



Improving
Performance,
Reducing
Risk.

Highway Code Changes 2022

Guidance Note



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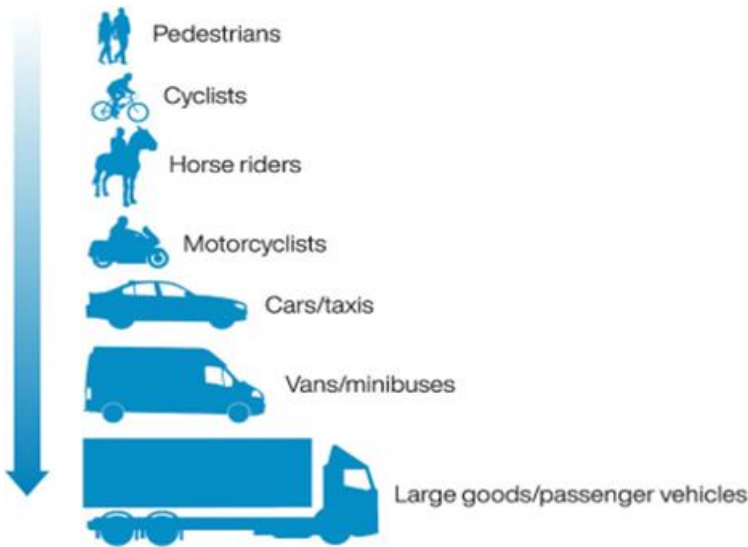
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On 29 January 2022, the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) published changes to the Highway Code in the UK, with 10 sections of The Highway Code updated and 50 rules added or updated plus most importantly a new ‘Hierarchy of Road Users’ created giving higher priority to pedestrians and cyclists over vehicles.

What is the Hierarchy of Road Users?

The ‘hierarchy of road users’ states that those who can do the greatest harm have the greatest responsibility to reduce the danger or threat they may pose to others – the onus being on vehicle drivers to ensure that pedestrians and other priority road users have safe passage before making any manoeuvre.

Priority road users include the following:



New rule H1 of the Highway Code now says it is important that all road users are aware of and follow The Highway Code, are considerate to other road users and understand their responsibility for the safety of others.

Those in charge of vehicles that can cause the greatest harm in the event of a collision bear the greatest responsibility to take care and reduce the danger they pose to others. This principle applies most strongly to drivers of large goods and passenger vehicles, vans/minibuses, cars/taxis and motorcycles. Cyclists, horse riders and drivers of horse drawn vehicles likewise have a responsibility to reduce danger to the priority road users identified above.

How do the changes affect junction movements?

For drivers, motorcyclists, horse-drawn vehicles, horse riders and cyclists, rule H2 says that pedestrians and other priority road users have safe passage before making any manoeuvre at a junction.

New rule H3 also advises that drivers and motorcyclists should not cut across cyclists, horse-riders or horse-drawn vehicles ahead when turning into or out of a junction or when changing direction or changing lanes. This applies to *cycle lanes, cycle tracks or on the road itself*. Do not turn at a junction if doing so will cause the approaching cyclist or horse rider to need to stop, slow or swerve.

Rule H3

Turning into (or out of) junction or
Drivers **MUST** not cut across cyclists, horse riders

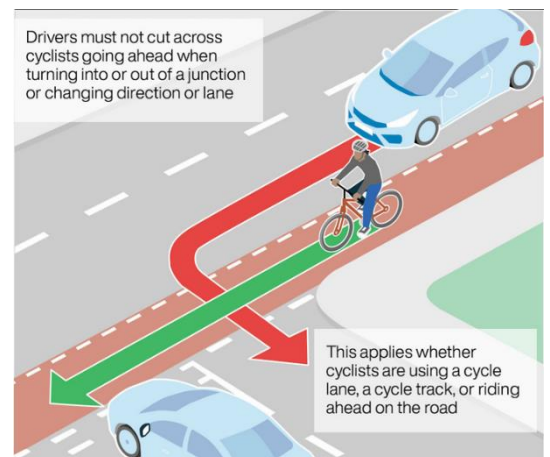


You should stop and wait for a safe gap in the flow of cyclists when they are:

2.
 - Approaching, passing, or moving off from a junction,
 - Moving past or waiting alongside stationary or slow-moving traffic, and/or,
 - Travelling around a roundabout.

