

**Virgin Islands Drivers Manual**

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# Virgin Islands Drivers Manual

## DRIVERS LICENSING INFORMATION

This manual is designed to help you obtain an operator's license. All manuals are available at the **Motor Vehicle Bureau**. The Motor Vehicle Bureau, also known as **MVB**, is the agency that issues driver's licenses in the Virgin Islands.

### WHO NEEDS A VIRGIN ISLANDS DRIVER'S LICENSE?

In general, anyone operating a motor vehicle on the Virgin Islands streets or highways must have a **valid** driver's license.

#### Exception:

1. (There are a few specific cases involving movement of **Military** vehicles where a license is not needed). If you are a resident of the Virgin Islands, you must possess a valid Virgin Islands operator license in order to drive a motor vehicle on the Virgin Islands streets and/or highways.

### YOU ARE A RESIDENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS IF YOU:

- Live in the Virgin Islands for three months or more in a calendar year.

**An "out-of-state student" enrolled in the University of the Virgin Islands is NOT considered a resident.**

#### New Resident:

You will be required to surrender your **out-of-state** driver's license when you apply for a Virgin Islands license. If you do not have your license in your possession or if it expired you will have to obtain written clearance from your previous state indicating that your license in that state has not been cancelled suspended or revoked.

#### If your Driver's license has been cancelled, suspended, or revoked...

Then you will need to complete a written and a road test. The term of your first Virgin Islands Driver's License is five (5) years. A person in possession of a valid license from a foreign country must obtain a thirty (30) day permit from the Motor Vehicle Bureau, providing that the person meet the requirement.

#### Items Needed to Obtain a Driver License:

1. Two - (2) passport size photo
2. You will be required to prove both your identity and date of birth when you apply for a Virgin Islands Drivers License. You will have to provide **two** (2) original or certified copies (**no photocopies**) of documents indicating your **legal** name - and one of these must also state your date of birth.
  - Birth Certificate - US. only
  - Passport - U. S or British
  - Naturalization Certificate
  - Alien Registration Card
  - Social Security Card
  - Previous Driver License
  - Military Identification Card

#### Parent/Guardian Approval for Applicants under 18:

If you are under 18 years of age, your application for an instruction permit or driver license must be signed by at least one responsible adult. If your natural parents are still married; only one signature is required. If they are divorced, both may have to sign, depending upon the custody arrangement. In some cases, foster parents or legal guardians may sign. The signature(s) must be witnessed by an employee of the **Motor Vehicle Bureau**. If you are uncertain about the signature requirements for your applications, please contact the Motor Vehicle Bureau for advice.

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The person who signed the driver's license application for a minor, as well as the persons who is responsible for the minor, may cancel the minors license by submitting a "**Affidavit to cancel the license of minor**", at the Motor Vehicle Bureau.

### **DRIVER LICENSE TESTS:**

The Motor Vehicle Bureau Drivers License Program is responsible for screening and testing drivers' license applicants. This helps to ensure that these prospective Virgin Islands drivers have the necessary knowledge and ability to safely handle the vehicle(s) they will be driving. Several of these tests or screening activities may be applicable to you.

#### **Vision Screening:**

As part of your driver license test, you will be given a simple vision exam. If you wear prescription glasses or contact lens for distant vision, be sure to wear them. You must have uncorrected vision of 20/40 or better in at least one eye in order to obtain an unrestricted license. If you cannot meet this requirement without glasses or contact lens, you will be given a license with an "A" restriction. An "A" restriction means you must always wear your glasses or contact lens when driving. A test of visual field will also be given to check how far you can see to the side while keeping your eyes straight ahead.

An applicant for a license, duplicate license or reinstatement of driving privileges, may be required to complete a vision screening.

#### **Written Test(s):**

When applying for your first Virgin Islands operator license or instructions permit, you will be required to pass a written test based on the information contained in this manual. If you are applying for a Motorcycle license, you will ALSO be tested on the information contained in this manual.

Written tests are available in English and Spanish. If you cannot read any of these languages well enough to take a written test, arrangements can be made for an oral examination.

#### **If you are renewing a Virgin Islands license, you will have to take the written test, if:**

1. Driver License has been revoked.
2. Driver License has been expired for more than one year.

#### **Road Test:**

The road test consists of parallel parking followed by driving in traffic with a certified driving instructor. Your score will be based on the driving skills you demonstrate to the instructor. The skills are explained in this manual.

If you have an expired **out-of-state** driver's license in your possession you will be required to take both the written and road test.

You must provide the vehicle to be used for the test. The vehicle must be in good operating condition, and it must have current registration, plates and stickers. Your vehicle must be equipped with seat belts and these belts must be properly fastened and adjusted.

During the road test, you maybe require to show that you can understand the meaning of the following universal traffic signs.

- Stop
- Slow Down
- Left or Right Lane
- Drive Straight Ahead
- Turn Left At Next Street; Corner, Stop Sign, Traffic Light
- Turn Right At Next Street, Corner, Stop Sign, Traffic Light

### **ADDITIONAL MVB SERVICES:**

#### **Duplicate License:**

If your Virgin Islands license is lost, stolen, or becomes unreadable, or if your address or name

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changes, you must obtain a duplicate at the Motor Vehicle Bureau. You must provide two (2) acceptable items of identification. If your name has changed, you will need to present identification in both your new and previous names.

### **DRIVER'S LICENSE:**

The driver's license must be in possession of a driver at all times while the vehicle is being operated.

### **CHAPTER I - RULES OF THE ROAD**

#### **1-1 DRIVE ON THE LEFT:**

In the United States, Canada, and most of the countries of the world right hand traffic is the rule. This means they drive on the right side of the road. In the United States Virgin Islands, the law requires that we stay as far to the left edge of the road as is practical. There are three exceptions:

1. When you are preparing to make a right turn.
2. When on a highway of more than two lanes, where the left lane is designated for slow moving traffic.
3. When entering the right lane temporarily to pass a slower-moving vehicle, a pedestrian, an animal or an obstruction.

#### **1-2 MEETING; PASSING; TURNING; SIGNALS:**

Vehicles meeting one another shall keep as far to the left as practicable. When a vehicle overtakes another, it shall pass it on the right side. It shall be unlawful to overtake and pass another motor vehicle on a curve, at the intersection of another road or when approaching the top of a hill. No motor vehicle shall overtake and pass another one unless the road ahead is clear of other vehicles, pedestrians or any other traffic, for a reasonable distance of approximately 200 feet.

- By law, you may not enter the opposing lane for any purpose under the following conditions:

1. Approaching the crest of a hill.
2. Approaching a curve when you can not see around it.
3. When your vision is obstructed
4. When you are traveling slowly in comparison with other traffic.

#### **1-3 PASSING OTHER VEHICLES:**

- Signal all changes of direction, including all lane changes, using either the standard hand signals or flashing your directional lights.

- You should always pass vehicles going in your direction on the right. Before entering the right lane, check the following traffic in your rear view and side mirrors. Be sure you have time and space enough to overtake the vehicle ahead and return to the left lane before an approaching vehicle comes within 200 feet of you.

- After passing the vehicle, wait until you can see its front bumper in your rear view mirror before returning to the left lane. While traveling at high speeds on highways, wait even longer to avoid cutting off the passed motorist. Generally, wait until you can see a vehicle length or two of pavements in front of the vehicle just passed.

- You may pass a motor vehicle on the left only in these situations:

1. When the vehicle ahead is making a right turn.
2. When you are driving on a one-way street or highway, with two or more lanes, and there are no signs that forbid it.
3. When you are on a road with two or more lanes of traffic on each direction, and no signs forbid it.

- Under no circumstances shall you pass another vehicle when it has stopped at a crosswalk to allow a pedestrian to cross.

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### 1-4 PASSING BUSES:

- It is prohibited by the Virgin Island's law to pass Handicap, School, and senior buses when they are loading and discharging passengers.
- A school bus is a vehicle painted in a bright yellow color (called "National School Bus Chrome"); with large, black letter "School Bus" signs on the back and front of the vehicle. It also must have at least one large red flashing light on the front, and one on the rear.
- When the bus stops to load or unload passengers, the driver turns on the red flashing lights by opening the door. You may not proceed in either direction while these red lights are flashing. You may drive by carefully, if waved on by the driver or a police officer.
- Always use the greatest caution in approaching a stopped or slowing school bus. The bus is a warning that children are in the area and may dart out suddenly. This school bus law applies on all roads within the United States Virgin Islands.

### 1-5 WHEN YOU ARE PASSED:

- When a vehicle begins to pass you, stay to your left as far as possible, without going off the pavement, and slow your vehicle slightly. Allow the other vehicle to get back in front of you before resuming your normal speed.

## CHAPTER II - INTERSECTIONS

### 2-1 RIGHT-OF-WAY:

The basic rule of conduct at an intersection is the rule of right-of-way. The law defines right-of-way as:

The right of one vehicle or Pedestrian to proceed lawfully in preference to another vehicle or pedestrian approaching. Generally, at an intersection that lacks traffic control device, the vehicle on your left has the privilege of going first, but there are several exceptions to this rule:

- A vehicle already in the intersection has right-of-way over a vehicle preparing to enter. A vehicle going straight ahead has the right-of-way over a vehicle turning right. Fire engines, ambulances, and other emergency vehicles on emergency duty have the right-of-way over all other traffic. Such vehicles will display flashing blue or red lights and sound a horn or siren. When you hear or see such a vehicle on emergency duty, drive immediately to the left edge of the road and stop in a position parallel to the curb. You must not proceed until the emergency vehicle has passed. Keep intersection clear.
- Pedestrians in crosswalks **have the right-of-way over all vehicles.**

### 2-2 PEDESTRIAN INDICATION AND SERVICE SIGNS:

These signs indicate motorist services and locations. (Samples below)

Indication Signs:



#### Steady White - Walk

Step off curb and walk. Cars are prohibited from crossing.

