying that such vehicles conform to the provisions specified in Chapter I of the present Title.

2. If the vehicles are new and have been imported, the competent authority may authorize their circulation on the basis of the documents authorizing circulation in their country of origin and the guarantee of the vehicle issued by the maker.

3. Prior notification shall be required for transforming a vehicle, modifying the specifications set out in its registration certificate. Moreover, once such transformation has been effected, a new authorization for circulation shall be required from the competent authority in order to verify that the vehicle conforms to the provisions set out in Chapter I of the present Title.

Article 24

REGISTRATION

1. No vehicle shall be put into circulation by its owner without having obtained the relevant registration certificate.

2. If the vehicle is new, the registration certificate shall be issued to the owner by the competent authority upon production of the document showing that the vehicle fulfils the conditions prescribed in the preceding article.

3. The registration certificate shall contain, in addition to the full name and place of residence of the owner and the serial number, known as the registration number of the vehicle, assigned in accordance with the system adopted by the competent authority of a Contracting State, the following information :

Trade mark of the vehicle ;

Number of the motor and serial number of the chassis ;

¹ See p. 200 of this volume.

Number of cylinders ;
Date on which the vehicle was first put into circulation ;
Type and model of vehicle ; colour ;
If it is a passenger vehicle, capacity and number of seats ;

If it is a goods vehicle, total maximum laden weight.

4. Every new owner of a vehicle already in circulation and registered, shall deliver to the competent authority the registration certificate for modification or for the issuance of a new certificate in his name.

5. In the case of a transformation of the vehicle which changes the characteristics shown in the registration certificate, the owner shall deliver the registration certificate to the competent authority for its modification, after having obtained the authorization mentioned in paragraph 3 of the preceding article.

6. The registration certificates issued under the conditions specified above shall be accepted as valid by all Contracting States until proven otherwise.

7. The design of registration number plates shall conform to the model shown in annex II.¹

Article 25

TECHNICAL INSPECTIONS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT VEHICLES AND OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF VEHICLES FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS

1. Motor vehicles used for the transportation of persons or goods as well as their trailers or semi-trailers, shall undergo a technical inspection by the competent authority, periodically and when required by necessity, to verify that they are in good mechanical condition and satisfactory state of maintenance and that they continue to conform to the provisions of Chapter I of the present Title and especially to the provisions of article 22 of that Chapter. In any case, these vehicles shall undergo periodical inspections at least once a year.

2. The date on which each inspection was effected at the request of the owners of the vehicles shall be recorded in the registration certificate in order that police authorities may verify, when necessary, that such inspections have taken place in due time.

Article 26

DRIVING PERMIT

1. No person shall drive a vehicle or combination of vehicles without a permit issued in his name by the competent authority after an examination of his driving competence.

¹ See p. 204 of this volume.

2. The permit shall indicate the category or categories of vehicles for which it is valid and the period of its validity shall be two years.

3. The design of the driving permit, as well as the categories of vehicles for which it is valid, shall conform to the model contained in annex III.¹

4. The examinations required for the issuance of driving permits shall include questions on traffic regulations and, especially, signals in addition to a practical driving test.

5. The issuance of the driving permit shall be subject to the presentation of a favourable medical certificate recognized by the competent authorities, and also of evidence of security covering the holder of the permit in case of any liability arising during the period of its validity.

6. The minimum age of applicants for a driving permit for motor vehicles and combinations shall be eighteen years, except for vehicles used for passenger service, for which the minimum age required shall be twenty-one years.

7. Each Contracting State shall allow any driver admitted to its territory to drive on its roads without further examination motor vehicles of the category or categories shown in the driving permit issued to him by the competent authority of his country under the conditions set out in this article.

8. The driving permits prescribed in this article may be suspended by the competent authorities of a Contracting State for the reasons determined by the legislation of that State.

Article 27

ROAD VIGILANCE

The driver of a motor vehicle or of a combination of vehicles shall be obliged to show, upon request of the agents of the competent authority :

- a) his driving permit ;
- b) the registration certificate of the vehicle.

TITLE IV

PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO MOTOR CYCLES AND THEIR TRAILERS

Article 28

MOTORS

The provisions of article 15 relating to the engines of motor vehicles are applicable to the vehicles referred to in this Title.

