


## Significant Changes to Virgin Islands Road Traffic Laws in effect with Road Traffic Amendment Act 2025

**Release Date:** 3 December, 2025



### Amendments

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**Owner Responsibility for Unlicensed Drivers:**

- Registered owners are prohibited from permitting any person without a valid driver's license to operate their motor vehicle on a road.

**Requirements for Drivers 80 Years and Older:**

- Mandatory re-examination of driving ability.
- Required medical evaluation, including an eye exam, and submission of a medical report from a registered medical practitioner.
- Driver's licenses for this age group will be granted for a period of 3 years if the Licensing Officer is satisfied they can drive safely. These requirements apply upon license renewal.

**Civilian Armoured Vehicles (New Section 45A):**

- Defined as motor vehicles (cars, SUVs, vans) manufactured or retrofitted for added protection.
- Import and registration are generally restricted to entities holding a trade license for security transportation services, with exceptions for the Speaker or members of the House of Assembly.

**Temporary Use of Non-Taxi Vehicles as Taxis (New Section 57A):**

- Licensed taxi operators can apply to temporarily use a private, commercial, or rental vehicle as a taxi.
- Requires a certificate of additional insurance coverage and a \$150 fee.
- Temporary use is granted for a maximum of 3 months and may be renewed once for an additional 3 months.

**Fixed Penalty Offences System (Amendments to Section 64 & 65, and New Schedules):**

- Offences and their corresponding fixed fines are now specified in the new "Schedule 1".
- Police or traffic wardens can issue a notice for these offences (form specified in "Schedule 2").
- Payment of the fixed penalty within 14 days (or a specified longer period) or before legal proceedings commence, exempts the offender from prosecution.

**Non-Recording of Certain Offences (New Section 67A):**

- Summary offences under this Act or its regulations will not be recorded on a person's criminal record.

The Ministry of Communications and Works has announced the successful passing of the Road Traffic (Amendment) Act, 2025. The act was assented by the Governor on Thursday, 2 October 2025 and gazetted on Monday, 6 October, 2025. The amended act introduces substantial changes aimed at enhancing road safety, regulating the efficient movement of traffic, and adjusting penalties as a deterrent to the increase traffic violations across the Territory. It also aims at reducing the number of accidents, traffic offences commensurate with the Territory's development while increasing the accountability of road users on the public roads.

The amendments primarily focus on revising penalties for existing traffic offenses, creating new offenses to address emerging safety concerns, and introducing new requirements and fees managed by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

### **Key Amendments and Impacts**

#### **1. Strengthened Penalties for Traffic Offenses:**

A wide range of existing traffic offenses will see significant increases in fines, underscoring the Territory's commitment to stricter enforcement and deterring dangerous driving. Examples of these penalty adjustments include but are not limited to:

- Many fines previously in the range of \$50 - \$500 have been dramatically increased to \$150 - \$1,500, and in some cases, up to \$3,000 or \$4,500.
- The fine for driving at a speed greater than the maximum prescribed limit is now a fixed penalty of \$175.
- Penalties for offenses like driving an unlicensed or uninsured motor vehicle are now \$300 each.
- Failing to stop at a "Stop Sign" or a traffic light will incur a \$175 and \$500 fixed penalty respectively.

#### **2. New Offenses and Safety Regulations:**

The Act introduces several new provisions to address critical aspects of road safety and driver responsibility:

- **Owner Liability for Unlicensed Drivers:** Registered owners of motor vehicles will now be liable if they permit an unlicensed person to drive their vehicle (Section 11(1A)).
- **Mandatory Helmet Use for Motorcyclists:** It is now explicitly an offense to ride a motorcycle without a helmet, applicable to both the driver and any passenger (Section 41). Penalties for various motorcycle-related offenses have also seen significant increases, including fines up to \$750 for issues like defaced plates or excessive noise.
- **Prohibition on Dangerous Overtaking:** A new offense penalises overtaking on corners, intersections, or the crest of a hill, with a penalty not exceeding \$1,500 (Section 31A).
- **Compliance with Police Directives:** Drivers are now required to remain stationary when directed by a police officer and not depart the scene until released, with penalties up to \$750 or 6 months imprisonment for non-compliance (Section 39A).
- **Emergency Lights and Sirens:** A general prohibition on the use of coloured emergency lights or sirens has been enacted, with specific exceptions for emergency services and certain authorised vehicles. Unauthorized use carries a penalty up to \$500 (Section 51A).

### 3. Administrative Updates and DMV-Related Adjustments:

- **Requirements for Drivers 80 Years and Older:** Drivers reaching 80 years of age will now be required to undergo a re-examination of their driving ability, a medical evaluation including an eye exam, and submit a medical report from a registered medical practitioner to renew their license. Renewals, if approved, will be for a period of three years (Section 18A).
- **Temporary Taxi Usage Fee:** Licensed taxi operators can now apply to temporarily use a non-taxi registered motor vehicle as a taxi, provided they furnish additional insurance and pay a new fee of \$150 (Section 57A).
- **Fixed Penalty System:** The Act formalises the fixed penalty system, clearly listing offenses and their associated fines in a new Schedule 1. A new Schedule 2 outlines the Fixed Penalty Notice/Warning Notice Form, providing

a structured approach for motorists to resolve minor infractions within fourteen (14) days to avoid further prosecution (Sections 64 and 65).