#### Flashing White - Walk

Step off curb and walk with caution. Cars may cross crosswalk but must defer to pedestrians.

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### Flashing Orange - Don't Walk

Don't leave sidewalk but if you have started under a walk signal continue crossing to far side of road.

### Steady Orange - Don't Walk

1. Do not leave curb.
2. A vehicle entering a main road from a private road or driveway must yield the right-of-way to all traffic on the main road.
3. A vehicle is prohibited from entering an intersection, despite the traffic control signal, if there is not enough room to proceed through.

### 2-3 TURNING TIPS:

1. Look around; be sure you can make the turn safely.
2. Reduce speed.
3. Signal your intention to turn at least 100 feet (four vehicle lengths) before you reach the turn.
4. Use either your directional lights or hand signals.
5. On any right turn, if approaching traffic prevents you making your turn immediately, move into the center of the intersection in your lane and wait there for traffic to clear.

This allows traffic behind you to proceed on your left. Keep you wheels straight until you can turn so that if you are struck from the rear, you will not be pushed into the on-coming traffic.

1. **A driver approaching an intersection must yield the right-of-way to traffic already lawfully using the intersection.**
2. **If drivers approaching from opposite directions reach an intersection at about the same time, a driver turning right must yield to approaching traffic going straight or turning left.**
3. **At intersections not controlled by signs or signals, or where two or more drivers stop at STOP signs at the same time and they are at left angles to one another, the driver on the right must yield the right-of-way to the driver on the left.**
4. **A vehicle entering a roadway from a driveway, alley, private road or any other place that is not a roadway must stop and yield the right-of-way to traffic on the roadway, and to pedestrians.**
5. **Drivers must yield to pedestrians legally using marked or unmarked crosswalks.**
6. **You may not enter an intersection if traffic is backed up on the other side and you cannot get all the way through the intersection. Wait until traffic ahead clears, so you don't block the intersection.**

### 2-4 TURNING REGULATIONS:

**Left Turn:** Drive up to the turn as far to the left as possible. Make the turn as close as possible to the left curb or edge of the road.

**Left turn from a One-Way Road into a Two-Way Road:** Approach the turn in the left lane. Make the turn to the left of the center of the intersection and leave the intersection to the left of the center of the road you are entering.

## CHAPTER III – PEDESTRIANS

### 3-1 OTHER HIGHWAY USERS:

1. Drivers must often share the highway with pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, farm vehicles, and horseback riders. These other highway users also must obey traffic rules and regulations. As a driver, you must know the special rules that apply to them so that you can avoid right-of-way conflicts that may result in traffic accidents.
2. Pedestrians are the highway users most at risk in traffic. As a driver, you must use extra caution to

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avoid pedestrian accidents. Regardless of the rules of the road or right-of-way, the law specifically requires you to exercise great care to avoid striking pedestrians.

3. Children must always receive special attention and consideration. When approaching children, be extra alert. They may forget or ignore the traffic rules and behave in an unpredictable manner.
4. Children are often the least predictable pedestrians, as well as the hardest to see. Take extra care to look out for children, especially near schools, bus stops, playgrounds, and parks.
5. When backing up, remember to look through your rear window for pedestrians. Do not rely only on mirrors. Before backing out of a driveway when children are near, get out of the vehicle and check behind it.
6. Pedestrians are supposed to walk on the side of the road facing traffic, so they should be on your left. Be especially watchful for pedestrians when you make a left turn.
7. Remember also that pedestrians legally crossing at intersections always have the right-of-way.
8. There is a special right-of-way law for blind pedestrians crossing the road with a guide dog or a white or metallic cane. You must always give them the right-of-way, even if the traffic signals or other right-of-way rules are not in their favor.
9. Remember to keep your eyes moving as you drive. Glance to either side every few seconds.
10. This defensive driving rule will help you spot pedestrians near or approaching the roadway.

### **The law gives pedestrians some responsibilities too. They must:**

1. Obey traffic and pedestrian signals and traffic officer
2. Use sidewalks when available, or walk facing traffic, as far to the left as possible.
3. Never stand in the road to hitchhike or conduct business with passing motorists.

### **3-2 PEDESTRIANS MUST:**

1. Follow directions given by all traffic and pedestrian control signals, and police officers.
2. Use sidewalks, when available, and do not walk in the street.
3. Walk on the side of the road facing oncoming traffic. If there are no sidewalks, walk on the shoulder. Do not hitchhike by standing on any portion of the roadway to solicit a ride.
4. Do not stand in the road to sell merchandise or engage in any other business activity with passing motorists.
5. At night, if possible, you should wear light-colored clothes and carry a light to make your presence known to motorists.

### **3-3 PEDESTRIANS HAVE THE RIGHT-OF-WAY WHEN:**

#### **Title 23 Subsection 374 of the Virgin Islands Code Subchapter XII Pedestrian Act**

1. They are crossing the roadway at an intersection when the green light or pedestrian WALK signal is in their favor.
2. They are crossing within a marked or unmarked crosswalk where there is no traffic signal.
3. They are on a sidewalk that crossed an alley entrance or driveway.
4. They are blind and are crossing the street with white or metallic canes or are accompanied by guide dogs.

Drivers should be particularly alert for unexpected movement of nearby pedestrians. They should use extreme caution when driving in areas of special hazard such as school zones, bus stops, play grounds, and parks. Motorists may use their horns as warning devices, but with discretion.

## **CHAPTER IV - MOTORCYCLIST/SCOOTERS AND MOPED OPERATORS**

### **4-1 MOTORCYCLISTS:**

Motorcycles, scooters, and moped operators must obey all the standard automobile traffic laws and the following special rules of the road:

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Motorcyclists travel as fast as automobiles, and their drivers must obey the same traffic laws, but cyclists also share problems faced by pedestrians and bicyclists: lower visibility, and less stability and protection.

- To improve their visibility, motorcyclists are required to keep their headlights and taillights on at all times. For protection, cyclists are required to wear approved helmets and goggles or a face shield.
- It is often hard to judge how far away a motorcycle, scooter, or moped is, or how fast it is going. Many car and motorcycle accidents occur when the car driver turns right in front of the motorcyclist and scooter and moped after misjudging the cyclist's speed or distance.
- It is recommended that all motorcyclists wear shoes or boots, while operating motorcycles.
- On many motorcycles, the directional signal does not go off automatically after a turn. Before turning in front of a motorcyclist signaling a turn, be sure the cyclist is actually going to turn.
- A motorcyclist, scooter and moped have the right to the full use of a lane, and cyclists are allowed to ride two abreast in a single lane. An experienced cyclist may often change position within a lane to get a clearer view of traffic, avoid hazards and be more visible to drivers. You may not pass or drive alongside a motorcycle in the same lane with you.
- Also take care when passing motorcyclist, scooter and moped like bicycles, motorcycles, scooters, and moped can be affected by the air pressure of passing vehicles.
- Motorcyclists, scooters and mopeds must take special precautions when they come upon special highway surfaces, and you should be aware of what a cyclist may do in certain situations.
- The cyclist may quickly change speed or lane position to avoid loose gravel, debris, seams or grooves in the pavement, manhole covers or small animals.

### **4-2 Motorcycles, scooters, and moped must obey all the standard automobile traffic laws and the following special rules of the road:**

1. They must not ride more than two abreast.
2. They must not ride between rows of vehicles in lanes of traffic, or between vehicles in the traffic lane and vehicles parked at the curb or side of the road.
3. They must pass other vehicles to the right, except on one-way streets and multiple lane highways, and they must move fully into the adjoining lane to do so.
4. They must ride within a traffic lane, not on the edges of the lane.
5. They must signal all turns and stops.
6. They must turn on the head and tail lamps whenever the motorcycle is in operation.

### **4-3 MOPED OPERATORS:**

Limited use motorcycles, often called mopeds or scooters are low speed two-wheeled vehicles intended for limited use on public highways.

## **CHAPTER V – BICYCLISTS:**

### **5-1 BICYCLISTS**

Bicyclists have the right to share the road, traveling in the same direction as vehicles. Like pedestrians, bicyclists are often difficult to spot in traffic and have little protection.

Approach bicyclists with extreme caution. Give them room and slowdown when you pass them. Air pressure from a quickly passing vehicle can throw a bicyclist off balance.

Be aware that a bicyclist may react to road hazards just like a motorcyclist would.

The rules of the road and right-of-way apply to and protect bicyclists. You must yield the right-of-way to a bicyclist just as you would to another vehicle. Bicyclists must obey the rules of the road just as vehicle drivers do.

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### 5-2 Bicyclists also must:

- Signal turns, lane changes and stops using the hand signals. A bicyclist may signal a right turn by extending the right arm straight out to the right, instead of using the standard signal for car drivers.

### Hand Signals (Use left hand)



- Never carry an infant under a year old as a passenger. It's against the law. The law also requires that child passenger's one through four years old wear approved bicycle safety helmets and ride in securely attached bicycle safety seats.
- The bicyclist must ride near the left curb or edge of the road, or on a usable left shoulder of the road, to avoid undue interference with other traffic. The rule of staying to the left does not apply when a bicyclist is preparing for a right turn or must move right to avoid hazards.
- Come to a full stop before entering a roadway from a drive-way, alley or over a curb.
- Never ride more than two abreast in a single lane or carry a passenger unless the bicycle has a passenger seat.
- Keep at least one hand on the handlebars at all times, and do not carry anything that will interfere with proper control of the bicycle.
- Never ride on sidewalks

A bicycle driven on public highways must be equipped with adequate brakes and a horn or bell that can be heard at least 100 feet away. A bicycle used at night must have a headlight visible from at least 500 feet behind. One of these lights must also be visible from at least 200 feet away on each side. A bicycle sold by a dealer must have wide-angle, spoke-mounted reflectors or reflective tires, a wide-angle rear reflector, and pedal reflectors.