¹ See p. 204 of this volume.

Article 29

DRIVING, STEERING AND VISIBILITY DEVICES

The provisions of article 16 relating to the driving mirror are applicable to the vehicles referred to in this Title.

Article 30

BRAKES

1. The provisions of article 17, paragraph 1, relating to the brakes of motor vehicles, are applicable to the vehicles referred to in this Title.
2. Trailers shall be exempt from the requirement of being equipped with brakes if their total laden weight does not exceed 80 kg or does not exceed the unladen weight of drawing vehicle.

Article 31

LIGHTS AND SIGNALS

1. Motor cycles with or without sidecar shall be equipped at the front with one or two position lights, with one driving light and one passing light.
2. These vehicles shall be fitted at the rear with one red light and a device illuminating clearly the registration number plate, as well as a red reflex reflector.
3. Motor cycles with sidecar shall be equipped with the stop light prescribed in paragraph 8 of article 18.

Article 32

HORN

Motor cycles shall be equipped with a horn.

Article 33

PLATES AND INSCRIPTIONS

1. Motor cycles shall display in a visible place a metal plate, known as "manufacturer's plate", containing the name or trade mark of the maker of the vehicle, the type of vehicle, its identification and serial number, and its cylinder capacity.
2. The vehicles in question shall display at the back a registration number plate.

Article 34

AUTHORIZATION FOR CIRCULATION

The provisions of article 23 relating to the admission to circulation of motor vehicles are applicable to the vehicles referred to in this Title.

Article 35

REGISTRATION

The provisions of article 24 relating to the registration certificate of motor vehicles are applicable to the vehicles referred to in this Title.

Article 36

DRIVING PERMIT

1. The provisions of article 26 relating to driving permits for motor cars are applicable to the vehicles referred to in this Title.

2. The minimum age of applicants for driving permits for the vehicles referred to in this Title shall be eighteen years.

The Contracting States may establish a minimum age of sixteen years in the case of motor cycles equipped with an internal combustion engine having a cylinder capacity not exceeding 125 cm³.

Article 37

ROAD VIGILANCE

Every driver of a motor cycle or a motorized bicycle shall produce, upon request of the agents of the competent authority :

- a) his driving permit ;
- b) the registration certificate of the vehicle.

TITLE V

SPECIAL PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO BICYCLES, MOTORIZED
BICYCLES AND THEIR TRAILERS*Article 38*SPECIAL ROAD TRAVEL PROVISIONS FOR CYCLISTS AND DRIVERS OF MOTORIZED
BICYCLES

1. Cyclists and drivers of motorized bicycles shall avoid proceeding two abreast on the carriageway ; after nightfall they shall proceed in single file when

circumstances so require, and especially when a vehicle wishing to overtake them asks to pass. Cyclists shall not be towed by vehicles.

2. Bicycles and motorized bicycles may be guided by hand on the edge of the carriageway so that traffic is not interrupted. In this case, the drivers shall observe only the rules prescribed for pedestrians.

Article 39

BRAKES

Every bicycle or motorized bicycle shall be equipped with efficient braking devices on both wheels.

Article 40

LIGHTING

1. From nightfall, or during the day when circumstances so require, bicycles and motorized bicycles proceeding on the road shall show a single white light directed to the front, and a red light at the rear. The red light must be clearly visible from the rear when the vehicle is in motion. Bicycles and motorized bicycles may travel without lights when they are guided by hand, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 38. In this case, the drivers shall observe the rules prescribed for pedestrians.

2. In addition every bicycle and every motorized bicycle shall be equipped, during the day and at night time with one or more red reflex reflectors which shall be visible from the rear.

3. When a bicycle or motorized bicycle is drawing a trailer, the trailer shall be equipped with a red light at the rear and a red reflex reflector placed on the left hand side.

Article 41

HORNS AND BELLS

Bicycles and motorized bicycles shall be equipped with a bell or horn to announce their presence.

In the case of bicycles, this device shall be a bell which is audible at a distance of at least 50 metres.

Article 42

PLATES AND REGISTRATION

1. Motorized bicycles shall display in a visible place on a metal plate permanently attached to the engine, the name of the maker of the engine, the type of engine and its cylinder capacity.

