MOTOR VEHICLE AND SPEED LIMIT (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 2026

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ROAD TRAFFIC ACT
(CHAPTER 220)

MOTOR VEHICLE AND SPEED LIMIT (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 2026

The Minister, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 31(9) of the Road Traffic Act (*Ch. 220*), makes the following regulations —

1. Citation and commencement.

(1) These Regulations, which amend the Motor Vehicle and Speed Limit Regulations[1], may be cited as the Motor Vehicle and Speed Limit (Amendment) Regulations, 2026.

(2) These Regulations shall come into force on the 1st day of January, 2027.

2. Amendment of regulation 2 of the principal Regulations.

Regulation 2 of the principal Regulations is amended by the insertion, in the appropriate alphabetical order, of the following definitions —

" **"approved mechanic"** means a mechanic whose name is entered in a register of approved mechanics kept by the Controller;

"Certificate of Title" means a Certificate of Title issued under section 30A of the Act;

"Motor Vehicle Title Clearance Certificate" means a certificate issued under regulation 10;

"registered owner" in relation to a motor vehicle, means the owner whose name appears on a Certificate of Title;".

3. Amendment of regulation 7 of the principal Regulations.

Regulation 7 of the principal Regulations is amended —

(a) by the deletion of paragraph (1) and the substitution of the following as a new paragraph (1) —

"(1) Subject to section 30A of the Act, upon the registration of a motor vehicle, the Controller shall supply the owner thereof with a Certificate of Title in Form II of the Schedule.";

(b) in paragraph (2), by the insertion immediately after the word "licensing", of the words "or ownership".

[1]Sub. Leg. Vol. III, CH. 220-11

4. Revocation and replacement of regulation 10 of the principal Regulations.

Regulation 10 of the principal Regulations is revoked and replaced by the following as a new regulation 10 —

" " **10. Motor Vehicle Title Clearance Certificate.**

(1) A registered owner who intends to transfer ownership of a motor vehicle shall, before the transfer, apply to the Controller for a Motor Vehicle Title Clearance Certificate.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to a motor vehicle that —

(a) is imported into The Bahamas for resale;

(b) has not been licensed in The Bahamas; and

(c) is held as stock for sale prior to its first licensing in The Bahamas, by a person who holds a valid business licence authorising that person to carry on the business of selling motor vehicles.

(3) An application under paragraph (1) shall be made in the form and manner as the Controller may approve and shall include —

(a) the name and address of the registered owner;

(b) the name and address of the intended new owner;

(c) the registration number, make, model, year, chassis number and engine number of the motor vehicle;

(d) the period for which the motor vehicle licence is current; and

(e) such other particulars as the Controller may require.

(4) If the Controller is satisfied that —

(a) the motor vehicle has a current licence; or

(b) if the motor vehicle was not licensed for any period —

(i) all outstanding licence fees and penalties payable in respect of any period during which the motor vehicle was roadworthy have been paid; and

(ii) an approved mechanic has verified, in accordance with paragraph (5), that the motor vehicle was not capable of being safely driven on a road during that period,

the Controller shall issue a Motor Vehicle Title Clearance Certificate on payment of a fee of fifty dollars.

(5) A verification by an approved mechanic for the purposes of paragraph (4) shall be in such form as the Controller may approve and shall include —

(a) the registration number, make, model, year, chassis number and engine number of the motor vehicle;

(b) the period during which the motor vehicle was not capable of being safely driven on a road;

(c) the reasons why the motor vehicle was not capable of being safely driven on a road during that period;

(d) the name, address and approval number of the approved mechanic; and

(e) the signature of the approved mechanic.

(6) A Motor Vehicle Title Clearance Certificate shall be as set out in Form III of the Schedule and shall —

(a) state the name of the registered owner and the intended new owner;

(b) be issued in respect of a single transfer from the registered owner to the intended new owner named in the certificate; and

(c) not be transferable.

(7) A Motor Vehicle Title Clearance Certificate remains valid until the earlier of —

(a) the expiration of six months from the date of issue; or

(b) the expiration of thirty days from the date on which ownership of the motor vehicle is transferred, as shown on the Certificate of Title.

