

ROAD VEHICLES ACT

Law No. 185 of June 1, 1951

Amended by Laws:

No. 102 of 1952	No. 181 of 1952	No. 213 of 1953
No. 259 of 1953	No. 95 of 1954	No. 97 of 1954
No. 26 of 1955	No. 112 of 1955	No. 16 of 1956
No. 54 of 1958	No. 145 of 1961	No. 106 of 1962
No. 161 of 1962	No. 149 of 1963	No. 47 of 1964
No. 68 of 1969	No. 80 of 1970	No. 9 of 1971
No. 89 of 1971	No. 62 of 1972	No. 34 of 1975
No. 5 of 1979	No. 91 of 1982	No. 57 of 1983
No. 23 of 1984	No. 25 of 1984	No. 67 of 1984
No. 40 of 1987	No. 83 of 1989	No. 91 of 1989
No. 89 of 1993	No. 86 of 1994	No. 74 of 1998
No.101 of 1998	No. 43 of 1999	No. 66 of 1999
No. 87 of 1999	No.151 of 1999	No. 160 of 1999
No.207 of 1999	No. 218 of 1999	No.220 of 1999
No. 91 of 2000	No. 54 of 2002	No. 89 of 2002
No.100 of 2002	No.152 of 2002	No. 61 of 2003
No. 55 of 2004	No. 124 of 2004	No. 147 of 2004
No. 87 of 2005	No. 10 of 2006	No. 40 of 2006
No. 50 of 2006	No. 9 of 2007	No. 21 of 2008
No. 61 of 2011	No. 74 of 2011	No. 44 of 2015

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CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 (Purpose of this Act)

The purpose of this Act is the promotion of public welfare through the official confirmation, etc. of ownership as well as assuring safety, preventing environmental pollution, conserving environment and bringing about the technical elevation of maintenance and repair with regard to road vehicles, and at the same time, contributing to the sound development of the business of maintenance and repair of motor vehicles.

Article 2 (Definitions)

1. In this Act, “road vehicles” shall mean motor vehicles, motor-driven cycles and light vehicles.
2. In this Act, “motor vehicles” shall mean vehicles manufactured for the purpose of being moved on land by means of a prime mover (an engine) which do not run on track or trolley-wire, or that equipment manufactured for the purpose of being moved on land by being drawn therewith, except motor-driven cycles provided for in the succeeding Paragraph.
3. In this Act, “motor-driven cycles” shall mean vehicles manufactured with the purpose of being moved on land by means of prime mover (an engine) with an engine displacement or rated output specified by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport Ordinance (hereinafter MLIT Ordinance). These vehicles will not run on a track or by means of a trolley-wire, or will they be manufactured with the purpose of being moved on land by being drawn therewith.
4. In this Act, “light vehicles” shall mean vehicles manufactured with the purpose of being moved on land by means of human or animal power which do not run on a track or by means of a trolley-wire, or it shall mean those vehicles manufactured with the purpose of being moved on land by being drawn therewith, and which shall be specified by Cabinet Order.
5. In this Act, “operation” shall mean the use of a road vehicle in compliance with the proper use of the device thereof (except the use in places other than on roads), for the transportation of persons or goods or otherwise.
6. In this Act, “road” shall mean the road under the Road Act (Law No. 180

of 1952) and the motor road under the Road Transport Act (Law No. 183 of 1951) and other places for general traffic.

7. In this Act, “motor carrier” shall mean the motor carrier (except light vehicle cargo carrier) under the Road Transport Act, and “motor carrier operator” shall mean the operator of a motor carrier.

8. In this Act, “end-of-life vehicle” shall mean the end-of-life vehicle under the Law on Recycling of End-of-Life Vehicles (Law No. 87 of 2002).

9. In this Act, “registration identification information” shall mean a code or other information that is used to confirm that, when the person registered as an owner of the motor vehicle in the motor vehicle registration file of Article 4 makes an application for the registration in connection with the motor vehicle concerned, the said person registered is making an application for the said registration. It shall be able to identify the said person registered.