Bicyclists must obey the same traffic laws as motor vehicle operators. They must ride on the extreme left edge of the road or on the shoulder. Signal all turns and stops, using the standard hand signals. Obey all traffic signs, signals, and pavement markings.

Local ordinance prohibits the riding of bicycles on the sidewalk. Stay off the sidewalks. Never hang on to other moving vehicles by any method. Never carry a passenger unless an attached seat is available. Always keep at least one hand on the handle bar. Never carry articles that interfere with proper control.

### 5-3 The following equipment is required on all bicycles:

1. Brakes strong enough to skid the braked wheels on dry, level lean pavement.
2. A bell or other audible signal (but not a siren or whistle) that can be heard at least 100 feet away.
3. For after dark riding, a headlight that is visible at least 500 feet ahead and a red tail-light visible 300 feet to the rear. At least one of these lights must be visible for at least 200 feet in any direction.

### CHAPTER VI - SLOW MOVING VEHICLES:

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### 6-1 FARM VEHICLES:

Most farm vehicles, construction equipment and vehicles drawn by animals must display on the rear the slow moving vehicle emblem, a fluorescent or reflective orange triangle. Use caution when approaching a slow moving vehicle and be sure it is safe before you pass.



## CHAPTER VII -HORSEBACK RIDERS

### 7-1 HORSEBACK RIDERS:

Horseback riders are subject to, and protected by, the rules of the road. In addition, they must ride single file near the left curb or road edge, or on a usable left shoulder, lane or path.

The law requires you to exercise due care when approaching a horse being ridden or led along a road. You must drive a reasonable speed a reasonable distance away from the horse. It is illegal to sound your horn when approaching or passing a horse.

### Title 20 Virgin Islands Code - Section 496 Motor Vehicles Meeting Animals

"Every person operating a motor vehicle shall on a signal by a person riding, leading, or driving horses or other draught animals, bring the motor vehicle to a stop, and if traveling in the opposite direction, remain stationary as long as may be reasonable to allow such animals to pass. If traveling in the same direction the driver of the motor vehicle shall use reasonable caution. If such animals appear to be badly frightened, the person operating the motor vehicle, when signaled or requested to do so, shall cause the motor of the vehicle to cease running for so long a time as shall be reasonable to prevent accident, and to insure the safety of those concerned."

## CHAPTER VIII - TRAFFIC CONTROL

### 8-1 TRAFFIC SIGNALS:

Traffic signs tell you about traffic rules, special hazards, where you are, how to get where you're going and where services are available.

The flow of traffic on our streets and highways are controlled by various signal lights, traffic signs, and pavement markings. You must fully understand their meaning in order to drive safely. There are also various requirements concerning vehicle equipment that you should know. This section provides information about these important basics:

The shape and color of traffic signs give clues to the type of information they provide:



**TRAFFIC SIGNAL  
AHEAD**

### 8-2 Signal Lights:

Signal lights (red, yellow, and green) are placed at many intersections to regulate the direction and flow of traffic. These traffic lights apply to bicyclists, scooters and moped riders as well as motorists. You must obey the signals unless a police officer is directing traffic.

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### 8-3 Red Lights:

This signal means stop. You must come to a complete stop before you reach the intersection, stop line or crosswalk. Remain stopped for as long as the light stays red. Where not prohibited by signs, a left turn may be made after coming to a complete stop, when motor traffic and pedestrian traffic are clear.

### 8-4 Yellow Light:

This signal means **Caution**. A steady yellow light is a warning that the light is about to turn red. If you have not entered the intersection, you should come to a safe stop. If you are already in the intersection, you should continue moving and clear it safely. **SPEEDING UP TO "BEAT THE LIGHT" IS ILLEGAL AND COULD CAUSE AN ACCIDENT.**

### 8-5 Green Light:

This signal means **Go**. You may go through an intersection in the direction indicated by the **SIGNAL IF THE ROAD WAY IS CLEAR**. Check left and right for oncoming traffic.

### 8-6 Flashing Red Light:

A flashing red light has the same meaning as a **Stop** sign. You must come to a full stop; then, proceed when the roadway is clear.

### 8-7 Red Arrow:



A lighted red arrow warns that you may not turn in the direction of the arrow. You must stop and wait for the green arrow to appear.

### 8-8 Yellow Arrow:



A yellow arrow warns that the light is about to change to red. If you have not entered the intersection, you should come to a complete stop. If you are already in the intersection, you should continue your turn and clear the intersection safely.

### 8-9 Green Arrow:



A green arrow appearing alone or with another signal light means that you may proceed in the direction of the arrow if you are in the proper lane and the roadway is clear.

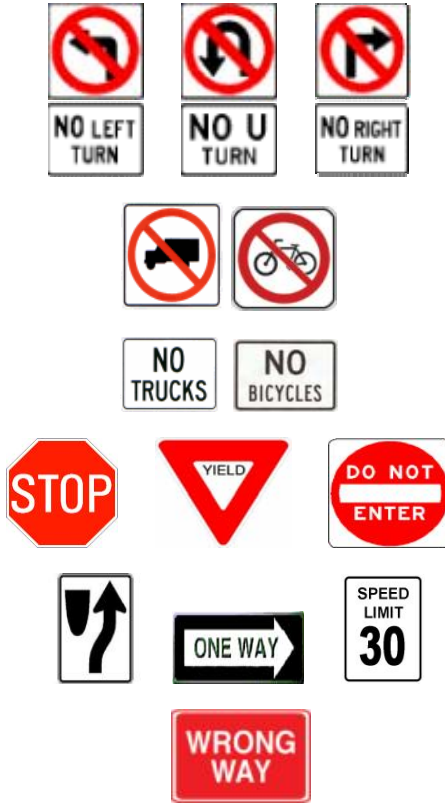
### 8-10 Traffic Signs:

Traffic signs regulate traffic and also provide important information.

### 8-11 Regulation Signs:

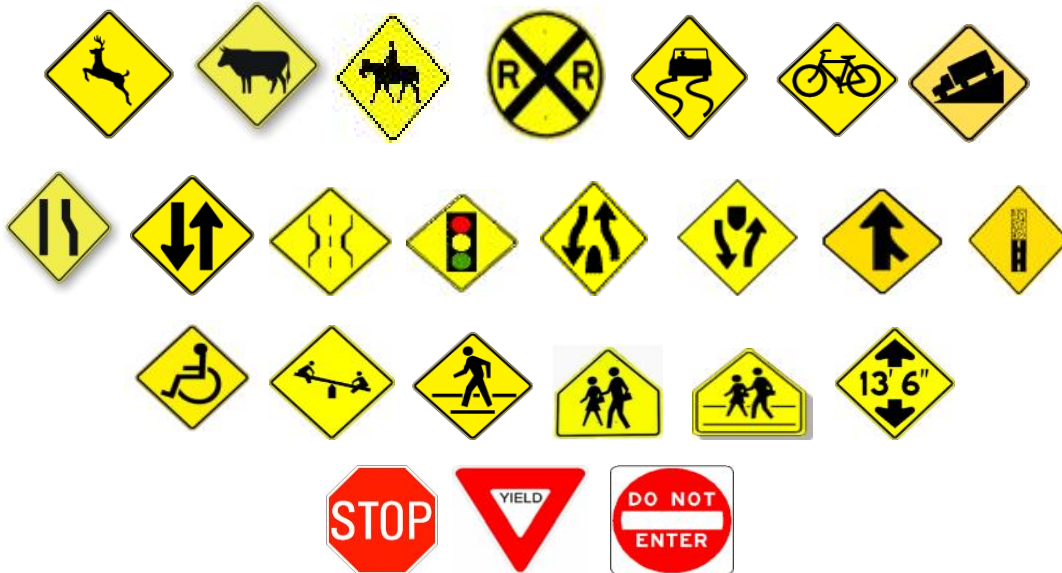
Are usually white rectangles with black lettering or symbols, but some are different shapes, and some may use red letters or symbols.

## Virgin Islands Drivers Manual



### 8.12 Warning Signs:

Are usually yellow and diamond-shaped with black lettering or symbols.



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### 8-13 Destination Signs:

Are green with white letters and symbols.



## CHAPTER IX - TRAFFIC SIGNS

### 9-1 GENERAL:

Colors and shapes help motorists to recognize the various types of objects (The following are examples).

#### Colors:

**Red** - indicates Stop or prohibits (general warning):

#### Shapes:

**Triangle** - traffic regulation or information;

**Pennant** - no passing or school crossing;

Full color samples of the more common road signs are printed on next page. Regulations for these signs are given in the following sections.

### 9-2 STOP SIGN:

Signs with the white letters "STOP" on it mean that you must come to a full stop at an intersection and then proceed with caution after yielding the right-of-way to any vehicle that has entered the intersection from another road or that is so close as to be an immediate hazard.



If there is a stop line marked on the highway, you must come to a stop at the stop line. If there is none, then stop before entering the crosswalk. If there is neither a stop line nor a crosswalk, stop at the point nearest the intersecting road where you can see approaching traffic in both directions.

### 9-3 YIELD SIGN:

A down pointed triangle with the red letters "YIELD" on a white background or (on older signs) black letters on a yellow background means that you must slow down as you approach the intersection and be prepared to stop.

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If necessary, you must yield the right-of-way to other vehicles and pedestrians. It means the same thing as a "STOP" sign, except that you may proceed without a full stop if it is safe to do so.

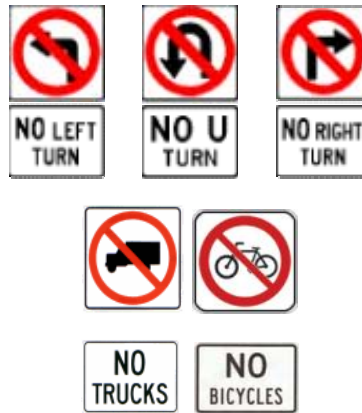


### 9-4 REGULATORY SIGNS:

May be rectangular signs with black letters on a white background or square black and white symbol signs with a red circle and a red diagonal slash mark. The driver must obey the regulations on these signs.



