

THE OFFICIAL HIGHWAY CODE - HORSES

The new Official Highway Code went on sale in September 2007. Listed below are the sections which refer to horses on the road or have particular significance for horse riders/drivers.

PAGE	SECTION	DETAIL
4	Introduction	The most vulnerable road users are pedestrians, particularly children, older or disabled people, cyclists, motorcyclists and horse riders.
12	Rule 27 Equestrian crossings	Equestrian crossings are for horse riders. They have pavement barriers, wider crossing spaces, horse and rider figures in the light panels and either two sets of controls (one higher), or just one higher control panel.
18	Rule 47 Horse drawn vehicles	Horse drawn vehicles used on the highway should be operated and maintained in accordance with standards set out in the Department for Transport's Code of Practice for Horse-Drawn Vehicles. This Code lays down the requirements for a road driving assessment and includes a comprehensive list of safety checks to ensure that a carriage and its fittings are safe and in good working order. The standards set out in the Road Driving assessment may be required to be met by a Local Authority if an operator wishes to obtain a local authority licence to operate a passenger-carrying service (see page 135)
18	Rule 48	Safety equipment and clothing. All horse drawn vehicles should have two red rear reflectors. It is safer not to drive at night but if you do, a light showing white to the front and red to the rear MUST be fitted.
18	Rule 49 HORSE RIDERS	Safety equipment. Children under the age of 14 MUST wear a helmet which complies with the Regulations. It MUST be fastened securely. Other riders should also follow these requirements. These requirements do not apply to a child who is a follower of the Sikh religion while wearing a turban.

Page 18	Rule 50	<p>Other clothing. You should wear</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boots or shoes with hard soles and heels • Light-coloured or fluorescent clothing in daylight • Reflective clothing if you have to ride at night or in poor visibility
Page 19	Rule 51	<p>At night. It is safer not to ride on the road at night or in poor visibility, but if you do, make sure you wear reflective clothing and your horse has reflective bands above the fetlock joints. A light which shows white to the front and red to the rear should be fitted, with a band, to the rider's right arm and/or leg/riding boot. If you are leading a horse at night, carry a light in your right hand, showing white to the front and red to the rear, and wear reflective clothing on both you and your horse. It is strongly recommended that a fluorescent/reflective tail guard is also worn by your horse.</p>
Page 19	Rule 52 RIDING	<p>Before you take a horse on the road, you should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all tack fits well and is in good condition • Make sure you can control the horse <p>Always ride with other, less nervous horses if you think that your horse will be nervous of traffic. Never ride a horse without both a saddle and bridle.</p>
Page 19	Rule 53	<p>Before riding off or turning, look behind you to make sure it is safe, then give a clear arm signal.</p> <p>When riding on the road you should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep to the left • Keep both hands on the reins unless you are signalling • Keep both feet in the stirrups • Not carry another person • Not carry anything which might affect your balance or get tangled up with the reins • Keep a horse you are leading to your left • Move in the direction of the traffic flow in a one-way street <p>Never ride more than two abreast, and ride in single file on narrow or busy roads and when riding round bends.</p>

Page 20	Rule 54	You MUST NOT take a horse onto a footpath or pavement and you should not take a horse onto a cycle track. Use a bridleway where possible. Equestrian crossings may be provided for horse riders to cross the road and you should use these where available (see page 12) You should dismount at level crossings where a “Horse Riders Dismount” sign is displayed.
Page 20	Rule 55	Avoid roundabouts where possible. If you use them you should <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep to the left and watch out for vehicles crossing your path to leave or join the roundabout. • Signal right when crossing exits to show you are not leaving • Signal left just before you leave the roundabout
Page 26	Rule 79 (ADVICE FOR CYCLISTS)	Do not ride across equestrian crossings, as they are for horse riders only.....
Page 37	Rule 114 (ADVICE FOR DRIVERS)	You MUST NOT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use any lights in a way which would dazzle or cause discomfort to other road users, including pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders
Page 41	Rule 125 (ADVICE FOR DRIVERS)You should always reduce your speed when <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing the road with pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders, particularly children, and motorcyclists.....
Page 43	Rule 129 (ADVICE FOR DRIVERS)	Double white lines where the line nearest you is solid. This means you MUST NOT cross or straddle it unless it is safe and you need to enter adjoining premises or a side road. You may cross the line if necessary, provided the road is clear, to pass a stationary vehicle, or overtake a pedal cycle, horse or road maintenance vehicle, if they are travelling at 10mph (16 km/h) or less
Page 51	Rule 154 (ADVICE FOR DRIVERS)	Country roads.Be prepared for pedestrians, horse riders, cyclists, slow-moving farm vehicles or mud on the road surface.