Article 3 (Category of Motor Vehicles)

The distinction between ordinary-sized motor vehicles, small-sized motor vehicles, mini-sized motor vehicles, large-sized special motor vehicles and small-sized special motor vehicles as provided for in this Act shall be specified by the MLIT Ordinance on the basis of the size and construction of the motor vehicle as well as the kind of prime mover (engine) and the engine displacement or rated output thereof.

CHAPTER II REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES, ETC.

Article 4 (General Validity of Registration)

No motor vehicle (except mini-sized motor vehicles, small-sized special motor vehicles and two-wheeled small-sized motor vehicles; hereinafter the same in this Chapter except in Articles 29 to 32 inclusive) shall be used for operation unless they are registered in the motor vehicle registration file.

Article 5

1. Any person who acquires or forfeits the ownership of a registered motor vehicle cannot cope with a third party unless the acquisition or forfeiture concerned is registered.

2. The provision of the preceding Paragraph shall not apply to the large-sized special motor vehicles specified in the proviso in Article 2 of the Automobile Mortgage Law (Law No. 187 of 1951).

Article 6 (Motor Vehicle Registration File, etc.)

1. Registration of motor vehicles in the motor vehicle registration file shall be performed by means of an electronic data processing system, as provided for by the Cabinet Order.

2. The motor vehicle registration file and electric information processing system mentioned in the preceding Paragraph shall be supervised by the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

Article 7 (Application for Initial Registration)

1. If registration is sought for motor vehicles for which registration has not yet been obtained (hereinafter referred to as “initial registration”), the owner shall submit to the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism an application in which the information enumerated below are recorded. This shall be accompanied with an alienation certificate provided for in Article 33, or documents proving the fact of import or other documents sufficiently proving the ownership of the motor vehicle concerned according to the classification specified by the MLIT Ordinance. The motor vehicle will also be presented. The information to be recorded:

- (1) Make and type of motor vehicle;
- (2) Chassis number (including the type of chassis; hereinafter the same);
- (3) Type of prime mover (engine);
- (4) Name or designation, and address of owner;
- (5) Locality of principal abode of use; and
- (6) Reason for acquisition.

2. The Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism may demand the person submitting the application provided for in the preceding Paragraph to submit certificates regarding the chassis number or the

stamping/embossment of type of prime mover (engine) and other necessary documents in addition to those provided for in the same Paragraph.

3. In submitting the application provided for in Paragraph 1, in the case of those motor vehicles prescribed in each of the following Items, those documents **prescribed** in each Item concerned may be submitted instead of the physical presentation of the motor vehicle concerned.

- (1) In the case of motor vehicles which have received a valid motor vehicle preliminary inspection certificate provided for in Paragraph 2 of Article 71, the motor vehicle preliminary inspection certificate concerned;
- (2) In the case of motor vehicles for which type designation provided for in Paragraph 1 of Article 75 has been obtained as to their type, the completion inspection certificate concerned (limited to only those with which the period specified by the MLIT Ordinance have not elapsed since the issuance thereof. The same in Item 2 of the next Paragraph) under the provision of Paragraph 4 of the same Article;
- (3) In the case of passenger motor vehicles, **etc. (motor vehicles used for carriage of persons or small-sized motor vehicles used for the transport of goods, which are designated by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Ordinance as those that are less likely to be changed in the items related to their construction, etc. of the motor vehicle concerned (referring to the items related to the construction, etc. provided for in Paragraph 1 of Article 71–2). The same applies in Paragraph 7 of Article 94.)** which have received a valid certificate proving conformity with Safety Regulations provided for in Paragraph 1 of Article 94–5 after they had received temporary deletion of registration under the provision of the application of Paragraph 1 of Article 16, the certificate concerned proving conformity with Safety Regulations;
- (4) In the case of motor vehicles which have received a valid certificate proving limited conformity with Safety Regulations provided for in Paragraph 1 of Article 94–5–2 after they had received a valid limited motor vehicle inspection certificate provided for in Paragraph 1 of Article 71–2, the limited motor vehicle inspection certificate concerned and the certificate concerned proving limited conformity with Safety Regulations.

4. When the person making the application provided for in Paragraph 1 has submitted any relevant items from among the regulations stipulated in the following Items to someone who has received MLIT registration in accordance with the provisions from Article 96–2 to Article 96–4 (hereinafter referred to as the “registration information processing body”), as stipulated in MLIT