These signs warn the public about various regulations i.e.,



Some parking signs, which are within this category, have red or green letters on the white background.



### 9-5 WARNING SIGNS:

Warning signs are diamond shaped signs with black letters or symbols on a yellow background. These signs warn you of physical hazards such as curves or steep hills.



### 9-6 NO PASSING ZONE:

May be supplemented by rectangular black and yellow signs, which shows recommended speeds or provides additional information about the special condition. Pennant shaped signs on the left side of the road mark the beginning of a no-passing zone.

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## 9-7 SCHOOL ZONE:

The new school and school crossing signs have five-sides with black illustrations on a yellow background.



## 9-8 DESTINATION SIGNS:

Rectangular signs with white letters on a green background that shows destinations, directions, or distances.

## 9-9 ROUTE, SIGNS:

Almost all Virgin Islands roads have numbered route markers. Different shapes and colors show the various routes. Before starting on a trip, it is wise to plan the sequence of route number you will follow. Although route intersections bear route numbers, many do not have signs that provide local street names or destinations. It is; therefore, wise to plan your trip ahead of time. For the convenience of travelers, even numbers are east-west routes; odd numbers, north-south routes.



## 9-10 OTHER SIGNS:

Other temporary and permanent signs display guidance for the motorist. These include rest area signs, road construction signs, and directions to services such as hospitals and gasoline stations.



**TO STOP TRAFFIC**



**TO LET TRAFFIC PROCEED**



**TO ALERT AND SLOW TRAFFIC**

**CHAPTER X -PAVEMENT MARKING**

**10-1 PAVEMENT MARKINGS:**

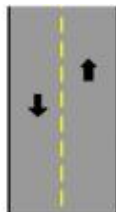
Pavement markings are used to guide and warn drivers, as well as to regulate traffic. Markings may be either yellow or white and can appear in combinations; each combination has a different meaning. Yellow center lines indicate that there is two-way traffic (flowing in both directions). White lines are used to separate lanes of traffic moving in the same direction and to mark the edge of the roadway, stop lines, and pedestrian crosswalks.

**10-2 LANE MARKINGS:**

The highways in the Virgin Islands are marked with white or yellow lines to guide motorists in their actions. Each of these lines has a specific meaning.

**10-3 A SINGLE BROKEN LINE:**

This line defines traffic lanes. White separates lanes of traffic moving in the same direction. Yellow separates lanes of traffic moving in opposite directions. You may pass if crossing will not interfere with traffic.



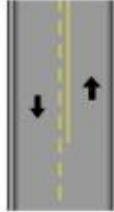
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### 10-4 A SINGLE SOLID WHITE LINE:

This is a warning line. Normally you should not change lanes, but you may, if conditions require.

### 10-5 DOUBLE YELLOW AND WHITE LINES:

If the line on your side is solid, you cannot cross unless turning right into or out of a driveway or alley. If the line on your side is a broken line, you may pass if traffic permits.



### 10-6 EDGE MARKING:

This is a single solid line that shows the roadway edge. The line is white on two-way roadways and on the left edges of one-way roadways.



### 10-7 ARROWS:

White arrows are painted on some highways lane to help guide drivers into the proper lanes for turns and through traffic. Changes in the width of traffic, lane or changes in the number of traffic lanes are indicated by a diagonal change in the lanes or the edge markings.

## CHAPTER XI - PARKING, BACKING AND TURNING

### 11-1 HOW TO PARK:

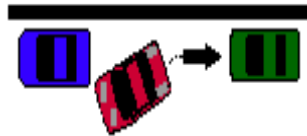
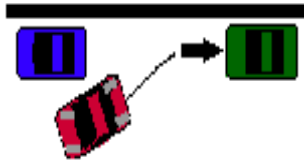
Unless otherwise directed by signs or pavement markings, you must park parallel to and within 12 inches of the curb or edge of the roadway, facing in the same direction as traffic on your side of the road. (The illustration shows how to park your vehicle).



Select a space large enough to fit your vehicle, and stop alongside the vehicle ahead, about two feet away from the vehicle. Use the appropriate signal to show you are stopping. Never park your vehicle where it will be a hazard to traffic. To prevent vehicle theft, turn off the motor and remove the keys.

In vehicles with ignition lock, lock the ignition before leaving the vehicle. For further protection, lock your vehicle doors.

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If you must get out of the vehicle on the traffic side, always turn your head and check for oncoming vehicles before opening the door. You may open your door if it does not present a hazard to oncoming vehicles.



When you are ready to leave the curb, warn on-coming drivers and pedestrians by signaling with your turn signals or hand signals. Hand signals are preferable. Turn your head and look back to make sure that the way is clear before you start into traffic.

### 11-2 PARKING-ON-A-GRADE:

When parking your vehicle on a grade, you must take special precautions to keep the vehicle from running into traffic. Always set the parking brake, and lock the transmission. If you have an automatic transmission, leave it in the PARK position. If you have a manual transmission, leave it in reverse or low gear. In addition, turn the front wheels so that they are into the curb. If there is no curb at the parking place, then your wheels should be turned so that they will guide the vehicle off the highway in the event it begins to roll. If you are pointing downhill, turn your wheels so that they will guide your vehicle off the road in a forward direction. If your vehicle is pointing uphill, turn your wheels to the side of the road so that if it begins to roll downward it will back off the road.

### 11-3 PARKING:

- (1) Before leaving a motor vehicle, the driver shall turn off the motor and put on the brake.
- (2) A vehicle shall be considered parked when the vehicle and its motor have been stopped and the driver has left the vehicle.
- (3) No motor vehicle shall be parked within ten (10) feet of any fire hydrant, or less than ten (10) feet from any corner.
- (4) Motor vehicles shall not be stopped where they impede traffic, and they shall be parked in places and in the manner designated by the Commissioner of the Virgin Islands Police Department. No automobile shall be stopped on the public street or highway, nearer than three (3) feet from any other automobile already stopped in front or rear of it.
- (5) No motor vehicles are permitted to park or stop next to any part of a curb that is painted with a yellow line, except to stop long enough to drop off.
- (6) No motor vehicles, except Taxis on duty (soliciting or awaiting fares), may stop next to any part of the curb that is painted with a red line. Taxis may stop, but must be attended by the driver of the taxi.

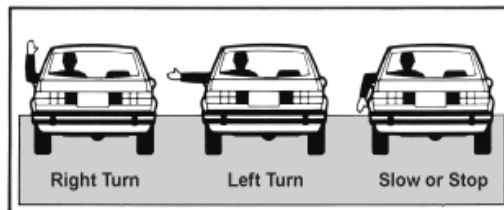
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### 11-4 BACKING:

Before backing up check your mirrors and then turn your head and look back to make sure that the road is clear. Back slowly so that you can stop quickly if necessary. When leaving a driveway, or in any other case where there may be a child or other obstruction behind your vehicle, get out of the vehicle and walk to the back to make sure that the way is clear. If there is a group of children near the vehicle, count all the children and make sure that you can see them all before you move the vehicle. Never reverse on the pavement of an open highway.

### 11-5 TURNING:

To turn around on a narrow street, pull your vehicle as far to the left as possible, give the appropriate signal for stopping, and stop. When the way is clear, signal, and then make a right turn to the opposite curb or side of the road. Turning the front wheels as far to the left as possible, you then back your vehicle to the opposite curb. Then proceed in the direction you wish to go, by turning your front wheels to the right. Be sure to use caution during this maneuver.



### 11-6 U-TURNS:

U-turns are regulated by local ordinance. When prohibited, signs are posted. In all business districts, U-turns are prohibited. The law prohibits U-turns near the crest of a hill, near curves, at intersections, or in any other situations where drivers cannot see, and be seen, for a distance of at least 200 feet in either direction. Finally, drivers should never make U-turns on limited access highways.

## CHAPTER XII - PARKING ON A HILL

### 12-1 PARKING ON A HILL:

After you park on a hill, be sure to set your parking brake. Just in case the parking brake fails, turn the wheels so they will keep your vehicle from rolling into traffic. If there is a curb, turn your steering wheel all the way away from it if you're facing uphill, or all the way toward it if your vehicle starts to roll. The wheels should stop at the curb, and the vehicle won't roll downhill. This method works best where the curb is relatively high. If there is no curb or a very low one, whether you are facing uphill or down, turn your wheels all the way toward the nearest side of the road. If your vehicle does start to roll, it will probably roll away from the street and traffic.

### 12-2 PULLING OUT:

To pull out of a parking space, make sure your wheels are straight, back up to the vehicle behind you, and turn your wheels away from the curb.

Before pulling out, turn your head and check for traffic through the windows. Go forward slowly, making sure you clear the vehicle ahead.

### 12-3 PARKING REGULATIONS:

What people generally understand as "parking" is legally divided into three categories: parking, standing and stopping.

1. A NO PARKING sign means you may only stop temporarily to load or unload merchandise or passengers.
2. A STANDING sign means you may only stop temporarily to load or unload passengers.

## Virgin Islands Drivers Manual

3. A STOPPING sign means you may stop only in order to obey a traffic sign, signal or officer, or to avoid conflicts with other vehicles. Besides posted parking, standing and stopping rules, there are Virgin Islands rules not indicated by signs:

### **Parking, Standing or Stopping is not allowed:**

1. Within 25 feet of a fire hydrant, unless a licensed driver remains in the vehicle to move it in an emergency.
2. On the roadside of a parked vehicle ("double parking").
3. On a sidewalk or in a crosswalk.
4. Alongside or opposite road excavations, construction or other obstructions if your vehicle would block traffic.
5. Within 10 feet of a pedestrian safety zone, unless another distance is marked.