2. Every bicycle or motorized bicycle shall display at the rear a registration number plate.

Article 43

AUTHORIZATION TO TRAVEL

The provisions of article 23 relating to the travel authorization for motor vehicles are also applicable to motorized bicycles.

The purpose of this authorization is to verify that these vehicles actually conform to the definition of motorized bicycles given in article 1 and to the provisions of this Title.

Article 44

DRIVING PERMIT

1. The provisions of article 26 relating to driving permits for motor vehicles are applicable to motorized bicycles.

2. The minimum age of applicants for driving permits for motorized bicycles shall be sixteen years.

TITLE VI

SPECIAL PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO VEHICLES DRAWN BY ANIMALS
AND TO HAND-CARTS

Article 45

CONVOYS OF VEHICLES

1. A convoy of vehicles drawn by animals may be guided by a single driver provided that it does not comprise more than three vehicles.

2. The driver, unless proceeding on foot, shall be mounted on the first vehicle ; however, in the case of ox-drawn carts, he shall always proceed on foot.

Article 46

WHEELS

1. With respect to vehicles drawn by animals not equipped with pneumatic tires, the load transmitted to the road shall in no case exceed 150 kg per centimetre of width of the wheel.

2. Metal wheels shall not have protruding parts on the surfaces that touch the ground. The addition of metal devices protruding from the friction surfaces of pneumatic tires shall be prohibited.

Article 47

DIMENSIONS AND LOADING

1. The over-all width of an animal-drawn vehicle shall not exceed 2.50 m.
2. The provisions of articles 13 and 14 relating to the dimensions and loads of motor vehicles are applicable to vehicles drawn by animals.

Article 48

BRAKES

If the relief of the region so requires, vehicles drawn by animals shall be equipped with a brake or with a stopping device.

Article 49

LIGHTING AND SIGNALS

Vehicles drawn by animals proceeding or parked on a road shall show at night time and during the day when circumstances so require, the following devices :

- a) At the front, at least one lamp directing a white light to the front.

If only one white light is shown, it shall be placed on the left side of the vehicle, when it is in motion, and on the side opposite to the sidewalk or road drain when the vehicle is stationary. If two white lights are shown, they shall be placed symmetrically on the sides of the vehicle.

- b) At the back, two devices reflecting a red light.

TITLE VII

SPECIAL PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO PEDESTRIANS AND GUIDES
OF UNHITCHED ANIMALS*Article 50*

PEDESTRIANS

1. Pedestrians shall use sidewalks or paths especially provided for them. If there are no sidewalks or paths, pedestrians shall walk on their left.

2. Pedestrians proceeding on a carriageway, when advised of the proximity of vehicles or animals, shall move to the nearest edge of the carriageway. They shall do the same on curves, at road intersections, on the top of a hill and when approaching such places and, in general, in all places where visibility is not adequate.

3. Pedestrians shall not cross the carriageway without making sure beforehand that they can do so without danger, and shall use the special crossings for that purpose whenever these are provided.

4. The provisions of this article are not applicable to troops in formation, police forces marching in formation, nor to organized groups of pedestrians proceeding in columns such as demonstrations, funerals or religious processions.

Article 51

GUIDING OF ANIMALS, SINGLY OR IN GROUPS

1. Animals proceeding on a road, singly or in a group, shall be guided in such a way as to avoid any obstruction to traffic and facilitate their meeting and overtaking by other road users. An adequate audible device shall be used to announce the movement of animals.

2. Persons guiding animals, singly or in a group, shall carry from nightfall, outside of centres of population, a lantern or lamp, perfectly visible especially from the rear.

3. Herds shall be accompanied by as many guides as are required to ensure safety.

4. In no case shall animals proceed on a road without guides.

TITLE VIII

SPECIAL PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO AGRICULTURAL VEHICLES AND MACHINES AND PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT

Article 52

DEFINITIONS

The provisions of Title II and of the present Title are applicable to vehicles and equipment conforming to the following definitions :

A. Agricultural vehicles and equipment used in agricultural activities and classified as follows :

1. Tractor. Motor vehicles designed especially for drawing or operating any machinery used in agricultural activities. Excluded from this definition are all motor vehicles conditioned for transporting passengers or goods, and motor vehicles which, owing to their mechanical construction, are capable of exceeding 30 km per hour on the level.

