

# ZIMBABWE – VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS AND OFFENCES

## Roadside Checks: Notes for the cubby-hole (No. 9 October, 2014)

The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) apply a schedule of Deposit Fines for a range of vehicle equipment, use, licensing, etc. offences, discovered during roadside checks. The most common examples are given below.

These guidelines are intended for the general motoring public, and certain sections may not apply to Public Service Vehicles, i.e. omnibuses and kombis. See footnote for sources and references.

## SAFETY EQUIPMENT

### Fire extinguisher

1. Mandatory. 0,75kg (light vehicles) and 1,5kg (heavy vehicles). 0,75kg are unavailable so 1kg units are commonly purchased.
2. To be SAZ approved and display the SAZ logo
3. To be serviceable. (Our understanding is they are required to be refillable. There is no legislation we are aware of requiring the above units to be serviced, however regular servicing is recommended. To be professionally refilled when in the red, i.e. below pressure).
4. SI 154/2010 does not specify the colour of the extinguisher.

#### Deposit fines:

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| - No serviceable fire extinguisher light m/v (0.750kgs) | \$5.00 |
| - No serviceable fire extinguisher heavy m/v (1.5kgs)   | \$5.00 |

### Warning triangle

1. Two triangles are mandatory.
2. Not required to be SAZ approved.
3. A pair is required for a trailer as well as for the towing vehicle.

#### Deposit fines:

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| - Fail to carry red warning triangles (one only)                 | \$10.00 |
| - Fail to display red triangle as prescribed at night (one rear) | \$10.00 |

### Fluorescent safety jacket

1. Mandatory for pedal cyclists and motor cyclists at night. (Reflective clothing for motor cyclists is referred to in Section 75 (4) (b) under the heading "Loading: pedal cycles and motor cycles" and must be SAZ approved).
2. Not mandatory for motorists but recommended for personal safety.
3. Is mandatory in Mozambique

## VEHICLE LIVERY

### Trailers (including horse-trailers):

1. All trailers to have a white T (extreme right, front) and red T (extreme right, rear).
2. A light trailer (load capacity which does not exceed 550kg) to display red, 50 mm honeycomb type reflective tape at the rear of the vehicle, horizontally to within 400 mm of each side of the trailer.
3. 'Heavy' trailers (load capacity exceeding 550kg) must be fitted with a rear warning sign (a red/yellow chevron plate) and GVM/NVM information.
4. A light trailer is not required to be braked.

#### Deposit fines:

- No rear number plate light	\$20.00
- No white front reflective "T" (except construction trailers)	\$10.00
- No red rear reflective "T" (except construction trailers)	\$10.00
- No continuous red rear reflectors (light trailer)	\$10.00
- No chevron on the rear (heavy trailer)	\$10.00
- Fail to display gross & net mass on left side of the vehicle (trailer)	\$10.00

**Note:** A light trailer has a load capacity which does not exceed 550 kg. However, the "Schedule of Deposit Fines" states that trailers with a factory rated load capacity of 545 kgs or more are classified as "HEAVY". A load capacity not exceeding 550 kg is the correct description of a light trailer.

**Reflectors on the sides of vehicles** are required when a vehicle or a vehicle towing a trailer has an overall length exceeding 8 metres: Amber, 50mm honeycomb type reflective tape, horizontally to within 400mm of the outer edges of the vehicle (front and back).

**Light motor vehicles** must have two white reflectors at the front, and two red reflectors at the rear, within 400mm of the sides. Must be "honeycomb" type. The minimum size for reflectors is, if circular, at least 60mm in diameter. A triangular or rectangular shape must have a minimum area of 3,000mm<sup>2</sup>. As the tape is 50mm wide a piece of tape 50 X 60mm gives an area of 3,000mm<sup>2</sup>.

#### Deposit fines:

- No red rear reflectors	\$20.00
- No white front reflectors	\$20.00

### Heavy duty vehicles/Commercial vehicles:

1. Must have two white reflectors at the front. Minimum size per Light Motor Vehicles.
2. To display red, 50mm honeycomb type reflective tape at the rear of the vehicle, horizontally to within 400mm of each side of the vehicle.
3. GVM/NVM information to be displayed on the left of commercial vehicles (see registration book for details).