### **Parking or standing is not allowed:**

1. In front of a driveway.
2. Within 10 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection.
3. Within 10 feet of a traffic light, STOP sign or YIELD sign.
4. Along a curb that has been cut down, lowered or constructed for access to the sidewalk.

### **Reserved Parking for the Disabled:**

It is illegal to park; stop or stand a vehicle in a space reserved for the disabled unless you have a handicap sticker issued by the Chief of Police. In addition, the vehicle must actually be in use to transport the disabled person named in the registration or permit. This law applies to spaces reserved and pasted by local ordinance on streets. Reserved spaces should be marked with signs like the one shown below, and may also be designated with pavement markings. The fines for on-street parking space violations are set by localities.

## **CHAPTER XIII - COLORED CURBS**

### **13-1 COLORED CURBS:**

A painted curb means that you must follow special rules to park then; the colors on the curbs mean:

**White:** You may stop only long enough to pick up or drop off passengers.

**Yellow:** You may stop only long enough to load or unload, merchandise or passenger. Stay with your vehicle.

**Red:** You may not stop, stand, or park

## **CHAPTER XIV- EMERGENCY PARKING**

### **14-1 EMERGENCY PARKING:**

In the event it becomes necessary for you to leave your vehicle parked on a highway or street follow these rules:

- Pull onto the shoulder of the road as far away from traffic as possible. If there is a curb, pull your vehicle as close to the curb as possible.
- Set your vehicle's parking brake. Shift into park or leave the vehicle in gear, and turn off the engine. Lock your vehicle.
- Put on emergency flashers and/or flares.

### **14-2 EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:**

Skids, tire blowouts, and mechanical failures can happen at any time. You need to be prepared to handle them.

Some of the most common driving problems are discussed below. By following the suggestions, you should be able to deal with most emergency situations:

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### 14-3 SKID RECOVERY:

Driving on a slippery roadway surface or braking too sharply can throw your vehicle into a skid. When this occurs, there are several actions to take:

1. Do not press on the brake any further; this will only make the skid worse.
2. Turn the wheel in the direction of the skid

### 14-4 BRAKE FAILURE:

1. Pump the brakes rapidly. This may build up enough pressure to stop your vehicle.
2. If pumping the brakes does not work, slowly apply the emergency brake.
3. When the vehicle comes to a stop, put it in park, slowly apply the emergency brake and pull off the road.

### 14-5 TIRE BLOWOUT:

1. Hold the steering wheel tightly and keep your vehicle going straight.
2. Ease off the gas pedal; do not apply the brakes.
3. Let the vehicle slow down until it is almost stopped.
4. Just before your vehicle stops, pull off the roadway and apply the brakes.

### 14-6 FIRE:

Fire is usually caused by a short circuit in the electrical system. If you have a fire, pull quickly off the road shut off the ignition to cut electrical power, and get all passengers away from the car.

Always carry a fire extinguisher. Do not use water if gasoline is burning since this will spread the flames. If you do not have a fire extinguisher, a heavy blanket, a heavy coat, sand or dirt can help to smother the flames. However, remember - fires are dangerous; if you have ANY indication the fire may be beyond your control, GET AWAY FROM THE VEHICLE.

### 14-7 OVERHEATING:

Steam coming from under your hood may mean that your cooling system has overheated you should.

1. Pull the vehicle to a safe spot.
2. Raise the hood but DO NOT open the radiator cap. Opening the "radiator cap" while the engine is hot may allow steam to escape and cause severe burns.

Driving a car with an overheated cooling system can ruin the engine. Most cooling problems are easily fixed by skilled mechanics. Carry extra water or radiator coolant if the engine overheats. NEVER ATTEMPT TO ADD WATER WHILE THE ENGINE IS HOT. ADD WATER ONLY AFTER THE ENGINE HAS COOLED.

### 14-8 POWER STEERING FAILURE:

- Guide the vehicle to a safe spot off the road

### 14-9 HEADLIGHT FAILURE:

1. Pull off the road and try the dimmer switch. This may restore normal function.
2. Flick the headlight switch on and off several times.
3. If neither of these steps works, put on the parking lights, emergency flashers, and call for help.

### 14-10 ACCELERATOR STICKS:

1. Keep your eyes on the road and shift quickly to neutral.
2. Pull off the road as quickly as you can.
3. Bring your car to a stop and turn off the engine.

### 14-10 EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT:

1. Blankets
2. Gloves
3. First Aid Kit

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4. Flares
5. Flashlight
6. Fire Extinguisher
7. Jumper Cables
8. Jack/Lug Wrench/Spare Tire

### 14-12 COLLISIONS:

If you are in danger from a potential head-on-collision:

1. Reduce your speed and flash your headlights in an effort to warn the other driver. Using horn might also be effective.
2. Head for the shoulder of the road.
3. If you are stopped at a traffic light or stop sign and another vehicle is approaching you from the rear at a high rate of speed you should:
4. If possible, pull your vehicle forward in an effort to give the approaching vehicle more room to stop.
5. If the accident cannot be avoided brace yourself between the steering wheel and the back of the seat, and release your brake an instant before impact. This will help to lessen the collision:

ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SAFETY BELTS THIS IS THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM INJURY IN THE EVENT OF A COLLISION.

### 14-13 ACCIDENT REPORTS:

Title 20 Section 541 of the Virgin Islands Code:

Accidents:

"In case of accident to person or property due to the operation of a motor vehicle or bicycle, the person operating such vehicle shall stop and give his name and address and license number to the person injured, or to any policeman or other person interested, and if he is and if he is not the owner of the vehicle, also the name and address of such owner. He shall also report the details of such accident at the nearest police station. In case of personal injury, the motor vehicle causing such injury shall take the injured person or persons to the hospital, if desired, or the residence of such injured person."

### 14-14 ASSISTING AT THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT:

If you are one of the first persons to come upon the scene of an accident, you should...

- Pull your vehicle off the road.
- Turn off the ignition of vehicles involved in the accident.
- Do not smoke.
- Give as much assistance as possible to those that may have been injured; however, do not move injured persons, unless there is danger of fire.
- Notify emergency officials. Call the police by dialing 911.
- Do not stand or walk in traffic lanes.
- Ask others who stop to warn approaching traffic.

## CHAPTER XV - WEATHER CONDITIONS

### 15-1 WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Driving becomes more difficult when your ability to see is reduced by bad weather or when the road surface is covered with rain. Reduced visibility and traction problems often occur at the same time.

Remember that changes in road and weather conditions will reduce your time to react and that those conditions will affect the way your car handles. You must be ready to respond. The first rule is to slow down to make up for reduced visibility and reaction time in any kind of weather.

### 15-2 SUN GLARE:

Bright sunlight in the early morning or late afternoon creates a glare for the driver who is driving into the sun. Wearing sunglasses, keeping windows clean, and using sun visors can reduce glare. If the

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sun is behind you, oncoming drivers may have the glare problem they may not be able to see your signals or your car.

### 15-3 RAIN:

Driving in heavy rain can be hazardous especially if you also encounter gusty wind conditions, such as in a thunderstorm. Vehicles to the rear and in blind spots are especially difficult to see. Wait a short time after the rain begins before using your wipers - the blades may cause smearing. If you have a dirty windshield, you should slow down to increase the distance between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead of you. Be extra careful during the first half an hour after rain begins: grime and oil on the road surface mix with water and makes the road slippery.

Hydroplaning may occur during rainstorms. In a heavy rain, your tires can ride on a film of water, and at 50mph, your tires can lose contact with the road at much lower speeds; a slight change of direction or gust of wind could throw your vehicle into a skid.

The best way to prevent hydroplaning is to slow down. If your vehicle does hydroplane:

- Take your foot off the accelerator.
- Do not brake.
- Avoid steering changes if possible.
- Hold the wheel firmly until your tires grip the road again.

Heavy rain frequently causes "flash floods" in the Virgin Islands washes. Do not cross-flooded washes unless you are absolutely certain that the water is shallow and the crossing is safe. Water can stall your engine, hide potholes, and can carry your vehicle downstream. Estimate the depth of the water by looking at parked cars or other objects along the road, watch what other vehicles are doing. Two vehicles should not meet in deep water. One should go entirely through before another starts from the other direction. This reduces the possibility of stalling caused by waves of water.

Driving through water must be made at a slow steady speed. Applying the brakes gently may help keep them dry. Check your brakes after leaving the water to see if they will stop the car. If the brakes are wet, then gently hold down the brake pedal.

## CHAPTER XVI – SAFE-DRIVING TIPS

### 16-1 DEFENSIVE DRIVING:

Defensive driving means being constantly aware of the driving environments, planning ahead anticipating dangers, and taking the right action so as not to come in contact within any obstacle or other vehicle.

All of us want to avoid collision that result in personal injury or even death. But even when there is no personal injury, a collision means inconvenience and auto repair costs. It may also result in a court appearance and fines, as well as increased insurance rates. You have a great financial stake in your own good driving record. Driving defensively will help protect your life and your driving record.

Almost all drivers consider themselves good drivers, and when you gain experience and confidence you'll probably think of yourself as a good driver, too. But even the best drivers make mistakes now and then. Equipment fails, weather conditions may be ball, and you may encounter drivers who ignore traffic laws or driver unpredictably.

To avoid making mistakes you, or being involved in an accident because of someone else's mistake, learn to drive defensively. The defensive driving rules are simple.

Be prepared and look ahead

1. Maintain the proper speed
2. Allow yourself space.
3. Wear your seat belt.
4. Don't drive if you are very tired are on medication or have been drinking or using illegal drugs.
5. Keep your vehicle in good operating condition.

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### 16-2 BE PREPARED AND LOOK AHEAD:

You should sit comfortably, but upright, and keep both hands on the steering wheel. Slumping in the driver's seat, or steering with one hand makes it harder to control your vehicle, and your "relaxed" position can lead to a dangerously relaxed attitude toward driving.