2. Self-propelled agricultural machinery. Machinery capable of moving under its own power, normally devoted to agricultural production activities and with a

normal speed on the level not exceeding 25 km per hour. All self-propelled agricultural machinery operated by a driver proceeding on foot shall be considered as hand-drawn vehicles.

3. Drawn vehicles and equipment.

- a) Agricultural trailers and semi-trailers : Vehicles attached to an agricultural tractor or to a self-propelled agricultural machine, used for transporting agricultural products, or materials or goods destined for an agricultural enterprise, or for its service and which is occasionally used for transporting the personnel of such an enterprise.
 - b) Agricultural machinery and implements : Equipment drawn by an agricultural tractor or by an agricultural self-propelled machine, normally used in agricultural activities and not used for transporting materials, goods or persons.
- B. Public works equipment. Any equipment specially designed for the requirements of a public works enterprise, but which is not normally used for transporting goods or persons on a road.

Article 53

WEIGHTS AND TIRES

The provisions of article 12 relating to weights and tires of motor vehicles are applicable to the vehicles covered by this Title.

Article 54

DIMENSIONS

The provisions of article 13 relating to the dimensions of motor vehicles are applicable only to agricultural tractors.

Article 55

VISIBILITY

If the visual field of the driver in all directions is not sufficient for safe driving, the driver shall be guided by a man proceeding on foot in front of the vehicle.

Article 56

BRAKES

With the exception of trailers, semi-trailers and drawn machinery having a laden weight not exceeding one and one-half tons, which are not required to be equipped with brakes, the vehicles included in article 52 shall be equipped with a braking system capable of stopping the vehicle or combination of vehicles within a distance

of 10 metres at a speed of 20 km per hour and keeping them stopped, even in the absence of the driver or any other person.

Such a system may consist of a single braking mechanism, and the braking device or devices used whilst the vehicle is in motion shall be capable of being operated by the driver from his seat, without abandoning the steering mechanism, and of acting on wheels or rollers placed symmetrically in relation to the longitudinal axis of all the wheels or rollers of the vehicle. However, when the tractor draws one or more trailers or machines, it shall not be required that all of them be braked from the tractor. In this case, it shall be required that each be equipped with powerful and efficient brakes capable of being easily operated by the brakemen riding on the trailers or machines.

Article 57

LIGHTING

1. Every agricultural tractor or self-propelled agricultural machine, as well as every self-propelled machine for public works travelling or stationed on a road, shall be equipped with :

- a) two position lights ;
- b) two reflex reflectors ; and
- c) one or two red lights.

From nightfall and during the night or in daytime when circumstances so require, these vehicles shall also show two passing lights.

2. Every agricultural vehicle or machine and all public works machinery drawn by other vehicles, travelling or stationed on a road, shall show a red light at the back.

In all cases, these vehicles shall be equipped with two reflex reflectors.

Article 58

COUPLING MECHANISM OF TRAILERS

The provisions of article 21 shall apply to agricultural trailers, to drawn agricultural machines and implements and to public works construction equipment drawn by other vehicles.

Article 59

PLATES AND REGISTRATION

1. The motor vehicles covered by this Title shall display in a visible place on a metal plate permanently attached to the engine, the name of the maker of the engine and its cylinder capacity.

2. The said vehicles shall display at the rear a registration number plate.

Article 60

DRIVING PERMITS

1. The provisions of article 26 relating to driving permits for motor vehicles are applicable to the vehicles referred to in this Title.
2. The minimum age of applicants for driving permits for these vehicles shall be eighteen years.

TITLE IX

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 61

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of deposit of the third instrument of ratification. This Agreement shall enter into force for each State ratifying after that date on the thirtieth day after the deposit of its instrument of ratification.

Article 62

1. The duration of this Agreement shall be indefinite.
2. This Agreement may be denounced by any of the Contracting States by means of six months' notice. The Agreement shall cease to be in force as regards the Contracting State which denounces it after the expiration of the six months' period.
3. This Agreement shall remain in force between the other Contracting States so long as at least two Contracting States continue to be parties thereto.

Article 63

This Agreement shall be submitted for ratification in each Contracting State in conformity with their respective constitutional or legislative procedures.