(8) A Motor Vehicle Title Clearance Certificate is void if the motor vehicle is transferred to a person other than the intended new owner named in the certificate.

(9) A person who —

(a) makes a false statement in an application for a Motor Vehicle Title Clearance Certificate;

(b) submits a false verification by an approved mechanic; or

(c) makes a false statement in a verification required under this regulation,

shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of two hundred dollars.

(10) The Controller shall keep a register of approved mechanics.

(11) The Controller may refuse to enter the name of a mechanic in the register of approved mechanics, or may remove the name of an approved mechanic from that register, if the Controller is satisfied that the mechanic —

(a) is not a fit and proper person to be an approved mechanic;

(b) has submitted a false or misleading verification;

(c) has failed to comply with these Regulations.

(12) The Controller shall notify the mechanic in writing of any refusal or removal under paragraph (11) and the reasons for the refusal or removal.

5. Insertion of new regulation 10A into the principal Regulations.

The principal Regulations is amended by the insertion, immediately after regulation 10, of the following as a new regulation 10A —

" **10A. Change of ownership and amendment of register.**

(1) If the ownership of a motor vehicle is changed, the new owner shall, within thirty days after the date of execution of the transfer section of the certificate of title, apply to the Controller for the registration and licensing of the motor vehicle in the name of the new owner.

(2) An application made under paragraph (1) shall be accompanied by —

(a) the Certificate of Title;

(b) the Motor Vehicle Title Clearance Certificate;

(c) an appropriate certificate of insurance; and

(c) any other document or information required by the Controller.

(3) On receipt of an application under paragraph (1) and payment of the prescribed fee, the Controller shall —

(a) make the necessary alterations in the register; and

(b) issue a new licence to the new owner or endorse an existing licence in conformity with the altered entries in the register.

(4) If a new owner fails to comply with paragraph (1) within the period specified in that paragraph, the new owner shall, in addition to any other prescribed fee, pay a late registration fee of one hundred dollars.

(5) If any circumstances, other than a change of ownership, occur in relation to any motor vehicle which affect the accuracy of any particulars entered in the register, the owner shall without delay inform the Controller and, on receipt of the information, the Controller shall —

(a) cause the entries respecting that motor vehicle in the register to be amended; and,

(b) if necessary, amend the licence in respect of that motor vehicle.

(6) The Controller may supply any applicant with a copy of the entries relating to any specified motor vehicle.

(7) The Commissioner of Police and any peace officer authorised by the Commissioner shall have access to the register at all reasonable times.

(8) A copy of the entries in the register, purporting to be signed by the Controller, shall be received in evidence without further proof, unless it is shown that the signature is not that of the Controller.".

6. Amendment of the Schedule to the principal Regulations.

The Schedule to the principal Regulations is amended by the insertion, immediately after Form II, of the following as a new Form III —

"**FORM III**

(regulation 10)

MOTOR VEHICLE TITLE CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that, for the purposes of regulation 10 of the Motor Vehicle and Speed Limit Regulations, the Controller is satisfied that the motor vehicle described below is cleared for transfer from the registered owner to the intended new owner named in this Certificate.

1. Registered owner

Name: _____

Address: _____

Certificate of Title No.: _____

2. Intended new owner

Name: _____

Address: _____

3. Motor vehicle particulars

Registration number: _____

Make: _____

Model: _____

Year: _____

Chassis number: _____

Engine number: _____

4. Licensing status

The motor vehicle —

[ ] has a current licence; or

[ ] was not licensed for a period and the Controller is satisfied that al outstanding licence fees and penalties have been paid for any period during which the motor vehicle was roadworthy, and that an approve mechanic has verified that the motor vehicle was not capable of being safely driven on a road during the period stated in the approved mechanic's verification.

5. Validity

This Certificate remains valid until the earlier of —

(a) six months from the date of issue; or

(b) thirty days from the date on which ownership of the motor vehicle is transferred, as shown on the Certificate of Title.

This Certificate is issued in respect of a single transfer from the registered owner to the intended new owner named in this Certificate and is void if the motor vehicle is transferred to any other person.

_____

Controller of Road Traffic".

Made this day of , 2026.

MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR ROAD TRAFFIC