Traffic conditions change constantly, and you can't afford to let your attention wander from what is going on around you. Always scan the road ahead. Don't use the road or even the vehicle directly ahead as your focal point. Look beyond so you can see possible problems developing.

Keep your eyes moving, notice what's happening at the side of the road and check behind you through your mirrors every few seconds.

Anticipate mistakes by other drivers and think about what you will do if a mistake does happen. For example, don't assume that a driver approaching a STOP or YIELD sign on a side road is going to stop. It is better to assume that he or she may not stop, and to be ready to react.

Make sure other drivers see you try to establish eye contact; to see if another driver approaching an intersection has seen you.

### 16-3 SPEED:

You must obey the posted speed limit. Four out of every ten accidents involve rear-end collisions, usually because someone is following too closely or "tailgating."

### 16-4 FOLLOWING DISTANCES:

The selection of the correct following distance behind other vehicles is of critical importance to the defensive driver on today's highways. Selection of proper following distances can prevent many of these accidents. The basic rule is that you must leave sufficient space between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead of you so that you can stop if the vehicle ahead stops suddenly.

### STAY BACK ONE CAR LENGTH FOR EACH TEN MILES OF SPEED

Selection of the proper following distance depends upon your accurate knowledge of the braking ability of the vehicle that you are driving, and your knowledge of changes in braking ability caused by rain and road surface. The selection of an adequate following distance is further complicated by variations in vehicle braking ability - some vehicles stop faster than others do. Although there is no ironclad rule for determining following distance, the formula most frequently recommended is one vehicle length (about 20 feet) for each ten miles per hour of speed; for example, three vehicle lengths (60 feet) at 30 miles per hour. However, this only applies on dry pavements under good driving conditions. At higher speeds, it is best to double your following distance.

To avoid being struck in the rear by another vehicle, you must be careful not to surprise the driver behind your vehicle, especially when the driver are closer than they should. Signal all turns and lane changes at least 100 feet in advance, and begin braking early so that your brake lights warn the driver that you are slowing or stopping.

### 16-5 VEHICLE CONDITION:

You do not need to be a mechanic to drive, but you must understand some operating principles so that you can identify and correct any problems that may occur. The information below should help you to understand your vehicle.

### 16-6 STEERING:

If your steering mechanism is improperly adjusted you will not have adequate control over your vehicle, and on slippery surfaces your vehicle may be thrown out of control. When your steering is operating correctly, you can turn your vehicle smoothly and easily.

As the vehicle proceeds down a straight, level road it should hold to its course with little or no correction.

The vehicle should not pull to one side, the front end should not vibrate excessively, "Shimmy" and the steering wheel should respond quickly to your hand movements without excessive "play".

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The condition of your tires can also affect your steering ability, also your traction. If your tires are unevenly inflated, the vehicle may pull to one side. Always keep your tires correctly inflated to the recommended pressures. If you are traveling with a heavy load, or at high speeds for a long distance, over inflate your tires as recommended by the instructions, generally four pounds extra pressure. Tire pressure must always be checked when the tires are cool. When movement on the highway heats tires, the air expands and the pressure increases. Proper pressure in the tires also helps to prevent blowouts.

The Virgin Islands law requires that every vehicle be equipped with adequate tires. All tires must be sound without cuts knots or bulges.

### **16-7 BRAKES:**

The brakes of your vehicle must be able to bring it to a stop smoothly and rapidly. If your vehicle always pulls to one side when you apply the brakes, it generally means that the brakes are improperly adjusted. Wet brakes may pull unevenly until they dry out. If your brakes do not pull evenly, you risk loss of control if you attempt to stop on slippery pavements. Since brakes are critical to your safety, have them checked immediately if there is any change in their normal operations. If driving through a puddle soaks your brakes and they no longer hold adequately, you can dry them by riding lightly on the brake pedal. However, so do with caution.

### **16-8 DIRECTIONAL SIGNALS:**

Your directional signals enable you to communicate with other drivers, so make sure they always operate correctly. Generally, whenever you turn them on, you can hear the clicking of the flashing mechanism. If the clicking stops, this means that the signals are not working properly. Any change in the dash light indicator also indicates mechanical problems. If your directional signals fail, use hand signals until you can have them fixed as required by law.

### **16-9 BRAKE LIGHTS:**

These lights are of primary importance in communicating with other drivers. They warn following drivers that you are slowing or stopping. Check these lights frequently to make sure they work when the brake is applied if a lens breaks; have it replaced immediately because the flaring light from a broken brake light can blind a following driver.

### **16-10 TAILLIGHTS:**

Taillights and side marker lights warn other drivers of your presence.

### **16-11 HORN:**

The horn enables you to warn other drivers and pedestrians of your approach. You should use the horn when overtaking and passing another vehicle, when driving out of a blind driveway or alleyway, or before entering a blind curve. However, don't overuse your horn and become a noisy nuisance.

### **16-12 HEADLIGHTS:**

Your headlights are of critical importance in night driving, in rainy weather, and in fog. They must work properly and be correctly adjusted. Improperly adjusted lights deprive you of needed vision and may create excessive glare for oncoming drivers. If other drivers flash their lights at you when your lights are on low beam, this is generally an indication that your headlights are improperly adjusted. Your headlights should always be kept clean, as should all other lights on your vehicle, because dust and dirt on the lenses reduce their effectiveness and create glare for others by distorting the beam. You can easily check all your lights by their reflection against a garage wall, or against other vehicles in a parking space. Check your lights regularly.

### **16-13 WINDSHIELD:**

The windshield should be free of cracks and brakes that interfere with your vision. It should be kept clean at all times, both inside and out, because a dirty windshield strains your eyes and, at night, the grime creates glare. Your windshield wipers should clean your windshield evenly, without leaving streaks. Generally, the blades should be replaced frequently because they deteriorate rapidly in sun and heat. The wiper arms should have enough pressure to hold the blades evenly against the windshield during heavy rainfall and when the vehicle is operating at high speeds.

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### 16-14 DRIVER'S PHYSICAL CONDITION:

It is unsafe to drive if you are ill, or taking medications which adversely affect your ability to see or to handle yourself properly, or you are overtired, emotionally upset, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs. It just doesn't make sense to assume driving responsibility if you are physically or mentally handicapped by one of these factors. Common sense must dictate whether you feel you can drive when you are physically ill. Generally, only you can make that decision. If you are in doubt, you should ask for your physician's recommendations. Also ask your physician's advice if you are taking medications that may affect you adversely. Certain medications, such as antibiotics, antihistamines, or narcotics, may affect your driving ability. Read all labels carefully.

### CHAPTER XVII - SEAT BELTS AND CHILD SAFETY SEATS:

#### 17-1 SEAT BELTS AND CHILD SAFETY SEATS:

No matter how carefully you drive, there is always a chance that you will be involved in an accident, and you can't predict when it may happen. The best protection in most vehicles today is a lap belt and shoulder harness.

Title 20 Section 466 of the Virgin Islands Code:  
Operation of Motor Vehicles with safety belts and safety seats:

- a) "No person shall operate a motor vehicle unless the operator and any passenger in the front seat of the vehicle are restrained by a safety belt. Passengers under five years of age shall use a specially designed detachable or removable seat which meets the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety standards set forth in 49 C.F.R. 571.243. In the case of a child aged three through five, seat belts may be substituted but the child must ride in the rear seat of the vehicle.
- b) For the purpose of this section, the term "motor vehicle" includes all motor vehicles as defined by section 301 of this title, except for those motor vehicles manufactured before January 1, 1978, buses, authorized emergency vehicles and trucks with a maximum gross weight of 18,000 pounds or more.
- c) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be fined not less than \$25.00 and not more than \$100.00. Any person convicted of a second or a fine of not less than \$50.00 and not more than \$200.00 shall punish subsequent violation. Any person convicted of three or more violations within a three-year period shall be fined not less than \$100.00 and not more than \$500.00 and may have his driving privileges suspended for a period not to exceed one year.
- d) The provisions of this section shall not apply to an operator or passenger with a physically disabling condition whose physical disability would prevent appropriate restraint by safety belt or safety seat, provided that such condition is certified by a physician who shall state the nature of the handicap, as well as the reason the restraint is inappropriate-Added April 2, 1991, No. 5699, 1(b), Sess. L 1991, p.5; amended Sept. 27, 1991, No 5720, 2, Sess. L. 1991, p.59."

#### 17-2 SAFETY-BELTS-THE LIFE SAVERS IN A CAR:

Did you know that...?

1. Traffic accidents are the leading killer of children and young adults.
2. More than half of the accidents causing injury or death occur at speeds less than 40 mph.
3. In an accident, the impact force of an occupant with the interior of the car can be many times his/her weight. Injuries to the head are the most frequent cause of death to occupants in accidents.
4. The chance of being killed in an accident is almost 25 times greater if one is thrown from the car.
5. Most deaths and serious injuries would have been prevented by the use of Safety Belts.

Safety belts and car safety seats for infants and young children greatly reduce the risk of serious or fatal injuries in an accident. In an accident safety belts can:

6. Protect one from violently hitting the windshield metal knobs, or other hard surfaces in a car.
7. Protect one from being hurled out of the car onto the roadway.
8. Protect one from being thrown against other occupants and injuring them.

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- Helped a driver stay in position and maintain control of the car so that he/she does not cause a more serious accident.

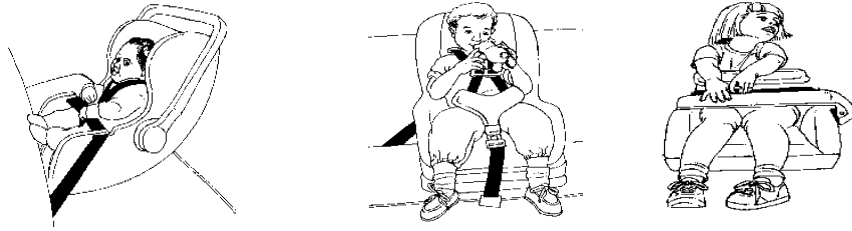
### 17-3 SAFETY BELTS:

A shoulder belt - A shoulder belt should be used if it crosses the shoulder and chest and not the face or neck. It should be fairly snug and not twisted.

