



BERMUDA INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS
P.O. Box HM 1837, Hamilton HM HX
Website: www.biam.bm

First Class Driving - the 10 Commandments
No. 6 in the 'BIAM Six Pack' Series of Guidance Notes

1 Perfect your Roadcraft

Roadcraft includes every aspect of driving and can be acquired only by a **systematic approach** to hazards and constant application of the basic rules. Good Roadcraft enables drivers to avoid awkward and possibly dangerous situations. It not only prevents collisions but also makes driving less arduous.

Use skill to keep out of trouble

2 Drive with deliberation and overtake as quickly as possible

Good driving demands continual planning and correct decisions, which must be put into operation with deliberation. There is no place for the half-hearted manoeuvre born of doubt or uncertainty. If it is not **completely safe**, it should not be attempted at all.

Overtaking should always be completed in the minimum of time to leave the road clear for approaching or following vehicles.

Deliberation eliminates uncertainty. When safe, go!

3 Develop car sense and know the capabilities of the vehicle

Car sense is the ability to get the best from a vehicle without jerks or vibration. Before a strange vehicle is driven fast, drivers should accustom themselves to its controls, acceleration and braking capabilities and handling characteristics. Never expect more from a vehicle than it is able to give. Like drivers, vehicles have their **limitations**.

Driver and vehicle must blend harmoniously to ensure skilful driving

4 Give proper signals; use the horn and headlights thoughtfully

Use only the signals given in the Traffic Code Handbook. An **ambiguous signal** is misleading and dangerous. Use of the horn is a form of signalling much neglected by some and overdone by others. It should be used as a person would use their voice, neither aggressively nor rudely. Flashing the lights is an efficient form of signalling at night and on fast roads.

Give good signals in good time



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5 Concentrate all the time to avoid collisions

Concentration is the keystone of good driving. It is a primary duty but often a neglected one. Complete concentration will ensure that every detail is observed. It is often the **smallest detail** that gives the clue to what is about to happen. If it is missed, a collision or at least an unpleasant experience may result.

Concentration assists observation

6 Think before acting

A good driver makes progress so smoothly and with so little apparent fuss or effort that to the uninitiated they appear to respond to situations automatically. Nothing could be further from the truth. The fact is that by continuous concentration and thought they have raised their driving to a fine art.

Every hazard and driving operation presents problems, which can only be solved by thinking. A thoughtful driver applies the appropriate features of the System, carries out every operation and manoeuvre in **plenty of time** and consequently is always in the right place at the right moment.

Think! - and avoid collisions

7 Exercise restraint and hold back when necessary

To hold back is to follow a vehicle at a safe distance until road and traffic conditions allow it to be overtaken. This will call for considerable restraint especially when in a hurry. Overtaking or any other manoeuvre must never be attempted unless it can be completed with **100 per cent safety**. Collisions are caused because a situation has been wrongly assessed.

Whenever in doubt, wait

8 Corner with safety

Driving around a curve demands the application of the principles of cornering and a thorough knowledge of the **forces acting** on a vehicle. The most common faults are entering a corner or bend too fast or accelerating before the exit is clearly seen.

Lose speed or lose the vehicle



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9 Use speed intelligently and drive fast only in the right places

High speeds are safe only when a clear view is available for a considerable distance and there is time to **assess** each hazard as it appears, but speed at all times must be related to the view. Safety with speed depends largely upon the ability to **recognise danger** and to slow down in good time.

Any fool can drive fast enough to be dangerous

10 Know the Traffic Code Handbook well and put it into practice

The Traffic Code Handbook sets out the **rules for safety** on the road. A failure to observe them could **establish liability** in any legal proceedings. The rules must be known and complied with if an advanced driver's behaviour is to be **beyond reproach** and before they can presume to advise others. The Traffic Code Handbook urges all to be courteous. An Advanced Driver goes farther and acknowledges the courtesies extended to them.

Driving according to the Traffic Code Handbook will achieve a correct and safe drive

This guidance is adapted from the

Bermuda Institute of Advanced Motorists Advanced/Defensive Driving Course Manual
by Roger Kendall (Price: \$25.00)

Copies are available from local bookstores or by mail order by contacting the BIAM Secretary via the BIAM website www.biam.bm or BIAM Secretary, PO BOX 1837, Hamilton, HM AX (please send a cheque for \$27.50 (includes P&P) made payable to Bermuda Institute of Advanced Motorists).