*Deposit fines:*

- *No white front reflectors* \$20.00
- *No continuous rear red reflective "warning sign"* \$15.00
- *Fail to display gross & net mass on the left side of the vehicle* \$10.00

**Note:**

1. "Commercial vehicles" include vanettes, pick-ups and double-cabs, not exceeding 2 300kg NVM. SUV's (station-wagons) are not classified as commercial vehicles.
2. The requirements under "commercial vehicles" apply whether or not the vehicle is in private use.

**Speeding Offences: Road Traffic Act, Chapter 13:11 - All Light Motor Vehicles (Urban and rural)**

1 to 5 k.p.h. in excess of speed limit.....	Caution	-
6 to 15 k.p.h. in excess of speed limit.....	\$5.00	
16 to 25 k.p.h. in excess of speed limit.....	\$10.00	
26 to 35 k.p.h. in excess of speed limit.....	\$15.00	
36 to 50 k.p.h. in excess of speed limit.....	\$20.00	
Over 50 k.p.h. in excess of speed limit.....	Court	

**Deposit Fines:**

The maximum deposit fine a police officer can legally impose is \$20.00 per offence. (A level 3 fine). A fine higher than level 3 can only be imposed by a magistrate after a court appearance.

Deposit fines are imposed per offence, and if found with more than one 'issue', the police officer can 'add them up'. The deposit fines listed in this document will assist with calculations.

The ZRP member will complete an Admission of Guilt form (Z.R.P. N.TFC), with particular attention to the Charge (Section and Statutory enactment) field, which details the regulations being contravened. A copy of the legible and completed AoG form is essential for any motorist who wishes to query the deposit fine.

**GENERAL:**

A rear number plate light is a requirement – SI154/2010, Section 26 (1): No person shall drive a motor vehicle (etc.) ... unless equipped with at least one lamp capable of illuminating the rear registration plate of the motor vehicle (etc.) ... with a white light. The deposit fine for this offence is \$20.00.

The Third Plate must be fixed behind the windscreen - SI 427/1999, Section 11 (4). (For ease of inspection we recommend displaying all discs on the left hand side). Where a Third Plate is lost or damaged, the Registrar may issue a duplicate upon payment of an appropriate fee. (Details how to arrange replacement are available on request from [info@bigsky.co.zw](mailto:info@bigsky.co.zw)).

A spare wheel is a requirement – SI 154/2010, Section 53 (1) (a). The Statutory Instrument does not specify the size of the spare wheel other than it may be serviceable. We understand an emergency wheel is acceptable but in an emergency only. The deposit fine for this offence is \$5.00.

Holding or operating a handheld cell phone while driving is illegal - SI 299/2002, Section 16B. High Court Judgement HB157/2012 concluded an appropriate penalty is a \$20.00 fine, failing which 5 days imprisonment.

Cracked windscreens: We understand it is a fineable offence only if the windscreen is cracked in such a way that it obstructs the drivers vision. Section 54 of SI 154/2010 states: *The windscreen shall be so constructed that, if it is damaged in any manner, it will ensure a safe degree of visibility for the driver.*

*Deposit fine:*

- *Drive motor vehicle with glass windscreen which does not provide clear undistorted vision* *\$10.00*

### **Visitors to Zimbabwe – Embassy Contact Numbers**

Zambia – (04) 773 777/80

Botswana – (04) 794 645/7/8

S.A – (04) 760404 / 706136

Mozambique – (04) 255871 /72 /73

Police General H.Q. – Complaints desk – (04) 754333 (day)

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Sources:

- Statutory Instrument 154 of 2010 (SI 154/2010) which repealed and replaced twelve earlier Statutory Instruments (Road Traffic Construction, Equipment and Use Regulations) issued 1972-1988 and carrying forward many provisions into the 2010 regulations.
- The "National Schedule of Deposit Fines" of August 2013.

This information is provided for guidance only. Any comments, corrections or queries are welcome, please email [bigsky@zol.co.zw](mailto:bigsky@zol.co.zw) or follow us at [Facebook.com/BigSkySupplies](https://www.facebook.com/BigSkySupplies)