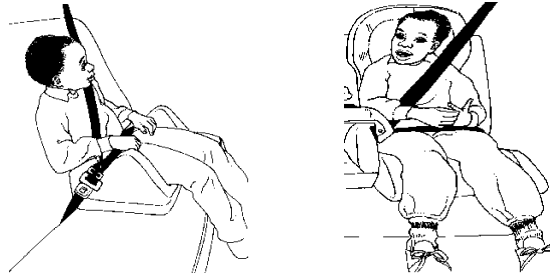
A lap belt should be low over the hips, snug and not twisted.

### 17-4 Child Passenger Safety Act:

This act requires all children under the age of five to be fastened in a property adjusted car seat of safety belt when riding in motor vehicles.



Any child older than five years of age, but not older than twelve years of age, must wear a safety belt which is properly adjusted and fastened when riding in a motor vehicle.



## Chapter XVIII – Alcohol And Other Drugs

The combination used of marijuana and alcohol is more hazardous than the use of either alone. Research shows that nearly half of regular marijuana users combine alcohol with marijuana use. Just as drinking and driving don't mix, driving and drug use can be a fatal mistake.

### 18-1 Alcohol and Other Drugs:

You have probably heard the facts before – driving while impaired or intoxicated is the number one traffic safety problem in the United States Virgin Islands. A third of all highway deaths involve the use of alcohol or drugs. The facts and statistics don't tell the whole story, however, behind the numbers are thousands of lives cut short, permanent, disabling injuries and families devastated because someone drove while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Driving safely after drinking alcohol or taking other drugs is simply not possible. Not every impaired or intoxicated driver causes an accident, but each one is dangerous, risking his/her life, as well as those sharing the road.

Young people, who have less experience with both alcohol and driving, are at the greatest risk. Drivers 16 to 21 years old are only about 7 percent of the driving population, but they're involved as impaired or intoxicated drivers in 15 percent of all alcohol or drug related fatalities.

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### 18-2 BEEPING YOUR LICENSE:

If you commit a serious traffic violation, or several less serious ones, you may lose your driving privilege through license suspension or revocation.

**Suspension:** means your license is taken away from you for a certain period of time and then returned.

**Revocation:** means your license is cancelled completely. The Police Commissioner then determines when you are eligible to apply for a new license. The law provides minimum revocation periods, and then a bad driving record or failure to comply with MVB requirements may result in a longer revocation period.

**Privilege:** means the courtesy extended to an individual or individuals driver from another jurisdiction allowing them to drive in the Virgin Islands. It also refers to the privilege of an unlicensed person to obtain a Virgin Islands driver license. Privileges are suspended or revoked for the same reasons as Virgin Islands licenses, and driving with a suspended or revoked privilege carries the same penalties as driving with a suspended or revoked license.

### 18-3 MANDATORY SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION

Your license or privilege can be suspended or revoked for many reasons. The following suspensions and revocations are required by law:

Title 20 Section 493 of the Virgin Islands Code:

Driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquors or controlled substances:

1. "It is unlawful for any person who is under the influence of an intoxicating liquor or a controlled substance in Schedule I, II, III, IV, or V of Section 595, Chapter 29, Title 19, Virgin Islands Code, or under the combined influence of an intoxicating liquor and such a controlled substance, to drive, operate, or be in actual physical control of any motor vehicle within the Territory.
2. It is unlawful for any person who has 0.08 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his or her blood to drive, operate, or be in actual physical control of any motor vehicle within the Territory."

#### Alcohol and Drug Violations:

1. Driving while ability impaired by alcohol (DWI): six months (6) suspension.
2. Driving while intoxicated (DWI), with .08 of one percent blood alcohol content (10 BAC) or while ability impaired by a drug (DWI - drug): minimum six months revocation.
3. Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs outside your jurisdiction (DUI): minimum six months revocation.
4. DUI violation within five years of any prior alcohol or drug related violation: minimum six months revocation.
5. DUI, .08 BAC, or DUI-drug violation committed within ten years of any prior DUI, .08 BAC, OR DUI-drug violation: minimum one year revocation.

### 18-4 SEAT BELT LAW and DUI

**Who:** All front-seat occupants. Children under 5 must be strapped into a child-restraint seat. However, the law allows those between the ages of 3 and 5 to substitute a seat belt for a child-safety seat only if they are seated in a rear passenger seat.

**Younger Drivers:**

If you are under 21 when arrested, conviction for any of the alcohol or drug related violations listed above results in a minimum one-year revocation.

Under the Virgin Islands Law "Zero Tolerance Law," a driver under 21 will have his/her license suspended for six months if found to have a BAC of between .02 and .07. A .02 BAC could occur with as little as one drink. For a second Zero Tolerance violation, the driver's license is revoked for one year or until the driver turns 21, whichever is longer. A second violation while under 21 results in a revocation for

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one year or until you reach age 21, whichever is longer. These penalties apply even if you are adjudicated a youthful offender.

Commercial Drivers:

Because of the extra responsibility they have, drivers of tractor-trailers, heavy trucks and vehicles carrying hazardous materials face stiffer penalties if convicted of certain violations. For information about commercial driver penalties, read the Commercial Driver's Manual (CDL).

It is a felony to drive a school bus carrying one or more students while you are impaired or intoxicated. If you are found guilty of an alcohol or drug related violation while driving a taxi, limousine or lively carrying a passenger, your license will be revoked for at least one year. For a second violation in ten years, you could be permanently prohibited from holding a Class E license.

### Chapter XIX – Change of Ownership, Address or Name

#### 19-1 Motor Vehicle Title And Registration:

When you buy a vehicle, the Virgin Islands law requires that you apply for a title at the time of transfer.

If your vehicle was registered in another state and you wish to operate it in the Virgin Islands, you must register it here as soon as it arrives on island. You will be required to furnish the following to the motor vehicle bureau.

Title 20 Section 335 of Virgin Islands Code:  
Change of ownership, address or name:

- a. "Except as provided in section 339 of this chapter, if the ownership of a motor vehicle is transferred, the transferor of such motor vehicle shall, within twenty-four hours of such transfer, notify the Police Commissioner of such transfer on forms provided by the Commissioner for such purpose. Upon receipt of such notice, the Commissioner shall note such transfer of ownership on the registration license of the transferor, shall cancel such registration license by marking the word "cancelled" across the face thereof, and shall void the license plates issued with such registration license subject to the provisions of section 332 of this chapter; provided, however, that the Commissioner has received such notice of transfer. The motor vehicle so transferred may be operated during such forty-eight (48) hour time period; provided, however, that such motor vehicle may not operate after the expiration of such forty-eight (48) hour time period unless the transferee of the ownership of such motor vehicle has applied for and received a registration license and license plates for such motor vehicle pursuant to the provisions of section 332 of this chapter. The provisions of this section shall not apply to sales of motor vehicles, not previously registered, by dealers who have secured dealers' licenses.
- b. If a motor vehicle is sold in accordance with the provisions of II A VI. C. Sec. 9-504, the change of ownership shall be registered by the secured party with the Police.
- c. Commissioner, and endorsed on the registration license. The secured party shall file with the Police Commissioner an affidavit setting forth (1) the names and address of the secured party and the debtor (2) information relating to the default, and (3) information relating to the sale, describing the place of sale and the amount received from the purchaser and the purchaser's name and address. In addition, the secured party shall file with the Commissioner a copy of the financing statement.
- d. Wherever any person after applying for and/or receiving a registration of ownership of a vehicle or a driver's license shall move from the address named in such application, license or vehicle registration issued to him or when the name of a licensee is changed by marriage or otherwise such person shall within thirty (30) days thereafter notes the Police commissioner in writing of his old and new address or of such former and new names and of the number of any license then held by him. Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this subsection may be fined not more than \$75. - Amended May 8, 1959, No 399, subsection 1, Sess. L. 1959, p.9; Feb. 17, 1972, No. 3164, Sess L. 1972, p. 10; Sept. 30, 1981, No. 4618, Sess. L. 1981, p. 128; April 4, 1984, No 4924, subsection 5, Sess,L. 1984, p. 95; June, 1984, No 4964 subsection 1 (b), Sess. L. 1984,p. 177. "

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### CHAPTER XX-REGISTRATION AND TITLE:

#### 20-1 CERTIFICATE OF TITLE:

On June 1, 1995, ACT NO. 5997, Certificate of Title Bill No. 20-0382 went into effect by the TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES, To amend Title 20, Virgin Islands Code, by adding a new chapter 32 regarding Certificates of Title for Motor Vehicles.

#### 20-2 REGISTRATION:

A registration allows a vehicle to be driven on the public highways. A title proves who owns the vehicle. In the Virgin Islands, all model vehicles receive titles as of June 1, 1995.

To register a vehicle, you must prove that you own the vehicle or that the owner authorized you to register it, and that the vehicle is insured.

#### 20-3 TO REGISTER A VEHICLE:

Be sure you have proper proof of ownership, insurance and sales tax payment available from the seller; contact the motor vehicle bureau before buying the vehicle.

When you register your vehicle, you will receive license plate(s), a registration receipt, and a sticker for the windshield or license plate. If you bought the vehicle from someone other than an auto dealer, you must then have the vehicle inspected and registered immediately. If you bought the vehicle from a dealer, it should already have a valid inspection sticker.