Article 64

The General Secretariat of the Organization of Central American States shall act as depositary of this Agreement and shall send a certified copy thereof to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of each of the Contracting States. It shall also notify the Contracting States of the deposit of the relevant instruments of ratification as well as of any denunciation which may occur within the prescribed time-limit. Upon the entry of the Agreement into force, it shall also transmit a certified copy

thereof to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for registration in conformity with Article 102 of the United Nations Charter.

Article 65

This Agreement shall be open at any time for accession by the Republic of Panama.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the respective plenipotentiaries have signed this Agreement.

DONE in the city of Tegucigalpa, D. C., capital of the Republic of Honduras, on 10 June 1958.

For the Government of the Republic of Guatemala :

José GUIROLA LEAL
Minister of Economic Affairs

For the Government of the Republic of El Salvador :

Alfonso ROCHAC
Minister of Economic Affairs

For the Government of the Republic of Honduras :

Fernando VILLAR
Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance

For the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua :

Enrique DELGADO
Minister of Economic Affairs

For the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica :

With reservation to articles 26, 36 and 44 of the Agreement as regards the minimum age of applicants for a driving permit, in accordance with the legislation of the State.

Wilburg JIMÉNEZ CASTRO
Vice-Minister of Economic Affairs
and Finance

ANNEX I

SPECIAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING SAFETY AND COMFORT OF PUBLIC
TRANSPORT VEHICLES*Doors*

1. Every vehicle with an enclosed body shall have as a minimum :
 - a) If the engine is at the front :
 - i) a front door, invariably placed on the right hand side ;
 - ii) a rear door or two side doors, one on the right and one on the left, located in the rear half of the vehicle.
 - b) If the engine is at the rear :
 - i) two front doors, one on the right and one on the left ;
 - ii) one door on the right, along the rear half of the vehicle.
 - c) If the engine is under the chassis, at an intermediate place between the front and rear of the vehicle : any of the above-mentioned arrangements.
2. The doors shall leave a free passage of at least 0.60 m in width by 1.50 m in height. The height may be reduced to 1.40 m in emergency exits.

Emergency exits

3. Vehicles with a capacity of less than 22 seats shall have on each side at least one panel or window which can be opened, and vehicles with a capacity of 22 seats or more shall have two panels or windows in each side capable of being opened from the inside and the outside, leaving a free passage of not less than 0.60 m by 0.45 m, to be used by the passengers as an emergency exit in case of danger. These movable panels or windows shall be capable of being operated easily and instantaneously by the passengers without the assistance of the driver or collector. The space in front of these panels shall be entirely free of obstructions. Hammer-picks or axes or similar devices shall be placed inside the body for opening an exit through the body or through the window panes, in case of danger.

4. Moreover, a glass pane of at least 0.60 m by 0.45 m shall be placed at the rear capable of being easily broken with a hammer-pick, axe or some similar device within the reach of the passengers. In the case of vehicles with the engine at the rear, the hammer-pick or axe shall be placed near the front windscreen.

5. If, in case of danger, it should become necessary to use an emergency exit having a glass pane, this pane must be capable of being broken.

Passage aisles

6. The passage aisles to the doors shall have a minimum height of 1.65 m ; their minimum uniform width, from floor to ceiling, with seats in their places, shall be :

0.43 m for passage aisles to the doors normally used ; 0.35 m for aisles leading to the emergency exits and for the longitudinal aisle.

7. In no case shall be attached to the doors seats or stools that would obstruct passage.

Seats

8. The passage space between seats and their arm-rests may be reduced to 0.25 m in vehicles used for tourism, and to 0.30 m in other vehicles.

9. In the case of auxiliary movable seats in the longitudinal aisle, the dimensions 0.35, 0.30 and 0.25 m shall be understood as the width that must remain free when the auxiliary seats are in use.

10. The placing of fixed or reclining seats in aisles and passages shall be prohibited ; the movable auxiliary seats shall fold up automatically when not occupied ; no auxiliary seat, when occupied, shall reduce the width required for the aisles of access to the various doors.

11. Seats, benches and auxiliary stools shall be equipped with a backrest.

The minimum width of all seats, excluding the armrests, shall be 0.43 m.

The seats shall have a minimum depth of 0.40 m from the edge to the bottom of the backrest.

