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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**ISSUED BY THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIVISION:  
AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA**

### **NEW LAW NO THREAT TO LHD - AA**

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#### **BEGINS**

### **NEW LAW NO THREAT TO LHD - AA**

The Automobile Association of South Africa has issued a media statement in which it has moved to allay fears about left-hand drive (LHD) vehicles. These vehicles have been a source of controversy in recent weeks, with numerous stories circulating that they were going to be banned.

“We believe the confusion has arisen from an incomplete reading of the proposed amendments to the regulations which were published in the Government Gazette in November,” said AASA Head of Public Affairs, Rob Handfield – Jones. “We have read the proposals very thoroughly alongside the existing regulations they are intended to modify and supplement, and we are confident they do not prejudice owners of LHD vehicles,” he added.

He said that three main changes had been made which were relevant to owners of LHD vehicles. The first change, to Regulation 5, adds a new paragraph, 5 (l), which brings that regulation into line with Regulation 200, by including a cutoff date for the first registration of LHD vehicles in South Africa.

The second change, to Regulation 200.2 (b), changes the cutoff date for first registration from 1 January 2000, to 23 July 2004, the same date as in the new paragraph 5 (l). The final change is the addition of a new Regulation, 200 (e), which specifically permits the owner of a LHD vehicle registered in accordance with the Act to dispose of or transfer ownership of the vehicle.

“Anyone who is not familiar with the regulations and reads the wording of the proposed new paragraph 5 (l) in isolation may well gain the impression that it bans the use of LHD vehicles,” said Handfield – Jones. “However, when all three changes are read alongside the original regulations they are intended to modify or supplement, the intent becomes clear,” he added. “We have consulted with DoT legislators on this issue and the AA’s opinion is that the amendment poses no threat to the ability of owners of LHD vehicles to use, sell or license their vehicles,” he concluded.

#### **ENDS**

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