



## **DRIVING IN ZIMBABWE**

### **Roadside Checks: Notes for the Cubby-Hole**

#### **DEPOSIT FINES**

The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) apply a Schedule of Deposit Fines for a range of vehicle equipment, use, licensing, etc., offences discovered during roadside checks. The most common examples are listed below. The maximum deposit fine a police officer can legally impose is \$20.00 per offence. (A level 3 fine). A fine higher than level 3 can only be imposed by a magistrate after a court appearance.

Deposit fines are imposed per offence, and if found with more than one 'issue', the police officer can 'add them up'. The deposit fines listed in this document will assist with calculations.

The ZRP member will complete an Admission of Guilt form (Z.R.P. N.TFC), with particular attention to the Charge (Section and Statutory enactment) field, which details the regulations being contravened. A copy of the legible and completed Z.R.P. N.TFC form is essential for any motorist who wishes to query the deposit fine.

**Form 265, providing the facility of paying a fine within 7 days, is NOT available as an option.**

#### **VISITORS TO ZIMBABWE**

**Note: The provisions of Sect. 53 – Spare wheels, tools and fire extinguishers – do not apply to foreign registered vehicles that are in transit or on a temporary entry permit.**

#### **VEHICLE EQUIPMENT**

##### **Rear registration plate light – Sect. 26**

All motor vehicles, motor cycles or trailers are to be equipped with at least one lamp capable of illuminating the rear registration plate.

##### **Spot lights – Sect. 28**

1. A motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than 2 spot lights, fitted at the front of the vehicle at a height below the headlamps (headlamps are referred to in Sect. 18).

2. A spot light fitted to a vehicle and used solely for the purpose of "hunting, searching and night repair work" may be fitted above the height of the headlamps.

**Note:** There is no reference under either Fog Lamps (Sect. 19) or Spot Lights (Sect. 28) to it being an offence to use these during daylight hours (6:30am to 5:30pm).

#### Deposit fines:

- No rear number plate light: \$20.00

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- Use spotlight unlawfully at night: \$15.00

### **EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT**

#### **Warning triangle (referred to as visual warning device) – Sect. 52**

1. Two triangles are mandatory.
2. A pair is required for a trailer as well as for the towing vehicle.

#### Deposit fine:

- Fail to carry Red warning triangle (one only) \$10.00
- Insufficient triangles (two for each drawn vehicle/trailer) \$10.00

#### **Spare wheel, tools and fire extinguisher: all vehicles – Sect. 53**

It is mandatory for a motor vehicle to carry:

1. A “serviceable” spare wheel
2. An “efficient” jack
3. A wheel-brace or wheel-spanner capable of undoing the vehicle’s wheel nuts

#### Deposit fines:

- No serviceable spare wheel [all motor vehicles] \$5.00
- No serviceable jack \$5.00
- No wheel spanner or wheel brace \$5.00

#### **Fire extinguisher**

1. Mandatory. 0,75kg (light vehicles) and 1,5kg minimum (heavy vehicles). 0,75kg are not generally available so 1kg units are commonly purchased.
2. To be SAZ approved or any other International Standards Authority, and displaying the mark of the applicable Standards Authority.
3. To be serviceable.

#### Deposit fines:

- No serviceable fire extinguisher light m/v (0.750kgs) \$5.00
- No serviceable fire extinguisher heavy m/v (1.5kgs) \$5.00

#### **Fluorescent safety jacket – Sect. 74 (4) (b)**

Mandatory for pedal cyclists and motor cyclists at night, and must be SAZ approved.

**Note:** Carrying a fluorescent safety jacket is NOT mandatory for motorists but recommended for personal safety. (It is mandatory in Mozambique).

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Deposit fine:

- Not carrying a fluorescent safety jacket (pedal and motor cyclists) \$5.00

## **VEHICLE LIVERY**

### **Retro reflector: general requirements – Sect. 32**

1. "Retro reflector" (or reflective tape), shall be of the honeycomb grade (high intensity grade) or diamond grade.
2. To be circular, rectangular or circular in shape.
3. If circular, at least 60mm in diameter. A triangular or rectangular shape must have a minimum area of 3,000mm<sup>2</sup>.

### **Trailers (including horse-trailers) – Sect. 41**

1. All trailers to have a White T (extreme right, front) and Red T (extreme right, rear).
2. A light trailer (load capacity which does not exceed 550kg) to display a continuous Red retro reflector at the rear of the vehicle, horizontally to within 400 mm of each side of the trailer.
3. 'Heavy' trailers (load capacity exceeding 550kg) must be fitted with a rear warning sign (a red/yellow chevron plate). Sect. 38. GVM/NVM information to be displayed on the left side. Sect. 72
4. A light trailer is not required to display GVM/NVM information or to be braked.

### Deposit fines:

- No white front reflective "T" (except construction trailers) \$10.00
- No red rear reflective "T" (except construction trailers) \$10.00
- No continuous red rear reflectors (light trailer) \$10.00
- No chevron on the rear (heavy trailer) \$20.00
- Fail to display gross & net mass on left side of the vehicle (trailer) \$10.00

### Deposit fines:

- No red rear reflectors \$20.00
- No white front reflectors \$20.00

### **Safety belts – SI 147/1987 Road Traffic (Safety-belt) Regulations, 1987**

1. Both a driver and passenger occupying the front seat of a light motor vehicle shall wear a safety belt while driving on a road.
2. "Safety-belt" includes both a lap or diagonal strap.

### Deposit fines:

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- Driver fail to wear safety belt \$5.00
- Passenger fail to wear safety belt \$5.00

**Speeding Offences: Road Traffic Act, Chapter 13:11 - All Light Motor Vehicles (Urban and rural)**

- 1 to 5 k.p.h. in excess of speed limit: Caution
- 6 to 15 k.p.h. in excess of speed limit: \$5.00
- 16 to 25 k.p.h. in excess of speed limit: \$10.00
- 26 to 35 k.p.h. in excess of speed limit: \$15.00
- 36 to 50 k.p.h. in excess of speed limit: \$20.00
- Over 50 k.p.h. in excess of speed limit: Court

**GENERAL:**

The Third Plate must be fixed behind the windscreen - SI 427/1999, Section 11 (4). (For ease of inspection we recommend displaying all discs on the left hand side).

Holding or operating a handheld cell phone while driving is illegal - SI 299/2002, Section 16B. High Court Judgement HB157/2012 concluded an appropriate penalty is a \$20.00 fine, failing which 5 days imprisonment.

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## **CONTACT DETAILS**

### **ZRP TRAFFIC**

Police General Headquarters – Complaints desk- (+2634) 703631 (24-hour)

National Complaints line- (+2639) 703631

Spokesperson Traffic –Inspector Chigome- Cell: +263782 951 537

Superintendent Mhlanga- +263772852305

Chief Superintendent Chikunguru - (+2639) 887916 / +263774 319 882

### **EMBASSY**

Zambia – (04) 773 777/80

Botswana – (04) 794 645/7/8

S.A – (04) 760404 / 706136

Mozambique – (04) 255871 /72 /73

### **AFRICAN BUSH CAMPS**

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