It is important here to note the presence of cycle lanes alongside footpaths at junctions, not just cyclists on the road so extra care and attention needs to be paid to footways and cycleways when turning into junctions where a cycleway crosses the road. If a cyclist is approaching, they have priority to cross before any vehicle movement.

New rule 76 for cyclists in the Highway Code reinforces this by stating that if you are a cyclist going straight ahead at a junction, you have priority over traffic waiting to turn into or out of the side road, unless road signs or markings indicate otherwise.



What other changes have been made that drivers' need to be aware of?

New rule for cyclists about *road positioning* (number 72) states that when riding on the roads, cyclists have two basic road positions to adopt, depending on the situation.

1) Cyclists should ride in the centre of their lane, to make themselves as clearly visible as possible in the following situations:

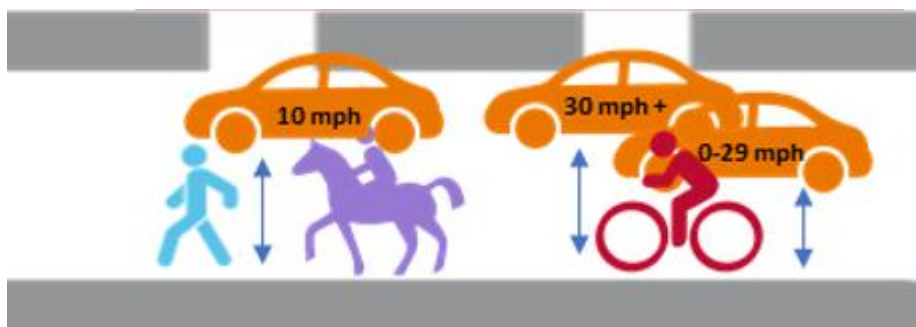
3.
 - On quiet roads or streets – if a faster vehicle comes up behind you, move to the left to enable them to overtake, if you can do so safely,
 - In slower-moving traffic – when the traffic around you starts to flow more freely, move over to the left if you can do so safely so that faster vehicles behind you can overtake, and/or,
 - At the approach to junctions or road narrowings where it would be unsafe for drivers to overtake you.

2) When riding on busy roads with faster moving vehicles, cyclists should allow vehicles to overtake where it is safe to do so keeping at least 0.5 metres away from the kerb edge, more if possible.

Rule clarification for overtaking and distances...

Traffic Law number 163 now says that vehicles may only overtake when it is safe and legal to do so with the following requirements:

- Give motorcyclists, cyclists, horse riders and horse-drawn vehicles at least as much room as you would when overtaking a car (see Rules 211 to 215). As a guide:
- Leave at least 1.5 metres when overtaking cyclists at speeds of up to 30 mph and give them more space when overtaking at higher speeds.
- Pass horse riders and horse-drawn vehicles at speeds under 10 mph and allow at least 2 metres of space.
- Allow at least 2 metres of space and keep to a low speed when passing a pedestrian who is walking in the road (for example, where there is no pavement).
- Take extra care and give more space when overtaking motorcyclists, cyclists, horse riders, horse-drawn vehicles and pedestrians in bad weather (including high winds) and at night.
- You should wait behind the motorcyclist, cyclist, horse rider, horse-drawn vehicle or pedestrian and not overtake if it is unsafe or not possible to meet these clearances.



Number 71: Stop lines

- At traffic light junctions and at cycle-only crossings with traffic lights, you MUST NOT cross the stop line when the lights are red.
- Some junctions have an advanced stop line to enable you to position yourself ahead of other traffic and wait (see Rule 178). When the traffic lights are red, you may cross the first stop line, but you MUST NOT cross the final stop line.

Number 140: Give way to cyclists

- You should give way to any cyclists in a cycle lane, including when they are approaching from behind you – do not cut across them when you are turning or when you are changing lane (see Rule H3). Be prepared to stop and wait for a safe gap in the flow of cyclists before crossing the cycle lane.
- Cycle tracks are routes for cyclists that are physically protected or located away from motor traffic, other than where they cross side roads. Cycle tracks may be shared with pedestrians.
- You should give way to cyclists approaching or using the cycle track when you are turning into or out of a junction (see Rule H3). Be prepared to stop and wait for a safe gap in the flow of cyclists before crossing the cycle track, which may be used by cyclists travelling in both directions.
- Bear in mind that cyclists are not obliged to use cycle lanes or cycle tracks.