- **No Criminal Record for Summary Offences:** Notably, the Act stipulates that convictions for summary offences under this legislation will not be recorded on an individual's criminal record, providing a measure of leniency for minor infractions (Section 67A).

The Ministry of Communications and Works urges all residents and visitors to familiarise themselves with these important amendments to ensure compliance and contribute to safer roads for everyone. Further details and a complete list of amendments are available on the Government's website at [laws.gov.vg](https://laws.gov.vg).

You may access these laws here:

Road Traffic Act, Revised 2013: <https://laws.gov.vg/laws/road-traffic-act-0>

Road Traffic (Amendment) Act 2025: <https://laws.gov.vg/laws/road-traffic-amendment-act-2025>

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## **Gallery**

KEY POINTS

Department of Motor Vehicle Amendments

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**Speed Limit Fines:**

- Speed Limit Classification Section 24(2) clarifies that "40 miles per hour" is equivalent to "70 Kilometres per hour (km/h)".
- Exceeding Prescribed Speed: Driving a motor vehicle at a speed greater than the maximum speed limit notified under the Act carries a fixed penalty of "95 (70)" (Schedule 1, item 16).

**Road Safety Fines:**

This document introduces significant increases to existing penalties and new fines for specific offences. Here are some notable examples:

**General Penalty Increases (Examples):**

- Penalties for various offences in sections 7, 11, 17, 19, 23, 24, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 37, 39, 40, 41, 44, 46, 48, 51, 64, and 67 have been substantially increased. For example:
  - A penalty in Section 17(1) increased from \$150 to \$1,000.
  - A penalty in Section 17(3) increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000.
  - A penalty in Section 30(1)(a)(i) and (b) increased from \$1,000 to \$4,000.
  - A penalty in Section 37 increased from \$250 to \$1,000, with the general penalty for this section rising to \$1,000.

**New Offences & Specific Penalties (Examples):**

- Overtaking Violations (New Section 14A): Overtaking on a corner, intersection, or crest of a hill is an offence, liable to a penalty not exceeding \$1,000.
- Information After Accident (Section 37): Refusing to give personal details (name, DOB, address, contact, email) or giving false information after an accident carries a penalty of 6 to 18 months or a motor vehicle impoundment.
- Non-Compliance with Police (New Section 39A): Failing to remain stationary when required by a police officer and not departing until released, carries a penalty of up to \$750 or 6 months imprisonment.
- Motorcycle Helmet Offence (Section 41(2)(c)): Riding a motorcycle without a helmet (driver or passenger) is a new offence. Penalties for related motorcycle offences in Section 41(2) increased from \$50 to \$200 and \$100 to \$750.
- Vehicle Obstruction Offence (Section 42(1)): Driver permitting a vehicle to cause danger (obstruction, wait in prohibited areas, or remain stationary in a public place for 7+ days) is an offence.
- Miscellaneous Motorcycle Offences (New Section 44A): Various offences such as using deflated inner tubes, operating a motorcycle in defective condition, or causing load rollover/cracks, carry a penalty of up to \$750 or 6 months imprisonment.
- Unauthorized Emergency Lighters (Section 51A): Contravention of the prohibition on unauthorised use of coloured emergency lights or signs carries a penalty not exceeding \$500.

**Fixed Penalties (Selected Examples from Schedule 1):**

- Using a motor vehicle without proper identification marks on license plates: \$150.
- Driving an unlicensed motor vehicle: \$200.
- Driving an uninsured motor vehicle: \$300.
- Failing to display a license sticker on the front windscreen: \$150.
- Parking in a no-parking, permissive parking, reserved parking, or restricted area: \$225.
- Failing to stop at a "Yield Sign": \$175.
- Using a motor vehicle that causes excessive noise (75+ decibels) or emits excessive smoke: \$200.
- Being in control/possession of a motor vehicle that emits noise 70+ decibels: \$1,000.
- Transporting improperly secured loose material: \$1,000.
- Failing to stop for an emergency vehicle (ambulance, fire, police) with siren: \$300.
- Failing to stop at a red traffic light: \$300.
- Driving a motor vehicle without a valid driver's license: \$225.
- Failing to comply with Road Traffic (Seat Belt and Culture) Regulations: \$225.
- Terrorist Investigation: \$225.
- Failing to stop for a pedestrian at a crosswalk: \$125.
- Failing to stop for a pedestrian at a crosswalk: \$125.
- Pedestrian failing to use a crosswalk: \$75.
- Overtaking driving a vehicle with siren not exceeding the prescribed limit without a permit: \$150 per window.

You may access these laws here:

# Additional Documents or Media

- [press release significant changes to virgin islands road traffic laws in effect with road tra](#)