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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Road Traffic Safety
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EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES IN THE FIELD OF ROAD SAFETY

Transmitted by the Government of Poland

Note: The text below gives information on a new system of penalty points in traffic introduced in Poland in May 1998.

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INFORMATION ON A NEW SYSTEM OF PENALTY POINTS FOR OFFENCES IN TRAFFIC

The new system of penalty points was introduced by a decree issued by the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration. The register of drivers committing offences in traffic is provided by regional units of the police. Penalty points are registered upon sentences of a court or fines given by the police.

The police reports to the Administration issuing driving licences:

- (in the case of young drivers) withdrawal of the driving licence for a driver who has reached more than 20 points in the 12-month period after obtaining a driving licence for the first time.
- (in the case of other drivers) examine qualifications of a driver who has reached more than 24 points in a 12-month period.

List of violations of traffic rules with the number of penalty points

A. Particularly dangerous cases

Committing a serious offence in road traffic	10
Causing danger in road traffic	6
Driving under the influence of alcohol	10
Non-assistance to persons victims of an accident	10

B. Inappropriate behaviour towards pedestrians

Overtaking a car which is stopped at a pedestrian crossing to give way to pedestrians	10
Overtaking at a pedestrian crossing or shortly before the crossing	9
Not giving way to a pedestrian using a pedestrian crossing marked on the carriageway or signposted as such	8
Not giving way to a pedestrian crossing the carriageway by a driver who is turning at the crossing	8
Not stopping to give way to a handicapped person crossing the carriageway	8
Not giving way to a pedestrian during reversing	5

C. Not complying with instructions given by traffic signs and signals

Not complying with a stop signal given by authorized officials	8
Not complying with:	
- traffic lights	6
- instructions given by authorized officials directing traffic	6
- instructions given by authorized officials controlling traffic	6
Not complying with the instructions conveyed by road signs:	
- C,1 "no entry"	6
- C,2 "closed to all vehicles in both directions"	5
- C,11a "no left turn" C,11b "no right turn"	5
- D,1a "direction to be followed"	5
- arrow markings	5

- continuous double line	5
- B,5 priority for oncoming traffic	4
- C,3a "no entry for any power driven vehicle except two-wheeled motor cycles without side car", C,3b "no entry for motor cycles", C,3e "no entry for goods vehicles", C,3l "no entry for driven agricultural vehicles"	3
- C,3h "no entry for vehicles carrying dangerous goods for which a special sign is prescribed", C,3m "no entry for vehicles carrying more than a certain quantity of explosives or readily flammable substances", C,3n "no entry for vehicles carrying more than a certain quantity of substances liable to cause water pollution", C,5 "no entry for vehicles having an overall width exceeding ... metres", C,6 "no entry for vehicles having an overall height exceeding ... metres", C,7 "no entry for vehicles exceeding... tonnes laden mass" C,8 "no entry for vehicles having a mass exceeding ... tonnes on the axle" C,9 "no entry for vehicles or combination of vehicles exceeding ... metres in length"	2
Not complying with the instructions conveyed by other road signs not mentioned above	1

D. Not complying with the rules concerning intersections and other places of merging of traffic flows

Not giving way:

- at intersections where priority is prescribed by general priority rule	6
- at intersections where priority is prescribed by traffic signs	6
- to a tram or other rail-borne vehicle	6
- to a cyclist	5
- while changing lane	5
- while entering a road from a dirt road or a property	5
- during reversing	4
Not giving way to a priority vehicle	5
Making a U-turn in a place where it is forbidden	5

E. Violation of rules concerning speed

Driving over the speed limit

- more than 50 km/h over the limit	10
- from 41 to 50 km/h over the limit	8
- from 31 to 40 km/h over the limit	6
- from 21 to 30 km/h over the limit	4
- from 11 to 20 km/h over the limit	2
- from 6 to 10 km/h over the limit	1
Driving at a speed which is harmful to other road users	2

F. Violation of rules concerning overtaking

Not making sure that safe overtaking is possible	5
Overtaking on an inappropriate side	3
Violation of a prohibition of overtaking:	
- on cycle crossings and shortly before the crossings	8
- on the approach to the top of a hill	5

- on dangerous bends 5
- on intersections 5
- on level crossings and shortly before the crossings 5
- on tram crossings and shortly before the crossings 5
- Not complying with the instructions conveyed by road signs
C,13a "overtaking prohibited", C,13b "overtaking by goods
vehicles prohibited" 5

G. Usage of lamps

Violation of rules on compulsory usage of lamps:

- between nightfall and dawn 4
- when visibility is inadequate 2
- between dawn and nightfall in the period
from 1 October to the end of February 2
- in a tunnel 2
- by a motorcyclist 2

Use of fog light during normal visibility 2

Leaving a car with lamps lit when not required by rules 3

H. Violation of other rules which cause danger for traffic

Violation of prohibition of reversing:

- on a motorway or expressway 3
- in a tunnel or on a bridge 2
- passing of a car on inappropriate side 2

Violation of rules concerning prohibition of standing
and parking 1

Driving a car which is not authorized to be used in traffic 1

Equipping a car with the equipment of priority vehicles -
blue or red flashing lights or special audible signals 3

Equipping a car with devices detecting controlling equipment
(anti-radar devices) 3