Rule 140

Motorists should give way to cyclists in a cycle lane especially when approaching from behind

Number 125: Speed limits

7.

- The speed limit is the absolute maximum and does not mean it is safe to drive at that speed irrespective of conditions.
- Unsafe speed increases the chances of causing a collision (or being unable to avoid one), as well as its severity. Inappropriate speeds are also intimidating, deterring people from walking, cycling or riding horses.

Number 151: Additional consideration

8.

- In slow moving traffic you should allow pedestrians and cyclists to cross in front of you.
- Allow at least 2 metres of space and keep to a low speed when passing a pedestrian who is walking in the road (for example, where there is no pavement).
- Take extra care and give more space when overtaking motorcyclists, cyclists, horse riders, horse-drawn vehicles and pedestrians in bad weather (including high winds) and at night.
- You should wait behind the motorcyclist, cyclist, horse rider, horse-drawn vehicle or pedestrian and not overtake if it is unsafe or not possible to meet these clearances.



Number 206: Drive carefully and slowly, when:

9.

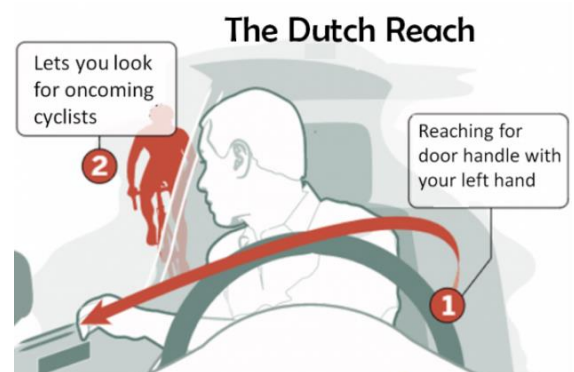
- Needing to cross a pavement, cycle lane or cycle track, for example, to reach or leave a driveway or private access. Give way to pedestrians on the pavement and cyclists using a cycle lane or cycle track.
- Turning at road junctions; you should give way to pedestrians who are crossing or waiting to cross the road into which or from which you are turning.
- Going through road works or when passing roadside rescue and recovery vehicles, as there may be people working in or at the side of the road.
- Approaching zebra and parallel crossings as you **MUST** give way to pedestrians and cyclists on the crossing (see Rule 195).
- Approaching pedestrians who have started to cross the road ahead of you. They have priority when crossing at a junction or side road so you should give way.

Number 239: Parking/stopping

Use off-street parking areas or bays marked out with white lines on the road as parking places, wherever possible. If you have to stop on the roadside:

10.

- You **MUST** ensure you do not hit anyone when you open your door. Check for cyclists or other traffic by looking all around and using your mirrors.
- **The Dutch Reach:** Where you are able to do so, you should open the door using your hand on the opposite side to the door you are opening. For example, use your left hand to open a door on your right-hand side. This will make you turn your head to look over your shoulder. You are then less likely to cause injury to cyclists or motorcyclists passing you on the road, or to people on the pavement. When using an electric vehicle charge point, you should park close to the charge point and avoid creating a trip hazard for pedestrians from trailing cables. Display a warning sign if you can. After using the charge point, you should return charging cables and connectors neatly to minimise the danger to pedestrians and avoid creating an obstacle for other road users.



For more information:

The Highway Code is essential reading for everyone. It's updated regularly, so it's important that everyone knows it, not just learner drivers. Many of the rules in the code are legal requirements, and if you disobey these rules, you're committing a criminal offence. If you do not follow the rules in the code, it can be used in evidence in court proceedings to establish liability.

Full details of the Highway Code changes visit the updates section of the www.gov.uk website at: [Updates - The Highway Code - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code-updates)

Visit this link for 8 changes you need to know on the www.gov.uk website: [The Highway Code: 8 changes you need to know from 29 January 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code-8-changes-you-need-to-know-from-29-january-2022)

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