

# SANRAL Drops 2025 Highway Law Bombshell: New Speed Limits & Zero-Tolerance Alcohol Rule Announced

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SANRAL Highway Law : South African National Roads Agency (**SANRAL**) has officially announced sweeping changes to road laws in 2025, sending shockwaves through the motoring public. These updated rules aim to reduce road fatalities and enforce stricter discipline on national highways. Among the biggest changes are revised speed limits and a zero-tolerance policy on alcohol for all drivers.

With these laws set to roll out soon, it’s crucial for motorists, transport operators, and regular road users to fully understand what’s at stake.

## New Speed Limits to Be Enforced on All Major Roads

Effective from July 1, 2025, SANRAL Highway Law will implement adjusted speed limits across South Africa’s national highway system. These adjustments are aimed at improving safety by accounting for road conditions, accident data, and modern vehicle technology.

### Key Speed Limit Changes Include:

- Urban roads reduced from **60 km/h to 50 km/h**
- Rural roads adjusted from **100 km/h to 80 km/h**
- Highways and national routes capped at **110 km/h**, down from 120 km/h
- Heavy vehicles limited to **90 km/h** on all roads
- School zones to have a **strict 30 km/h** speed limit during school hours

## SANRAL Highway Law Structure Table

Road Type	Previous Limit	New Limit (2025)	Applies To	Enforced By
Urban Roads	60 km/h	50 km/h	All private & public cars	Local municipalities

Road Type	Previous Limit	New Limit (2025)	Applies To	Enforced By
Rural Roads	100 km/h	80 km/h	Light passenger vehicles	Provincial traffic dept.
National Highways	120 km/h	110 km/h	All vehicle classes	SANRAL & SAPS
Heavy Vehicles (All)	100 km/h	90 km/h	Trucks, buses, cargo vans	Road Freight Agency
School Zones (Active)	40 km/h	30 km/h	All vehicles	Traffic wardens
Construction Zones	Variable	Max 60 km/h	All vehicles	Site & traffic officers
Emergency Corridors	N/A	30 km/h	All vehicles	SANRAL

## Zero-Tolerance Alcohol Law: What It Means for Drivers

The most debated change is the **Zero Tolerance Alcohol Regulation**, which completely bans any alcohol in a driver’s bloodstream while operating a vehicle. This is part of SANRAL’s new partnership with the Department of Transport and aims to bring SA’s road safety regulations closer to international best practices.

### Key Points of the New Alcohol Rule:

- Legal **Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is now 0.00%**
- Applies to **all drivers**, including private, commercial, and learners
- **Random breath testing checkpoints** to be increased nationwide
- First-time offenders face **up to R120,000 fine or 6 months jail**
- Repeat offenders could face **license revocation and criminal charges**

Alcohol Offence Penalty Table

Offense Type	BAC Level	Penalty Range	Record Impact	License Status
First-time violation	0.01–0.05%	R60,000–R120,000 fine	Permanent criminal mark	6-month suspension
Second-time violation	0.01%+	Up to 12 months jail	Criminal record	12-month revocation
Refusal to test	N/A	R50,000 fine or court case	Legal presumption of guilt	Suspension pending trial
Commercial driver caught	0.01%+	R150,000 fine or jail	Blacklisting in database	Permanent disqualification
Underage driver DUI	0.01%+	Court appearance mandatory	Criminal record	Full license ban
Causing accident under influence	Any %	Prosecution for manslaughter	Criminal record	Lifetime ban
Testing tampering	N/A	Up to 18 months jail	Criminal record	License revoked

FAQs for SANRAL Highway Law

**Q1: Will traffic officers use breathalyzers or blood tests to enforce the new law?**

**A1:** Officers will use roadside breathalyzers for screening. Suspicion of intoxication may lead to blood testing at an authorized facility.

**Q2: What happens if I’m on prescription medication with alcohol content?**

**A2:** Drivers must disclose this in advance. Carry a doctor’s note to avoid false positives but use caution when driving under influence of any substances.