### CHAPTER XXI-RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title 14 Subsection 1382 of the Virgin Islands Code Unauthorized Use of Vehicle

#### 21-1 UNAUTHORIZED TAKING OR USING OF VEHICLE:

Title 14 Subsection 1382 of the Virgin Islands Code Unauthorized Use of Vehicle

Whoever, without the consent of the owner:

1. Takes, uses or operates:
2. Removes from a garage or other building, or from any place or locality on a public or private highway, park, street, lot, field, enclosure or space, and operates or drives a motor vehicle or bicycle for his own profit, or purpose, shall be fined not more than \$500.00 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

#### 21-2 LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT:

Title 20 Subsection 541 of the Virgin Islands Code Leaving the Scene of an Accident:

A driver who leaves the scene of an accident, knowing he has injured any person, and fails to render assistance to the injured person, shall be fined not more than \$1,000.00 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

#### 21-3 REGISTRATION:

Title 20 Subsection 331 of the Virgin Islands Code Registration Offenses:

The registration must be in the vehicle or in the possession of the driver at all times while the vehicle is being operated. If the registration is not in the vehicle or on the operator at any time it is called for, while operating a motor vehicle, the penalty is up to \$100.00 fine or up to six months in jail, or both. However the operator will be allowed 24 hours to produce registration before conviction can be obtained if such registration was issued before the time of the arrest.

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### 21-4 LICENSE PLATES:

Title 20 Subsections 331(3), 334(b) of the Virgin Islands Code Failure to Display License Plates:

License plates must be firmly attached to the vehicle in such a position where they are clearly visible at all times, and must be kept clean and legible. If they become disfigured and are illegible, new plates must be obtained.

### 21-5 DEALER'S LICENSE PLATE:

Title 20 Subsection 336(a) of the Virgin Islands Code Unauthorized Use of Dealer's Plates:

Dealer's license plate shall be used only in the operation of motor vehicles for sale, and then vehicles not previously registered, and shall not be used on sold vehicles, loan for more than five successive days or on vehicles used in general business or the dealer. Operator must at all times, while operating a vehicle, carry the license on his person and shall display it to any peace officer or other person authorized by the Commissioner.

### 21-6 LEARNER'S PERMITS:

Title 20 Subsection 372 of the Virgin Islands Code Operating Without a Learner's Permit:

Under the conditions established by the Commissioner or Public Safety, learner's permit may be issued that authorize the applicant to operate a motor vehicle in areas designated by the Commissioner when accompanied by a license operator who shall be responsible for the proper operation of the vehicle.

### 21-7 AGE REQUIREMENTS:

No person under 16 shall be granted a license to operate a motor vehicle, except under the following conditions:

1. License maybe granted to persons 15 or more years of age to operate motor scooters, motorcycles or motor bicycles.
2. Driver's licenses may be granted to persons 16 years of age upon completion of driver's education course.
3. Learners, permits maybe granted to persons 16 or older

### 21-8 LIGHTS:

Title 20 Subsections 495(d)-463 (a) of the Virgin Islands Code Turns and Signals:

Every automobile operated within the time from one-half hour after sunset to one-half before sunrise shall display at least two white lights and every motorcycle one white light, visible at least two hundred and fifty feet in front of vehicle. The use of dazzling lights in well-lighted streets or public highways is prohibited.

Dark Streets or Roads - Every operator, upon approaching another vehicle traveling in the opposite direction, shall dim his lights or lower the beam. Every motor vehicle shall have two red lights visible in the reverse direction; the rear number plate shall be so lighted as to be visible at night.

### 21-9 HORNS AND MUFFLERS

Every motor vehicle shall have a horn or other instrument capable of warning of its approach. No warning device on a private motor vehicle shall be a siren or simulate the sound of siren. Warning devices shall be used to warn traffic, but all unnecessary use of all devices is prohibited, and it shall not be sounded between midnight and daybreak except in case of emergency.

Each motor vehicle shall be equipped with a muffler; cutout, the unnecessary racing of engines, the making of unreasonable noise or permitting the escape of an unreasonable amount of smoke is prohibited.

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### 21-10 OBEYING THE COMMANDS OF AN OFFICER:

Title 20 Subsections 491(b)-498(b) of the Virgin Islands Code SPECIAL TRAFFIC REGULATIONS:

Operators of motor vehicles must stop or proceed immediately when ordered by members of the police force.

### 21-11 RECKLESS DRIVING:

Title 20 Subsection 492 of the Virgin Islands Code Reckless Driving

Without limiting the scope of subsection. The following are prohibited:

1. Driving on the sidewalk
2. Racing in motor vehicles on the public highway.
3. Operating of a motor vehicle without at least one hand on the steering wheel.

### 21-12 NEGLIGENT DRIVING AND SPEEDING:

Title 20 Subsection 503 of the Virgin Islands Code Negligent Driving:

- A. Every operator shall drive in a careful and prudent manner and always at a speed that will not endanger the life, limb or property of another.
- B. The rate of speed for motor vehicles, pick-up trucks, or motorcycles shall not exceed 20 miles per hour within the town limits or 35 miles per hour on all public highways outside of the town limits, except on Queen Mary Highway West of Kings Hill in St. Croix, where the rate of speed shall not exceed 40 miles per hour and the Melvin Evans Highway, where the speed limit shall not exceed 55 miles per hour.
- C. The rate of speed for motor trucks or buses shall not exceed 10 miles per hour within the town limits or 30 miles per hour on the public highways, except on Queen Mary Highway west of King's Hill in St. Croix, where the rate of speed shall not exceed 40 miles per hour and the Melvin Evans Highway, where the speed limit shall not exceed 55 miles per hour.

### FIRST AID

One of the most satisfactory dressings for wounds is the bandage compress. It is a piece of cotton gauze.

Make no attempt to clean or wash the wound. Do not apply any antiseptic, or any other material such as ointments, salves, oils, or chemicals. Simply cover the wound with sterile gauze. Never give an unconscious person anything to drink; it may strangle the patient. A bandage should not be made too tight for it may cut off the return flow of blood and cause a swelling.

When applying a tourniquet in order to stop serious bleeding, the best thing to use in case of an emergency is a necktie or belt.

### EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

#### In case your horn sticks:

You should endeavor to get said vehicle clear of traffic if possible and disconnect the wires to horn relay.

#### In case of an electrical short:

If the short is causing the wires of your vehicle to smoke, you should disconnect the battery terminal.

#### In case of the carburetor of a vehicle is on fire:

You should smother said fire with cloth or dirt.

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### DRIVER'S LICENSE TEST (SAMPLE) QUESTIONS:

1. A regulation sign is usually what shape?
2. What is the usual color and shape of a warning sign?
3. What color and shape is a destination sign?
4. What must you do at a **STOP** sign?
5. What would you do when facing each of the following: a flashing red light, flashing yellow light, steady yellow light, and a red light with a green arrow?
6. What does it mean if an edge line slants in toward the center of the road?
7. What does each of these types of lines mean: single broken, single solid, double solid and solid and broken together?
8. If an intersection has crosswalk lines but no **STOP** line, where would you stop for a red light at that intersection?
9. What type of pavement marking is used to show you which lane you must use for a turn?
10. Which of the following must you obey over the other three: steady red light, flashing red light, **STOP** sign or police officer?
11. What is the hand signal for a stop? A right turn?
12. If two drivers enter an intersection from opposite directions at the same time, one going straight, the other turning left, which must yield the right-of-way?
13. If you enter an intersection to make a right turn, but oncoming traffic prevents you from making the turn right away, what should you do?
14. If you reach an uncontrolled intersection at the same time as a driver on your left, and both of you are going to go straight, who has the right-of-way?
15. What must you do if you are entering a road from a driveway?
16. You are facing a green light, but traffic on the other side of the intersection would keep you from going all the way through the intersection. May you enter the intersection?
17. Does a vehicle about to enter a traffic circle or rotary have right-of-way over vehicles already in the circle?
18. What should you do if you hear a siren nearby, but you can't see where the emergency vehicle is?
19. How far before a turn must you signal?
20. When preparing for a left turn, should stay as close to the center of the lane as possible?
21. When should you position your vehicle when preparing to make a right turn from a two-way roadway into a one-way roadway?
22. After you have parallel parked how close to the curb must your vehicle be?
23. May you open a door on the roadside of your vehicle if no traffic is coming?
24. Before pulling out of a parking space, what should you do?
25. What does a **NO STOPPING** sign mean?
26. Can you stop to load or unload passengers at a **NO STANDING**, or **NO PARKING** sign?
27. May you park on a crosswalk in the middle of a road?

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28. Should you always look straight ahead when driving?
29. If there is no posted speed limit, what is the fastest you may legally drive in the United States Virgin islands?
30. Is it always safe to drive at the posted speed limit?
31. What is the purpose of minimum speed limits?
32. Who must wear seat belts? Who should wear them?
33. How can you prevent fatigue on a long trip?
34. How does drunken driving rank as a highway safety problem?
35. What are the effects of alcohol on the skills you need to drive?
36. Which of these drugs could affect your driving ability: marijuana, a cold remedy, and a tranquilizer?
37. You are taking a non-prescription drug what should you do before driving?
38. 38 What is a likely effect of taking another drug while drinking alcoholic beverages?
39. How do the blind spots surrounding a large commercial vehicle defer from the blind spots surrounding a car?
40. How does the stopping distance of a large vehicle with air brakes compare with the stopping distance of a car?
41. After passing a large vehicle, what should you be sure of before returning to the lane in which the large vehicle is traveling?
42. What is -the best strategy to follow when approaching a large vehicle that is backing up into a loading area?
43. When children are nearby, what should you do before backing out of a  
44. driveway?
45. How can you identify a blind pedestrian to whom you must yield the right-of-way?
46. Where must a pedestrian walk when there are no sidewalks?
47. How should you approach a bicyclist?
48. Must a bicyclist obey traffic laws and signs?
49. On what portion of the road must a bicyclist ride?
50. What extra equipment must a bicycle have when used at night?
51. May motorcyclists ride there abreast in a single lane?
52. What does a slow moving vehicle emblem look like?