Page 52	Rule 155 (ADVICE FOR DRIVERS)	Single-track roads.Slow down when passing pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders
Page 55	Rule 163 (ADVICE FOR DRIVERS)	(Overtaking) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give motorcyclists, cyclists and horse riders at least as much room as you would when overtaking a car (See Rules 211-215)
Page 59	Rule 170 (ADVICE FOR DRIVERS)	(Road junctions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch out for horse riders who may take a different line on the road from that which you would expect
Page 65	Rule 187 (ADVICE FOR DRIVERS)	ROUNDABOUTS In all cases watch out for and give plenty of room to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyclists and horse riders who may stay in the left-hand lane and signal right if they intend to continue round the roundabout. Allow them to do so.
Page 68	Rule 199	TOUCAN, PUFFIN AND EQUESTRIAN CROSSINGS These are similar to pelican crossings, but there is no flashing amber phase; the light sequence for traffic at these three crossings is the same as at traffic lights. If the signal-controlled crossing is not working, proceed with extreme caution.
Page 70	Rule 204 (ADVICE FOR DRIVERS)	ROAD USERS REQUIRING EXTRA CARE The most vulnerable road users are pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and horse riders. It is particularly important to be aware of children, older and disabled people, and learner and inexperienced drivers and riders.
Page 73	Rule 214 (ADVICE FOR DRIVERS)	OTHER ROAD USERS Animals. When passing animals, drive slowly. Give them plenty of room and be ready to stop. Do not scare animals by sounding your horn, revving your engine or accelerating rapidly once you have passed them. Look out for animals being led, driven or ridden on the road and take extra care. Keep your speed down at bends and on narrow country roads.....

Page 73	Rule 215 (ADVICE FOR DRIVERS)	Horse riders and horse-drawn vehicles. Be particularly careful of horse riders and horse-drawn vehicles especially when overtaking. Always pass wide and slowly. Horse riders are often children, so take extra care and remember riders may ride in double file when escorting a young or inexperienced horse or rider. Look out for horse riders' and horse drivers' signals and heed a request to slow down or stop. Take great care and treat all horses as a potential hazard; they can be unpredictable, despite the efforts of their rider/driver
Page 74	PICTURE	Quiet lane sign – includes accompanied horse symbol
Page 76	Rule 227 (ADVICE FOR DRIVERS)	Wet weather..... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take extra care around pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and horse riders
Page 78	Rule 232 (ADVICE FOR DRIVERS)	Windy weather. High-sided vehicles are most affected by windy weather, but strong gusts can also blow a car, cyclist, motorcyclist or horse rider off course. This can happen on open stretches of road exposed to strong crosswinds, or when passing bridges or gaps in hedges
Page 85	Rule 253 MOTORWAYS	Prohibited vehicles. Motorways MUST NOT be used by pedestrians, holders of provisional motorcycle or car licences, riders of motorcycles under 50 cc, cyclists, horse riders, certain slow-moving vehicles and those carrying oversized loads (except by special permission), agricultural vehicles, and powered wheelchairs/powered mobility scooters (See Rules 36-46 incl).

Page 95	Rule 286 (ADVICE FOR DRIVERS) DOCUMENTATION	If you are involved in a collision which causes damage or injury to any other person, vehicle, animal or property you MUST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop • Give your own and the vehicle owner's name and address and the registration number of the vehicle, to anyone having reasonable grounds for requiring them • If you do not give your name and address at the time of the collision, report it to the police as soon as reasonably practicable, and in any case within 24 hours.
Page 103	Arm signals	Also for use by pedal cyclists and those in charge of horses
Page 109	WARNING SIGNS	Wild horses and ponies Accompanied horses or ponies
Page 123	4. THE ROAD USER AND THE LAW	Road traffic law. It is important to note that references to 'road' therefore generally include footpaths, bridleways and cycle tracks, and many roadways and driveways on private land (including many car parks). In most cases, the law will apply to them and there may be additional rules for particular paths or ways.
Page 124	4. THE ROAD USER AND THE LAW	Horses (Protective Headgear for Young Riders) Act 1990 Horses (Protective Headgear for Young Riders) Regulations 1992
Page 135	Code of Practice for Horse-Drawn Vehicles	The Code of Practice is available from the Department for Transport, Transport Technology and Standards Division 6, 2 nd Floor, Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR. Tel 0207 944 2078
Back cover	WHEN DID YOU LAST READ YOURS? So it is as important as ever that all road users, including drivers, motorcyclists, cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians, should update their knowledge of the Highway Code.