### **Q3: Are tourists and foreign license holders also bound by the zero-tolerance rule?**

**A3:** Yes, all road users within South Africa must adhere to the same national traffic regulations.

### **Q4: Can a minor violation impact my insurance or employment?**

**A4:** Absolutely. A record of DUI or speed violations could lead to higher premiums and even affect job opportunities involving driving.

### **Q5: What happens if I am falsely accused or test faulty positive?**

**A5:** You can challenge the charge in court with legal representation. Keep receipts and test records for defense.

## **How the Public Reacts to These New Laws**

Public response has been mixed. While safety advocates have welcomed the reforms, everyday motorists and taxi associations have raised concerns about fairness, practicality, and possible abuse of enforcement powers.

### **Public Concerns Include:**

- Increased fines and roadblocks
- Enforcement inconsistency in rural areas
- Need for more public awareness campaigns

On the other hand, supporters argue that these changes are necessary to address the country's high road death toll and reckless driving culture.

## **What This Means for Commercial and Freight Operators**

Freight and transport companies must now revise their driver training and trip planning to comply with these changes. The reduced speed limits and alcohol ban require internal audits and stricter monitoring of driver behavior.

### **Key Compliance Actions for Fleet Managers:**

- Update company handbooks and driver policies
- Install onboard breathalyzer ignition systems
- Use telematics for speed and fatigue monitoring
- Organize compulsory safety workshops every 6 months

## **How to Pay Fines and Access Legal Help**

Offenders can **pay fines online** through the **SANRAL e-Toll portal** or at **local traffic department offices**. Legal assistance is advised for repeat offenses or criminal-level charges.

### **Fine Payment Options:**

- **Online:** Visit [www.sanral.co.za/payfine](http://www.sanral.co.za/payfine)
- **In-Person:** Pay at your nearest **provincial traffic department**
- **Bank EFT:** Use traffic fine reference number

### **Legal Assistance:**

- **Road Safety Legal Aid Hotline:** 0861-ROADLAW
- **Email:** [legal@roadsafety.org.za](mailto:legal@roadsafety.org.za)
- **Operating Hours:** Mon–Fri, 8 AM to 4 PM

## Departmental Contacts for More Information

Department	Contact Number	Email Address	Website
SANRAL HQ	012 844 8000	<a href="mailto:info@sanral.co.za">info@sanral.co.za</a>	<a href="http://www.sanral.co.za">www.sanral.co.za</a>
National Traffic Call Centre	0861 400 800	<a href="mailto:enquiries@rtmc.co.za">enquiries@rtmc.co.za</a>	<a href="http://www.rtmc.co.za">www.rtmc.co.za</a>
Department of Transport	012 309 3000	<a href="mailto:dotservice@dot.gov.za">dotservice@dot.gov.za</a>	<a href="http://www.transport.gov.za">www.transport.gov.za</a>
Road Freight Association	011 974 4399	<a href="mailto:support@rfa.co.za">support@rfa.co.za</a>	<a href="http://www.rfa.co.za">www.rfa.co.za</a>
Western Cape Traffic Dept.	021 812 4222	<a href="mailto:wctrffic@westerncape.gov.za">wctrffic@westerncape.gov.za</a>	<a href="http://www.westerncape.gov.za">www.westerncape.gov.za</a>
Legal Aid SA	0800 110 110	<a href="mailto:info@legal-aid.co.za">info@legal-aid.co.za</a>	<a href="http://www.legal-aid.co.za">www.legal-aid.co.za</a>
Johannesburg Traffic Services	011 758 9000	<a href="mailto:joburgtraffic@joburg.org.za">joburgtraffic@joburg.org.za</a>	<a href="http://www.joburg.org.za">www.joburg.org.za</a>

## Final Thoughts: Adjusting to a Safer, Stricter Driving Future

The 2025 highway law reforms represent a firm step by the South African government toward safer roads, fewer accidents, and higher accountability. While compliance may require effort and adjustment, the long-term benefits are expected to outweigh the initial discomfort.