The free distance from the backrest, measured at the height of the seat, shall not be less than 0.68 m ; in the case of seats facing each other, the minimum distance between backrests, as the height of the seats, shall be 1.30 m.

Fire extinguishers

12. Every vehicle shall be equipped with a fire extinguisher of sufficient capacity, in perfect working condition, placed within the reach of the driver, and the service personnel shall have received the necessary instructions for operating these devices.

The extinguisher shall be placed in sight of and within easy reach of the passengers and shall display clearly legible instructions for detaching and using it.

Comfort

13. As a general rule, all passengers shall be seated ; however, in the case of mass transportation over very short distances, or in case of exceptional heavy traffic, transportation of standing passengers may be authorized. Passenger capacity, both seated and standing, shall be indicated on the vehicle circulation permit.

14. Vehicles designed for transportation of standing passengers shall have a free interior minimum height of the body of 1.85 m in the aisles destined for such passengers, and shall be equipped with sufficient holding bars and straps within easy reach.

15. The total number of passengers shall be determined by the permissible weight of the vehicle, calculated in accordance with the load that may be borne by each axle, including the weight or luggage and goods, such total load not exceeding the maximum indicated by the maker of the chassis.

The average weight per person with hand packages, shall be taken to be 65 kg.

Protruding parts

16. The protruding part, measured from the traction axle, of public transport vehicles, shall not exceed six-tenths of the distance between axles, nor shall it exceed the limit of 3.50 m.

A N N E X II

DESIGN OF THE REGISTRATION NUMBER PLATE

Dimensions

1. The size of the registration number plate shall be 15.2 cm (6 in.) high by 30.5 cm (12 in.) wide.

Legend

2. The space reserved for the registration number shall be at least one-half of the height and two-thirds of the width of the plate.

3. The plate shall bear the complete name of the country of registration, in adequate letters, at the top.

4. At the lower part, the plate shall bear the word CENTROAMERICA.

5. The letter indicating the classification of the vehicle shall be placed before the registration number.

6. The plate shall also show the year for which the vehicle registration is valid.

7. In order to attain maximum visibility contrasting colours shall be used for the registration number and the ground of the plate.

8. The width of the strokes of the numerals and of the classification letters shall be at least one centimetre.

A N N E X III

PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE DRIVING PERMIT

A. MODEL DRIVING PERMIT

Dimensions : 68 mm × 100 mm

Colour : Optional

(Obverse)

DRIVING PERMIT
for the following vehicles

.....
.....
.....
.....

Photograph

[SEAL]

Restrictions

.....
.....

(Reverse)

Driving permit
(Country)

Expires
Number of Permit

Full name
Authorized to drive the vehicles specified on the obverse, with the restrictions indicated.

Personal identification document of holder No.

Authority issuing the permit

Place

Date of issue

.....
Signature of official issuing permit

.....
Signature of holder

This permit shall be kept in legible condition ; it shall be in the possession of the holder when driving, and shall be shown upon request to the competent authority.

B. CATEGORIES OF VEHICLES

1. Bicycles.

2. Motorized bicycles (vehicles equipped with an internal combustion engine having a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 cm³ or with batteries, and retaining the normal characteristics of a bicycle with respect to its possible use).

3. Motor cycles equipped with an internal combustion engine having a cylinder capacity not exceeding 125 cm³, with or without sidecar, or in the form of a tricycle.

4. Motor cycles equipped with an internal combustion engine having a cylinder capacity exceeding 125 cm³, with or without sidecar, or in the form of a tricycle.

5. Light motor vehicles (passenger vehicles having a capacity not exceeding nine seats and goods vehicles having a load capacity not exceeding 1 500 kg).

6. Heavy motor vehicles (having a load capacity of more than 1 500 kg, but less than 5 000 kg).

7. Heavy motor vehicles (having a load capacity of more than 5 000 kg).

8. Tractors with pneumatic tires which travel on roads.

The attachment of a removable sidecar, or a trailer, does not modify the above classification.

C. PASSENGER TRANSPORT FOR HIRE OR REWARD

The authorization to drive light or heavy motor vehicles used in passenger transportation for hire or reward shall be indicated on the permit by means of a special seal placed below the specification of the category of the vehicle.
